



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

July 15, 2020

Dear Nativity School Parents,

Nativity of Our Lord School remains committed to providing our students and families with an educational experience of excellence grounded in our Catholic faith. This past year's theme was, "At Nativity all are Seen, Heard, and Valued." It continues to guide us as we work to create a positive and healthy learning environment for the fall. As we look to the future we have designed a comprehensive plan that is flexible enough to be responsive to the ever-changing impact of COVID on our local community. **The current plan is Phase One, which will guide us until our fall break in mid-October.** We will continue to reevaluate our plan as we learn more through the recommendations of our expert partners.

Our reopening plan encompasses guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health, the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics and was developed with the help of our parent and teacher task forces. Our goal is to reopen school balancing the educational/social needs of students with protocols and procedures in place that will significantly lower transmittable health risks due to COVID-19 to students and staff. We will implement safety and health measures and place limitations or restrictions on some aspects of life at Nativity of Our Lord School. We are committed to working in partnership with you to move forward with confidence and cautious optimism as the new school year begins.

We recognize that some students and families may have health related concerns that require distance learning as we begin the new school year, and we are prepared to support that need as well. We learned much from the distance learning experience of the spring and have taken into consideration your perspective and the teachers' perspectives on how we can improve the at-home learning experience for those who need that option throughout the school year. We will also apply parent and teacher feedback regarding distance learning given the likelihood that Nativity may need to shift to that mode of learning during the school year.

There is still much unknown about COVID -19 and how it will impact our community in the year ahead. Our plan is flexible and will adapt to significant shifts in the risk levels related to major surges close to and within our community. We will be prepared to shift to short or longer term closing of the school building based on these changes. We will also be closely monitoring the educational and emotional progress of our students to assess how they are adjusting to this dynamic environment. Our teachers are prepared to adjust quickly in these events to ensure continuity in learning for our students. We will begin the year helping our students become proficient in the digital platforms that will support in person and distance learning. These are robust tools that support the organization of learning and provide the opportunity for interactive learning experiences at home and school.

Our plan creates a separation or learning cohort model for students which will assist with limiting exposure throughout the school building. This will help lower the number of students who may need to quarantine if and when students become symptomatic or test positive for the Coronavirus. Families will need to keep their children home from school if they have a temperature or have symptoms that are potentially COVID related to protect the rest of the community from a spread. This plan will continue to evolve in the weeks and months ahead.

We are eager for our students to return to the classroom for in person learning. While things may look a bit different, we remain the same at our core: A school that loves your children and wants to partner with you to help them grow and thrive as learners and young people of faith. Thank you for putting your trust in us during these uncertain times.

We are asking each family to complete a plan for your intention for the fall including designating your recommitment to In-person learning for the 2020-2021 academic year or a request for distance learning from home. This can be found **here**. We are making this request so that we can plan for necessary staffing and allocate resources appropriately. Please review our plan with that in mind. We will ask for this information to be **completed by July 31st** so that we have the time necessary to adjust our staffing to meet the needs of all our students.

If you have additional questions regarding the plan or the upcoming school year, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. The school office will remain open throughout the summer in anticipation of and preparation for the new school year.

Sincerely,

Kate Wollan
Principal

Sandy Kane
Assistant Principal

Nativity School Reopening Task Force

- Matthew Byrne – Registered Nurse and Nurse Educator
- John Henningsgard – School Advisory Council and Financial Advisor
- Emily Medcraft – PharmD
- Claire Noble - Attorney
- Dr. Laura Norton – Pediatric Infectious Disease Physician
- Sam Paske - School Advisory Council and Logistics and Engineer
- Jessica Quinn -
- Matthew Sargent -
- Shawn Woessner – Human Resources



Nativity of Our Lord School Phase One Reopening Plan for the 2020-2021 Academic Year



**Mark Your Calendars ...
Opening Day of the 2020-
2021 School year is
August 24th!**

We've been working hard to create a comprehensive plan to ensure we could be back at school for in person learning - and offer a distance learning experience for those who have health related concerns.



Set your alarms... you don't want to be late!

