

HOLY SPIRIT

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

August 19, 2021

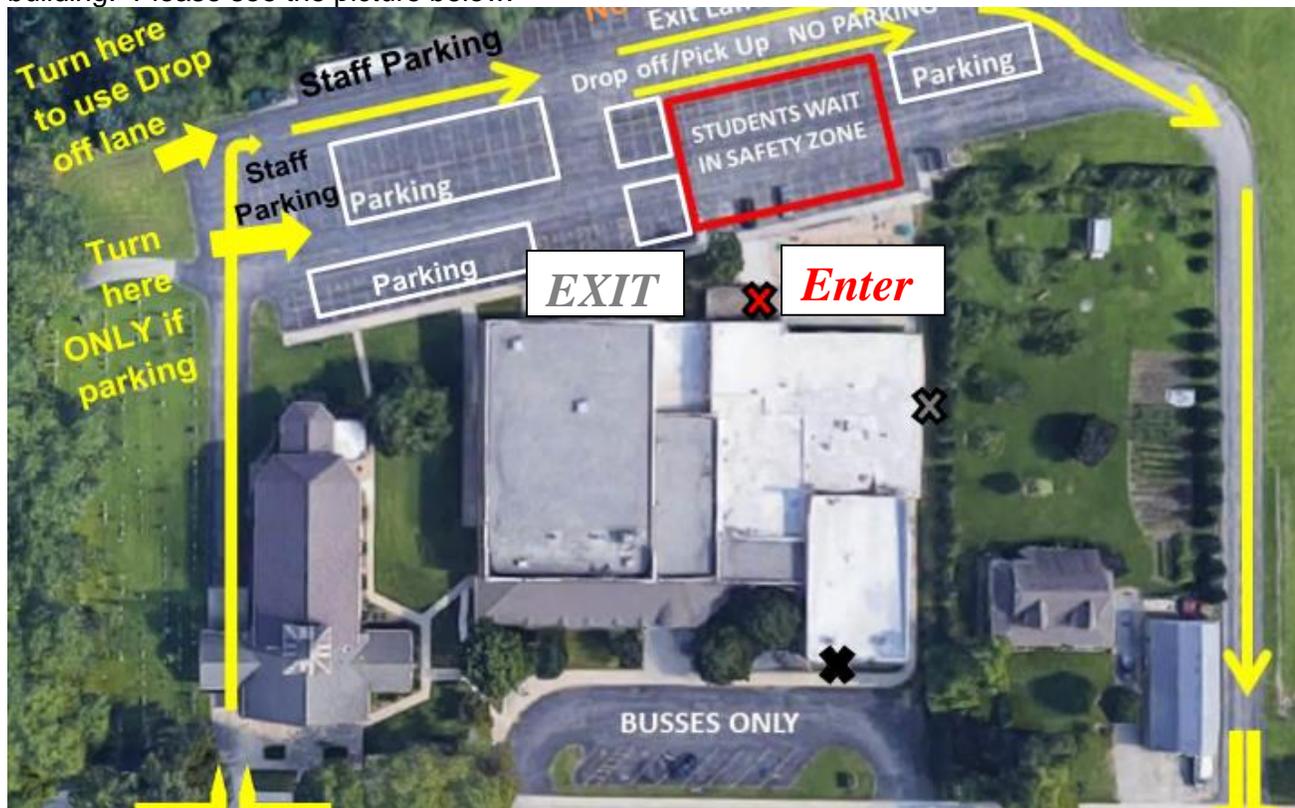
Greetings Holy Spirit families,

Our maintenance and school staff have been working hard to clean, disinfect, and prepare the school so it is ready when the students arrive for the first day. **Orientation is August 20 from 11:30-3:30 pm for last names starting with A-K and August 23 from 1:00-5:00 pm for last names starting with L-Z.** If you need to switch your day that's fine, but please try to stick to your assigned day to help minimize hallway traffic and the number of people in the building at once. **First day of school will remain August 25!!**

I'd like to go over some guidelines for walking through the school to deliver your classroom supplies to your child(ren)'s classroom.

