

SAINT FRANCES CABRINI PARISH

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Know Him. Love Him. Serve Him.

“Be Not Afraid”

Dear Families,

I am excited to write to you today about our plan to come back to school. Before going into the document, I think it is important to note that the theme that the formation committee picked for this year is “Be Not Afraid”. How fitting it is! During a time of so much uncertainty, we need to remember and understand that God is in control, and He tells us to be not afraid and to trust in Him. He actually tells us, “Be Not Afraid” or a variation of this 365 times in the Bible, one for each day of the year. We are going to need to repeat that phrase multiple times this year, so have no fear and trust in His plan.

Background

This plan has been designed with the input of many differing perspectives as we tried to make this a community building process. Members of this group included teachers, parish staff, parents, a trustee and parish members. All brought different viewpoints to the table, and the discussion was well-rounded, including advice from many sources such as our local health department, other governmental agencies, and various documents from health and education organizations. I want to thank them for their hard work, support and dedication to our school as we look to the future. I am very excited to get back to school this year, and I think with the measures contained in this document, we can accomplish our goals and have an amazing 2020/2021 Saint Frances Cabrini school year!

We have not been in school since March due to COVID. I know that we have learned many things as a school, and as a society we have also learned many things, including how important our education system is to our society. This is not unique to us in the United States as many other countries have learned how important their education system is as well as more about the virus itself. When contemplating some of these upcoming decisions, it is important to note several guiding principles which are listed below..

Guiding Principles

The spring taught us that virtual instruction is no substitute for in-person learning. Districts, teachers and parents have been very vocal about this point. In the parent survey sent in the spring, it was stated over and over that their kids felt disconnected from their friends, and parents felt disconnected from the teacher and school community. On top of the social piece that was missing, the survey also brought to light the disappointment of reduced teacher-to-student connection through virtual means. It was extremely difficult for teachers to teach and also get a sense of where children were in the learning process. You as parents also became the primary support for education while the students were not at school, which I know was a difficult experience for many. This is why so many organizations and doctors are in support of returning our students to the classroom. The American Academy of Pediatrics went so far as to say that they strongly advocate that

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“all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.” As a group, we started with that goal in mind and went from there. I appreciate your patience in waiting for this plan, and look forward to seeing you and your children back in school this year. At Saint Frances Cabrini, we will continue to educate your children to the best of our ability, while also teaching them about the virtues that He has given us. Our guiding principles are:

- 1) In-person school 5 days a week to allow for coherent instruction and consistency at home.**
- 2) Keep the school open for the entire school year.**
- 3) Protect and keep safe our students, faculty, parents and visitors.**
- 4) Accomplish the above stated goals with few regulations, while using reasonable precautions.**

How are we going to do this?

An important concept that influences some of our decisions is Contact Tracing. If we have a case in the building, the County Health Department will call to let me know who it is. I will then need to contact all of those that have been in contact with that person and advise them to quarantine for 14 days. If we did no cohorting or social distancing (see definitions below), the entire school would be out rather quickly. With the measures we are putting into effect, we are increasing our ability to stay in as a school. We plan to Cohort our grade levels throughout the building, which means if we get a COVID case, the grade level will be out of school for a 14-day quarantine instead of the entire school. This will help us to keep school open.

Definitions

Cohort- A grade will stay together through the day and social distance from other grade levels.

Social Distance- The grade levels will use the 6 feet apart as a guide.

Highlights of Returning to School

- SFC will welcome students to campus for 5-day in-person instruction on August 31st. Our time together will look a bit different, but we are eager to come back safely.
- SFC will continue to respond to COVID and change the plan accordingly based on advice from the health department and State and Federal agencies.
- SFC will be planning instruction that will be a good fit for in-person teaching as well as virtual. This will include keeping up-to-date on Google Classroom for student assignments and will also include live instruction if we go virtual.
- SFC will be implementing a brand new technology plan that will allow students to go seamlessly from in-class instruction to virtual, if necessary.
- SFC will have an option for families that cannot send their children to school due to household family members having underlying health conditions that DOES put them at higher risk for serious illness from COVID. ([Cancer](#), [Chronic kidney disease](#), [COPD \(chronic obstructive pulmonary disease\)](#)),

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[Immunocompromised state \(weakened immune system\) from solid organ transplant, Obesity \(body mass index \[BMI\] of 40 or higher\), Serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies, Sickle cell disease, Type 2 diabetes mellitus\)](#)

- SFC has put in place protocols for cleaning/disinfecting, health screening, temperature checks, masks and social distancing.