- Student arrival and dismissal times will be slightly altered to lessen congestion and allow for additional time for temperature screening and hand washing upon arrival.
- We will not gather on the plaza before school - the students will enter the school during their designated timeframe.
- Students will enter the building through four assigned doors by grade level to minimize wait time for entering the school. (map will be provided in August)
- Middle School Students 7:45 A.M. – 8:00 A.M.
- K-5 Students 8:00 A.M. – 8:15 A.M.
- End of day dismissal will be staggered based on grade level and classroom proximity to reduce congestion in the hallways and on the plaza.



The Classroom Learning Experience

Students will practice social distancing in the classroom.

- Room arrangements have been altered to allow for extra space between desks at all grade levels.
- Some classrooms and support learning spaces have been relocated to bigger rooms to allow for social distancing.
- Preschool -3rd grade classes will be in self-contained learning cohorts with most of their specialist teachers coming into their classrooms to teach (art, music, STEAM, and possibly library).
- Students in Preschool – 3rd grade will have their own school supplies and math manipulative kits to avoid needing to constantly disinfect.
- All computers, chromebooks and iPads will be disinfected between student use in grades K-8 .
- Middle school students will spend three periods a day with a learning cohort of the same students. Four periods a day they will be in different groups to accommodate different math levels.
- 4th – 8th grade teachers will move to the students vs the students moving classrooms during cohort learning. This allows for less congestion in the hallways.
- Students in grade 4-8 will have designated routes in the hallways when moving between classes to limit the spread of airborne germs.
- Off campus field trips will be restricted in the fall.



Health Protocols

The health and wellbeing of our students, staff, and parents is our highest priority.

- Parents will take their children's temperature at home daily and review the healthy kid's wellness checklist at home.
- All will have their temperatures taken daily upon entering the school – those with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will need to go home.
- There will be increased hand washing throughout the day including: to start the day, before and after recess, lunch, and after using the restrooms.
- Teachers will review respiratory etiquette with students: cough and sneeze into elbow then wash hands.
- Signage will be placed throughout the school promoting healthy practices.
- A hand washing station will replace the water fountains outside the school office for those entering the school.
- Water bottle fillers will be installed throughout the school and will replace traditional water fountains.
- Each child is encouraged to bring his or her own water bottle daily.
- Hand sanitizer will be placed in every room in the school.
- We will have a school nurse or a health aide managing the nurse's office every day.
- Students who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 will be placed in a waiting area separate from the nurse's office while they wait to be picked up.



Cleaning Protocols

Cleaning and disinfecting key areas of the building will help limit the spread of germs.

- We will increase our custodians for midday cleaning of bathrooms, the lunchroom and high touch surfaces.
- Student desks will be disinfected between classes and exchanges of students in grades 4-8.
- PreK-3rd grade desks/tables will be disinfected as needed throughout the day.
- All classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each day.
- Weather permitting, doors and windows will remain open to improve airflow in the classrooms.
- Disinfecting playground



Guests, Volunteers and Parents are restricted from campus during Phase One of our School Reopening plan

- Limiting the number of adults in the school building each day is a recommendation of the CDC to minimize the potential spread of the virus.
- We will look for creative ways for our parents to share their time and talents with us when we receive new guidelines regarding risk factors from the CDC.
- Parents picking up students during the school day will meet their child at the plaza door.



Face Coverings

Key ways to limit the spread of the virus include wearing face coverings and social distancing.

- Everyone entering and exiting school will wear a face covering.
- Students in grades PreK-3 will not be required to wear face covering while in their classrooms but may be required in common areas due to the developmental level of younger students' ability to manage their own masks properly.
- Students in grades 4-8 will wear a face covering throughout the day (due to more mixing of students in various classes). except during lunch and classes that are held outdoors
- Faculty and Staff will wear a variety of face coverings including face shields and/or masks to protect them from the potential spread of germs.



The Distance Learning Experience

- Two digital platforms will support those in distance learning as we start the year or if we have to move to distance learning for an extended period of time during the school year: Seesaw for K-2 and Google Classroom for grades 3-8.
- Other digital tools will be introduced in the classrooms in the fall including Epic! for reading and iXL for Math reinforcement gr 1-4, Flipgrid, and Gizmo for middle school science.
- When possible we will utilize a new video/microphone system to support synchronous instruction and recorded real time lessons for those learning from home.



