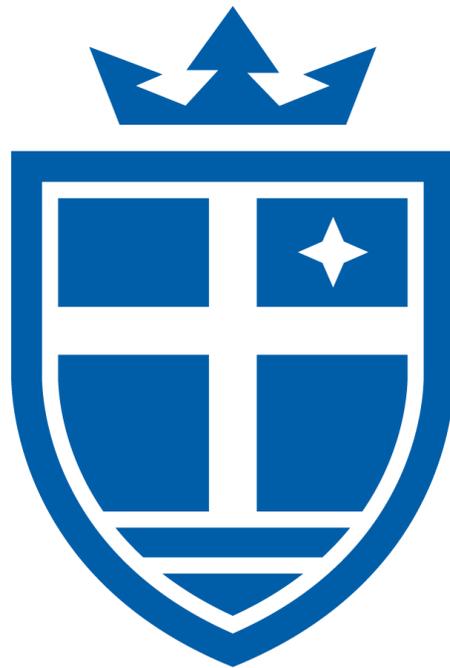


# Bishop Louis Reicher Catholic School



## **Overview of Reopening Plans for the 2020-21 School Year**

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## **Introduction**

Ensuring the health and safety of our school community continues to be the administration's top priority as we plan for the 2020-21 school year. With this in mind, the Bishop Reicher administration team has been reviewing protocols for the reopening of our school. Our planning has been and will be guided by federal, state, and local entities, under the guidance of The Diocese of Austin Catholic Schools office. The plans being prepared will be fluid to ensure that our school community can easily, effectively, and safely transition to alternate plans that might be dictated by COVID-19. We are committed to ensuring the health and safety of all so that we do not put our students, staff, and guardians at any additional risk.

Thank you for your prayers and thoughtful feedback over the last several months. In a diverse community, such as ours, we recognize that there are a wide variety of viewpoints and concerns, and we want you to know how much we value your voice. Even though this has been a very difficult season for us, God has been so good and faithful to Bishop Reicher.

**As we plan for the re-opening of school this year, we are committed to the following principles:**

- Maintain the health, wellness, and safety of the entire school community
- Flexibility for our most at-risk students, staff, and families
- Compliance with social distancing recommendations and PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) requirements
- Preparedness for responding to local, state, federal, and Diocese of Austin orders
- Commit to developing equitable and innovative re-opening approaches that meet the academic and social-emotional needs of all students
- Ensure all students receive a superior Catholic education

## **Academic Calendar**

We will begin the school year on August 19, 2020, as is shown on our approved calendar for the 2020-21 school year. We currently have no plans to alter breaks or extend the year. If we need to suspend classes due to health and safety conditions, our staff is fully prepared to transition to a distance learning model. We are looking forward to welcoming students and families on August 19 for the first day of school!

## **Safety Protocols**

Bishop Reicher is working to ensure we maintain the health, wellness, and safety of the entire school community. Compliance with social distancing recommendations, PPE, and campus safety is our top priority.

## **We will:**

- Provide each classroom with hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes
- Ensure that we have an adequate allotment of PPE and cleaning materials on-site
- Train all employees to follow health and safety protocols
- Provide both campuses with no-touch thermometers
- Implement daily self-health screenings for all students, staff, and visitors before entering campus
- Personally screen students and staff who show symptoms of COVID-19
- Modify daily cleaning schedules to ensure each space is sanitized and disinfected multiple times a day and ensure deep cleaning of the buildings daily
- Provide hand sanitizer stations in key public areas of each campus
- Arrange classrooms to ensure social distancing
- Provide a facial covering to students, staff, service providers, and approved visitors if they do not have one, and require PPE when necessary
- Schedule frequent handwashing times throughout the day for staff and students
- Identify isolation space for students who become ill with COVID-19-related symptoms while they wait for parent pick-up
- Require students and staff to stay home if they, or anyone in their household, have tested positive for COVID-19 and/or are showing any symptoms
- Ensure common areas are not ‘crowded’ with students

We will be limiting the number of visitors allowed on campus at any given time for the protection of our staff and students. All visitors **MUST** check-in when entering the building and **MUST** wear a face covering while on campus.

## **Extracurricular and Athletic Activities**

- We will follow all TAPPS regulations regarding participation requirements on both the high school and lower campuses.

## **After School Care**

- After school care will be available with social distancing and safety protocols implemented.

## **Distance Learning Option**

We are committed to ensuring that all students receive the support and services that they need. While we anticipate the vast majority of our students will return to campus this fall, we understand the importance of choice for families. For this reason, we are working to include an at-home distance learning option. We are planning the final details of how this will work and hope to have this option available with details on July 27th.

**For us to be able to plan accordingly and ensure we have qualified staff to provide this option, we are asking you to fill out our on-line questionnaire located [here](#) by Friday, July 27, if you want the distance learning for your child(ren).** Students who choose the distance learning option will still be able to participate in extracurricular and athletic activities. However, we will require that whatever option (in-person or distance learning) you choose, you must stay in that model for the entire academic quarter. Please be mindful that at this point we can not guarantee the distance learning option will be available, but we will do everything we can to make this option available. If we can offer a distance-learning option, it will be in line with our new curriculum, which will allow for an easy transition back to in-person instruction. Distancing learning instruction will be taught by qualified staff, and our goal is that the quality of the education will be in line with our in-person instruction. No matter what your family chooses, there is a place for every student at Bishop Reicher.

## **Communication**

In making this decision to return to on campus instruction, our goals are to open the school in the fall, limit exposure to COVID-19, and remain open the entire school year. We are committed to creating an environment of health and wellness in our community by working together.

We recognize as we learn more about COVID-19 that the guidelines from local, state, federal, and the Diocese change rapidly as our knowledge of the virus and the ways it is affecting communities and individuals changes, so may our plans for the 2020-2021 school year. As things change we will do our best to communicate the changes to you in a timely fashion. I greatly appreciate your patience as we work through planning for the upcoming school year during this most unusual time. I truly believe that as a community if we stick together and support one another we will thrive during this difficult time. As always please reach out to us with any questions or concerns that you might have.

With Prayer,

Blake Evans

President of Bishop Louis Reicher Catholic School