



BISHOP BARAGA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

July 30, 2020

Dear Bishop Baraga Families,

I pray that you are all well and enjoying these final days of July. We are busy in the office getting ready for our new school year. It feels like it has been so long since we have been together as a school family, and I know the teachers and I are looking forward to seeing our students again!

As I stated in my last letter, we are working on three separate plans for the three different phases or scenarios outlined in the state plan. We need one plan for phases 1-3, which would be distance learning as the schools would be closed for face-to-face instruction. We need another plan for phase 4, which would mean schools are open with certain requirements in place. Finally, we also need a plan for phase 5, which is currently our phase. You can go to the following website to see the current phases for the 8 regions of Michigan. We are region 8.

<https://www.detroitchamber.com/covid19/michigans-covid-19-status-and-reopening-phases-by-region/>

When we are in phase 4 and 5, we will be open for face-to-face instruction. Parents may choose to send their children to school, or you may choose distance learning. **Please contact the office if you would like your child to learn remotely while we are in phases 4 and 5.**

Phase 5 Important Highlights

Facial Coverings: Facial coverings are highly recommended for teachers and staff in phase 5, but it is not a requirement in the classrooms. There are times throughout the day, however, when students in preschool through eighth grade, as well as teachers and staff, will be required to wear facial coverings even in phase 5, unless they cannot be medically tolerated (when in hallways, as they enter the school, as they leave the school, bathroom breaks, etc.). People have been generously donating face masks to the school. Feel free to stop and pick up face masks for your children.

Morning Procedure/Drop Off: Family members and non-staff members will not be allowed in the school building during this pandemic. Preschool and pre-kindergarten parents will bring their children to the front entrance to drop them off in the entryway. This year Mrs. Gauthier will sign children in instead of their parents. All other students, kindergarten through eighth grade, will be dropped off at the back entrance on the playground. When students enter the building, they will need to wear a mask. They will proceed directly to their classroom where there will be a screening process in place.

Mass: Students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade will attend Mass once a week. Diocesan policy must be followed which requires social distancing and face masks. Preschool and pre-kindergarten students will not be attending Mass.

Dismissal: Preschool and pre-kindergarten students will be picked up at the front entrance. Parents will enter the building to pick them up in the entryway. All other students, kindergarten through eighth grade, will be picked up at the back entrance on the playground. Parents will have a sign in their car (provided by the school) with their family name located where it can be seen by the teacher on duty. Students will be called to exit the building in the order parents arrive.

These are some of the important policies and procedures we are putting in place to ensure the safety of our students and staff. As we make adjustments to policies and procedures, we will continue to contact you. We will provide each family with a more detailed handbook before school begins.

I am attaching the current dress code to this email. Our dress code policy does not apply to preschool and pre-kindergarten students. There is no change in the dress code this year. With all the changes occurring because of Covid 19, I did not think it was wise to make any changes this year in this area. I do plan to make some adjustments to the dress code the following year, 2021-2022. I am attaching a flier with information on those changes to this email as well so that anyone who would like to start preparing for 2021-2022 has the necessary information to do so. We have many items of clothing in the school that have been donated by families who have outgrown them. We will be having a day where parents can stop by the school and take anything they would use. We'll announce the dates for that soon.

I pray that you are all staying safe and healthy this summer. I will continue to email you as we approach our opening day, Wednesday, August 26. Be assured of my prayers for you and your families.

God bless,

Angela Oller