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Catholic Schools of Greater Kalamazoo Plan to Return to School

KALAMAZOO, MI - The Catholic Schools of Greater Kalamazoo (CSGK), comprised of St. Augustine Cathedral School, St. Monica Catholic School, and Hackett Catholic Prep have been working all summer to develop a plan to resume in-person learning at its buildings on August 25.

Although in-person learning will be available, students can access their class virtually if needed for comfort, illness, quarantine, or the closing of school buildings.

Last spring when school buildings closed unexpectedly, the CSGK family of schools was able to pivot quickly; offering high-quality online learning within a few days of the closure. Over 500 lessons were taught over 10 weeks of online learning.

Having learned a great deal from last spring's experience, CSGK faculty and staff feel confident moving forward with a primarily in-person school year with the focus on:

- **Safety:** a team of staff and experts have walked through every school and determined changes in terms of desk placement, student flow, procedures, mask requirements, etc.
- **Social/emotional wellbeing:** teachers will promote the connectedness of students in their class.
- **Consistency:** students learning remotely will be accessing their own class as if they were there.
- **Preparedness:** students will be well prepared to switch to online learning at any time as needed. This includes Hackett's move from a 1-to-1 iPad program to providing each high school student with a Chromebook. Elementary students will be provided iPads or laptops as needed.



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Jordon Beery
Principal



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Brian Kosmerick
Principal

CSGK went through an extensive planning process, starting in early May, to arrive at this decision, beginning with parent input and advice from state and national school organizations. The process of creating a COVID-19 CSGK 2020-2021 School Year Plan is led by a committee of CSGK building principals and representatives of CSGK staff and board members. The CSGK leadership committee guides the following sub-committees, which are looking at very specific areas of reopening. Sub-committee members include faculty and staff members, as well as CSGK parents who are experts in these areas.

- Health Screening and Preventative Measures
- Facilities, Cleaning, and Disinfecting
- Academics, Athletics, Extra-Curricular, and Ancillary Services
- Guidelines, Policies and Procedures
- Communication

All committee recommendations will be submitted to Kalamazoo Diocesan Office of Schools, which monitors reopening plans for all 21 Diocesan Catholic schools, as well the State of Michigan.

Three virtual town halls were held the week of July 15 to inform school families about the progress of the plans. CSGK continues to provide updates, frequently asked questions, and reference documents on its website which is regularly updated (<https://csgk.org/covid-19-csgk-2020-2021-school-year-plan>).

“We are very proud of the level of engagement by faculty, staff, and parents throughout the planning process,” said Hackett Catholic Prep principal Mr. Brian Kosmerick. “Nearly fifty of our teachers, staff members, and parents have given generously of their time and expertise to create this school year plan.”

St. Monica Catholic School principal Mr. Jordon Beery added, “All of our planning is rooted in our Catholic faith, centered on the virtues of faith, hope, and charity.”

"Each new school year is met with faithful anticipation and great hope," said St. Augustine Cathedral School principal Andra Zommers. "We look forward to being able to come together again as a Catholic school community."

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Catholic Schools of Greater Kalamazoo (CSGK) is a family of three schools—St. Monica Catholic School, St. Augustine Cathedral School, and Hackett Catholic Prep High School. The Catholic Schools of Greater Kalamazoo have upheld a tradition of academic excellence in the Kalamazoo community. The three schools make up a strong faith-based community with God as the foundation. All schools are committed to the formation of the entire person: mind, body, and soul. Learn more at csgk.org.