



**ST. PATRICK**  

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**CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

July 16, 2020

Dear St. Patrick Families,

I want to reach out to you again as summer is nearly halfway through. I know we all have questions about what the fall will look like. Because this is a fluid situation I do not have all the answers but I will share with you what I know.

We will begin school August 31st. This will be a half day as it has been in previous years. With proper approval from the authorities we will start in person classes. If we are not given this approval, you will receive information on continuous learning at home until we can start in person classes. When in person classes resume we will have school five days a week on our normal schedule.

We will complete daily health checks on each student, staff and volunteer before they enter our school. These checks are based on the requirements from OSPI and the Benton Franklin Health District. Our classes will follow social distancing protocols. This means the classrooms will not look like they have in past years but that will not stop the teachers from creating a welcoming environment. The teachers miss your children and are ready to help make the transition back to school as smooth as possible. Our students will be required to wear a face covering. Currently the recommendation is for a mask, while a shield is appropriate if needed. Our staff and all who enter our school will also be wearing proper face coverings. We will be disinfecting our rooms regularly. Bathrooms will also be disinfected throughout the day.

We will have recess, twice a day for K-5, and once for 6-8. We are creating a plan where the students will stay with their grade level for recess. Teachers will encourage social distanced activities allowing the students to run and play.

We will not have a hot lunch program this year. We were considering discontinuing it this year due to Covid-19 requirements but before we made the final decision Pasco School District decided to end the program for the upcoming year due to the same requirements. Lunch will be eaten in the classroom to maintain social distancing. Students will be required to bring cold lunches daily.



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I know the question on many people's minds is who is teaching what class. In order to assign teachers to classes I need a good idea on our enrollment numbers. We are quickly enrolling current families via FACTS but we need your help to bring new families into our special school. Reach out to friends you have that are looking for five day a week education and send them our way. We would love to provide them information on the school and parish community. For current families who have began the FACTS admissions process, please make sure after completing the admissions application and receiving an offer email, to proceed to complete the enrollment side by following directions sent to you all previously via email.

Due to current restrictions we will not have Spanish, Music, and P.E. as we have had in the past. Instead classroom teachers will integrate the arts and P.E. into their classroom as they have done in the past with the Arts Attack program. As a staff we will work together to share our knowledge to create these opportunities. This is not what we are used to as a staff and we will all miss the rotation of specials but will not let this new challenge slow us down.

As many of you know the Children's Center closed for the upcoming year due to the unknown situation that Covid-19 has created. We are collecting names of families interested in a half day Pre-K in the school. This class would be a 3-5 year old class, similar to the half day program this year. I need to have enrollment numbers to start this program. I have not yet been able to set a time but it's opening time would be similar to the K-8 school and follow the same openings and closings of the school. Please contact me if you would be interested in this program.

I know the big question on everyone's mind is what will happen if a student in the class tests positive for Covid-19. In this situation we will work closely with the Benton Franklin Health District to determine who must self isolate at home. If this happens teachers will work with the students to continue their learning at home. This mixed model of education will create an environment that both students out for illness and those in the classroom will continue learning.

Some of our families may not be ready for their students to be in the physical classroom this year. We are offering a full year at home learning option through FACTS SIS. This choice will use the texts that the classroom teacher is using. Videos and other instructional materials will be uploaded each day for the student to complete. This



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option is great for families who do not want to be in a physical classroom this year but want to remain connected with the St. Pat's community.

Throughout this time I have been finding comfort in the readings I hear at Mass each day. As I was looking up a verse I found Psalm 119:143 "Though distress and anguish come upon me, your commandments are my delight". So much is unknown and out of our control for the coming year. I find myself having to rely on Christ more and more each day. I pray that your family finds this time an opportunity to grow more in love with Christ and his church.

Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns. If I do not have the answer I will find it for you. I love our St. Pat's Saints and I cannot wait for us to be together again.

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