Daily Campus Procedures

Self-Monitoring

- Each morning, prior to arriving at school, employees, student families and any visitor will complete a Daily Self-Monitoring Check.
- The Daily Self-Monitoring Check will include:
 - Temperature Check: if 100.4 or greater, you should not be coming to school.
 - Check for symptoms of a sore throat, new uncontrolled cough, diarrhea, vomiting or abdominal pain or a severe headache. If symptoms are present, stay home.
 - If someone you may have been in contact with has COVID, and you were within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more, you should stay home.

Drop Off

- Students K5-8th will be dropped off by the gym and proceed to the designated area (Still determining).
- K3 and K4 students will be walked in through the main entrance. Parents entering must be masked.
- Traffic patterns will continue as last year.

Pick Up

- Dismissal will be staggered by grade level.
- Middle School parents will pick up at the gym.
- Elementary parents will pick up by the main entrance.
- Families with both Middle School and Elementary will pick up in the middle of the parking lot.
- Traffic Patterns will continue as last year.

Visitors

- There will be limited access to the building.
- Any visitors will be stopped in the office.
- Any visitor will undergo a symptoms check and must be masked to enter.

Face Coverings and Masks

- All students are required to bring a mask to school, and worn in accordance with the State Mandate.
- SFC has acquired 1000 cloth masks, in case a student forgets.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Teachers will be wiping down their classrooms frequently throughout the day.
- Bathrooms will be disinfected mid-day and nightly.
- High-touch areas will receive increased cleaning.

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Healthy Hygiene Practices

- Water fountains will be closed, but touch-free refill stations will remain open.
- Teachers will continue to educate students on proper handwashing techniques.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building.
- Teachers will have access to disinfectant wipes.

Lunch

- Students K5-8th will be eating in the Multi-Purpose Room.
- Cohorts will sit together and be spaced away from other Cohorts.
- Hot lunch will be one option and will be pre-wrapped.
- K3 and K4 will eat in their rooms and will no longer have hot lunch as an option.
- We are still debating between 2 sections of lunch and 3. More to come before school starts.

Recess

- Recess will continue outside.
- Cohorts will be assigned certain areas for the week, and then rotate weekly.

Social Distancing

- As a whole, we will do our best to maintain 6 feet as Cohorts.
- In the classroom, we will be as normal as possible, while also teaching kids to give each other space as a sign of respect to one's personal bubble.
- Large gatherings for students or parents will be modified to provide for social distancing, and when appropriate, they will be virtual or live-streamed.

Specials

- Music and Art will take place in the music and art rooms where a mask will be required.
- PE will take place outside as much as possible. When inside, activities will be modified to allow for proper distancing to take place.

COVID Case Procedures

Positive Test Case

- The County Health Department will be made aware of all positive test cases and will contact us if we have one in the building.
- They will advise us on how to handle it.
- Through Contact Tracing, we will be informing those that have come in contact with the person who had a positive test confirmed.
- In our case, it will be the Cohort grade that we will be contacting.
- This will trigger a 14-day quarantine for the Cohort group and learning will immediately switch to virtual.
- Siblings of a positive test case will also be required to stay home for a 14-day quarantine. These students will have access to live-streaming of classes.

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Return to School Guidelines for:

Students/Faculty/Staff Testing Positive for COVID

- Person with a positive test must isolate at home for 14 days and then must be asymptomatic for 24 hours.
- After a person with a positive test has been asymptomatic for 24 hours following the 14-day quarantine, they are allowed to rejoin in the learning taking place in person.

****If someone in a household tests positive for COVID, the entire family must quarantine for 14 days.**

Return to School Guidelines for Non-COVID: Sick Students/Faculty/Staff

- May return to school after 48 hours have passed free of fever without the use of fever-reducing medication; free of vomit/diarrhea without the use of medication; AND
- Has experienced an improvement in symptoms (runny nose, sore throat, cough).

