



Sacred Heart School

“A Christ-centered commitment to educational excellence since 1927”

August 27, 2021

Dear Sacred Heart Community Members:

Our campus has been coming to life this week as we inch closer and closer to our opening day! The energy and excitement of the opening of school is clearly present in our building and we are looking forward to our students returning.

With the excitement we are feeling in our hearts, we are also fully focused on opening our school with an emphasis on safety for all members of our school community. Based on the corroborating recommendations from multiple agencies, we intend to open the school year with the protocols outlined below. The state of COVID-19 this fall is quite different than last and we feel strongly that we should not let our guard down now. We will adopt most of the same protocols as last year while continuing to monitor Rensselaer County’s community transmission rates and the impact on SHS. We see wisdom in observing how the protocols work during the opening of the new school year and having the freedom to adjust as circumstances change.

Our ultimate goal is to protect the health and safety of our school community members by minimizing risk. In addition, we hope to maintain in-person instruction, keep our school building open, and minimize the amount of students and staff placed in quarantine due to exposure. With those goals in mind, please take a moment to review our important opening of school protocols:

- As long as permitted by public health officials, and as circumstances allow, our school will be open for in-person instruction and learning.
- Masks are required to be worn by all individuals inside our school regardless of vaccination status. Mask breaks with social distancing will be provided.
- Masks are **not** required outdoors when appropriate physical distancing can be maintained.
- Masks must always be worn on school buses.
- We will maintain at least 3-feet of physical distancing between students in classrooms and indoor school locations, combined with mask wearing.
- Students will maintain at least 6-feet of distance when masks are removed for eating **or** have a barrier between themselves and another student.
- Students and staff will have every opportunity to properly wash their hands throughout the day.
- Cleaning and sanitizing will remain rigorous on a daily basis.
- We will follow all ventilation protocols, including mechanical and natural ventilation where appropriate.
- Whenever possible, physical education classes will be conducted outdoors in appropriate weather conditions. When classes are conducted indoors, mask-wearing is required.
- Working in cooperation with our county department of health, quarantining protocols will continue to be followed.
- Parents, guardians, and staff members are urged to be mindful of symptoms of illness, to stay home if they show signs and symptoms, and to seek testing when COVID-19 symptoms are present.




- In certain scenarios this school year on-site testing may be recommended. COVID-19 testing will **not** be administered without written parent/guardian consent.
- We will continue to consult with the Rensselaer County Department of Health to monitor community transmission rates, vaccination coverage statistics, and occurrences of outbreaks to make decisions on the degree of prevention strategies.
- At this time, families **will not** have to fill out the Covid-19 health screening form prior to drop off.

While we are opening school with these protocols in place, we should all be prepared for changes at any time. We may also have to monitor for mandated protocols put into place by outside entities, such as Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Department of Health

We have no greater responsibility than the health and safety of our community members. We are confident that our plan will allow us to proceed safely with the opening of school, change protocols when appropriate, and exercise flexibility if circumstances allow us to do so.

Thank you for your continued support and anticipated corporation. We wish everyone an enjoyable start to the school year. Let us continue to pray for each other and all individuals that have faced hardship during the pandemic. Feel free to contact the school office if you have any questions or concerns.

With many blessings,


Amanda Goyer, Principal