Arrival and Departure

Upon arrival we are asking that families enter by using the main back door. As we stated in the reopening plan, masks are optional at this point. We do ask that families and staff members continue to practice physical distancing as much as possible while in the building. We are also asking that families exit out gym back door. This will help us practice physical distancing while minimizing cross traffic while exiting the building. Please see the picture below:



Supplies

On orientation day, you will be delivering your child(ren)'s school supplies to their classroom(s). During this time, they will have a chance to meet their teacher(s). Here is the link to the [Pre3-8th grade school supply list](#)

Families stay together

When you arrive on your orientation date and time, we ask that all families stay together and that your children refrain from touching any unnecessary areas/items. For example; we ask that children do not use/play with any items including toys, books, etc. in the classrooms at this time. All our supplies and toys are already sanitized and we don't want to make extra work for our staff before school starts.

Physical Distancing practices

Please remember to practice proper physical distancing from other families. If there are already 2 or 3 families in the classroom, please wait in the hallway or drop off your items at another child's classroom and return back when the room is less crowded.

Mask update

Many of the K-grade 5 teachers have kidney bean tables or rectangle tables in their classrooms to work with small groups in reading, math, etc. This is best practice for effective teaching/learning to work with small groups like this.

Updated Close Contact Definition for K-12 schools

1. Looking on page 16 of the "[Guidelines for Prevention, Investigation, and control of COVID-19 Outbreaks in K-12 Schools in Wisconsin – August 2021](#)" "Exception: In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students where were within 3-6 feet of an infected student if: both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks; and other K-12 prevention strategies were in place in the K-12 school setting." See table 2 on page 17.
2. Looking on page 9 of the "[DPI – COVID-19 Infection Control and Mitigation Measures for Wisconsin Schools 2021/22 – August 2021](#)" document in the middle paragraph is says, "Note the CDC and DHS guidelines for the 2021-2022 school year include the added [exception in the close contact definition](#) for students in K-12 indoor classrooms who are within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student with masking and other prevention strategies. This exception applies in the classroom when there is universal mask wearing, increased ventilation and both students were consistently and correctly wearing a well fitted mask."

This means that if we have both individuals wearing a mask and one of them tests positive, the other may not be deemed a close contact if they were 3-6 feet apart because they both were properly wearing a mask. **Therefore, with this new CDC definition of close contact when students are working closely in small groups (like at a kidney bean table with a teacher and other students), Holy Spirit is going to require K-grade 8 students/staff to wear a mask. This will only be for the time they are working in close proximity of another person for an extended period of time.** If we have students wearing a mask (who are normally opting not to wear one), when they are working closely in a small group setting, this could save students from having to quarantine if we have a positive case because everyone was wearing a mask. We are just trying to keep students in school as much as possible. If students normally would be opting not to wear a mask, they would only be required to wear on for a short period of time. We think that's a good and safe compromise to keep students in school learning as much as possible.

Students who are opting not to wear a mask all the time in the classroom setting, would have a mask at school and be required to wear it if they are working closely in a small group for an extended period of time. If they are electing to not wear a mask, they do not need to wear one when they are in the classroom at their desk or in the hallway, etc. **So, please make sure your K-grade 8 student(s) have a mask at school because they may be using it for short periods of time throughout the day.**

This decision was agreed upon by everyone in attendance at the August 17, 2021 Education Committee meeting.

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Parental help need for screening before school

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services recently released “Guidelines for Prevention, Investigation, and Control of COVID-19 Outbreaks in K-12 Schools in Wisconsin.” This document may answer some questions that parents have emailed me about positive tests or close contacts, quarantining, etc. Holy Spirit will be working closely with the Diocese of Green Bay and the Outagamie County Public Health Department for guidance. This document can also be found on our website.

[Guidelines for Prevention, Investigation, and control of COVID-19 Outbreaks in K-12 Schools in Wisconsin – August 2021](#)

We are asking for parental help/support in ***asking your child(ren) or screening them for COVID19 symptoms daily before school.***

[Health Screening Checklist 2021-22](#)

Thank you for your help in trying to keep our school as safe and healthy as possible.

Tuition and Childcare payments

Tuition is taken care of through the parish business office. Please call Joan Boots 788-7640 if you need assistance. Tuition and childcare payments will be set up or paid at orientation on August 20 and 23 in the gymnasium. We will have at least two parish staff members there to assist you in setting this up. You will need a voided check to set up automatic monthly withdrawals for the 2021-22 school year.

The Holy Spirit Catholic School is very excited to see our students again. This year is going to be challenging, but we have to remember to stay positive and speak positively in front of our children to help ease any anxiety they may be feeling.

We will be doing everything we can to help maintain a clean and safe school environment for our students.

God Bless,

Mike Zuleger, Principal