Instruction

For this year of instruction, we are preparing for 2 scenarios. The first is in-person 5 days a week. For students quarantined at home for a COVID positive test case or family members that are in the high risk category, instruction will occur online. This could also take place due to a COVID-related recommendation by the health department if someone was exposed to COVID. The second scenario we are preparing for is if a class or the school has to go to virtual learning for a short period of time. This could potentially happen if we get a case of COVID in a certain room. With our Cohorting, just the class would be out for 14 days. If the virus continued to spread throughout the building, we might consider a school-wide 14-day quarantine to prevent further cases. After the 14-day quarantine using virtual learning, we would then return to in-person learning. Given the fluidity of these circumstances, we need to be prepared to immediately go from in-person learning to virtual, if necessary.

To meet the evolving needs of students and staff, we are going to implement a 1:1 plan for grades 2nd-8th. The 1:1 plan requires all students in grade 2nd-8th to have a device that can be brought to school and used at home and at school. Our students in K3-1st will need to have access to a device at home. Families that already own a device that is specifically for their child will be grandfathered into this new program. Families that do not have a device for their child that can be brought to school every day will need to lease one through the school.

We are obtaining high quality devices (Lenovo 3 Chromebooks) at a discounted rate. You may be able to find them for an even cheaper rate. Unfortunately, these devices are generally made of subpar materials, and do not have 64GB of storage, 4 GB of RAM and are not as reliable. An added bonus of leasing through the school is that we take care of the service for these devices. When leased through us, if the device has an issue, we give you a replacement for the time while your device is being fixed. The three (3) year lease for the

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Chromebook will include an extra layer of security through the GoGuardian software. This software will allow teachers to monitor students' learning, and filter more things that students should not be seeing that the Google filter does not stop. It also has the capability to alert me if a student is typing or looking something up regarding self-harm. That will allow me to alert the parents of the student involved so that we can get that child the proper help.

The cost breakdown looks like this:

3-Year Lease per student/Chromebook	\$330
3-Year subscription to GoGuardian(Filter Program)	\$ 60
3-Year Total Fee	\$390
Yearly Fee	\$130

As a school/parish, we realize that this is a new cost to families, and we want to help. We are going to pay for half of the lease for the first year. In addition, families with a third and fourth child will receive a FREE Chromebook for each child. When the Chromebooks arrive, we will let you know when we will be handing them out. The first year's payment must be paid before receiving the Chromebook.

With the parish/school kicking in to the initial cost, here is the break down:

	1st Student (GoGuardian included in price)	2nd Student (GoGuardian included in price)	3rd Student	4th Student
Year 1	\$65	\$65	\$20 (GoGuardian Membership)	\$20 (GoGuardian Membership)
Year 2	\$130	\$130	\$20	\$20
Year 3	\$130	\$130	\$20	\$20
Total	\$325	\$325	\$60	\$60

This program will allow us to enhance your child's education as we begin a school year that will require a virtual tool that will be used in school as well. Students that may be quarantined at home will still be able to participate in class with real-time instruction.

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If we do have a class that has to go virtual, a normal schedule will be developed, and student attendance will be required. Live instruction will take place, and we will continue to use our virtual platform. More details to come on a Virtual Schedule as we get closer to the school year.

Our virtual instruction and 14-day quarantine instruction will include recording or live-streaming of classes. This live-streaming will be dependent on the grade, but will potentially look like this: If a student is out on a 14-day quarantine, the teacher will send a schedule home for the student to tune in for class that day. A webcam will be in the classroom, and during certain parts of the day, the student at home will watch the live instruction taking place. In our younger grades, it will look slightly different as the teacher will record the live instruction and then send it home for the parent and student to watch at a time convenient for them. Obviously, it is not practical to have a live-stream going all day, due to independent work time and transitions. We will be discussing what the schedule will look like in each grade level when the teachers return at the end of August.

If you are a family that has a set of extreme circumstances that will not allow your children to be in the school to learn, please contact Mr. Waech, and accommodations will be worked out.

List of extreme circumstances- ([Cancer](#), [Chronic kidney disease](#), [COPD \(chronic obstructive pulmonary disease\)](#), [Immunocompromised state \(weakened immune system\) from solid organ transplant](#), [Obesity \(body mass index \[BMI\] of 40 or higher\)](#), [Serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies](#), [Sickle cell disease](#), [Type 2 diabetes mellitus](#))

Closing

Obviously, this plan will not answer every question that you as a parent may have. It does, however, give you some needed information for your planning. Given that we are still 4 weeks away from the start of school, some of this plan could change. Please be patient as we sort through it. A reminder: be not afraid, God is with us, He is for us, and He wants what is best for us. Praying for all of us.