Lunch

The lunch experience will be modified for health reasons.

- The lunchroom will have seating for 1/3 capacity to allow for social distancing.
- Students will eat in their classrooms or lunchroom based on a rotating schedule.
- Due to restrictions on volunteers in the school, hot lunch will be suspended; however, boxed lunches or salads can be purchased.



Recess

Active play is an important part of the development of children of all ages. Recess reinforces positive social interaction and physical development – but it must be done safely.

- The playground groups will be smaller than normal (two grade levels at a time) by adding a third timeslot for recess each mid-morning.
- The playground will be painted with new games which encourage social distancing.
- All students will wash their hands before and after recess.
- Face coverings will be optional on the playground.



Living our Faith

Helping our children grow in their faith continues to be the central pillar of Nativity of Our Lord School.

- Students will continue to participate in the sacraments in smaller groups to ensure social distancing.
- Daily prayer in each classroom will help us begin and end each day mindful of our need for gratitude as well as prayers of petition for all those impacted by COVID-19.



Communication

We know that our parents need and appreciate ongoing communication.

- We will create a designated space on the school website for updates related to COVID 19.
- An update will be sent each week specific to our procedures and protocols related to COVID.
- We will use an alert communication system to text/call parents if we need to implement a school shut down quickly.



Social/Emotional Health

The mental health of our students, parents and staff is a priority as we face the year ahead.

- In person learning with new guidelines, as well as distance learning, will have some level of impact on the emotional wellbeing of everyone as we get used to this modified learning experience.
- We will continue to build in creative ways for socialization, team building and engagement with classmates while remaining socially distant.
- Our mental health team will proactively support our students, parents and staff whether learning in class or at home.



Shopping List

Please add the following to your child's school supply list:

- Thermometer for taking temperature at home each day.
- Personal water bottle
- Mask or neck gaiter/face covering
- Yoga mat for students in grades K-3



What has NOT YET been determined...

- The complete list of COVID symptoms that would require a student or staff member to stay home from school - for how long. Decision trees formed by the CDC and MDH will help guide this decision .
- If a student or staff member tests positive what can be shared with the community while following health privacy laws.
- Exact criteria for shifting from in person learning to short or longer term distance learning (waiting for CDC guidance).
- Plan for athletics as determined by the CAA.
- When it may be possible to resume regular hot lunch program.
- Which after school extracurricular activities will be offered in the fall.

Nativity School Reopening Plan – Phase One through mid October
Flexibility to Respond to Changes due to the local Impact of COVID at Nativity School

<p>Traditional Learning at Nativity School (Pre and Post COVID -19)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The health risk for COVID 19 has ended due to the discovery of a vaccine which eradicates the virus. ➤ Students are all learning together in the school building ➤ No one is wearing face coverings. ➤ Students can eat in the cafeteria at regular capacity and the hot lunch program is fully operational. ➤ All extracurricular activities are active.
<p align="center">↑</p> <p>Hybrid Model of Learning with fewer restrictions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is a significant, consistent decline in COVID 19 cases locally which allows for the loosening of some restrictions. ➤ There may be some additional time during the school day when face coverings may be optional for all. ➤ Some students previously utilizing distance learning return to school for instruction. ➤ The number of students safely congregating in the common or shared spaces in the school increases.
<p align="center">↑</p> <p>CURRENT PLAN Hybrid Model for Reopening Aug 24th</p> <p align="center">↓</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Most students are in the school building learning daily – some students are utilizing distance learning. ➤ 4th -8th grade students and teachers wear face coverings in the school building. ➤ Students rotate eating in their classrooms and the cafeteria – the current hot lunch plan is significantly modified. ➤ Extracurricular activities may be suspended.
<p>Hybrid Model with more restrictions</p> <p align="center">↓</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is a surge in COVID 19 positive tests which necessitates more restrictions but does not force the entire school building to close for an extended period of time. ➤ Additional students may need to shift to distance learning. ➤ May discontinue using all common or shared spaces in the school.
<p>Distance Learning for All Students Short or longer term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is evidence of community spread throughout the Nativity School community which necessitates moving all students to distance learning. ➤ Teachers utilize synchronous (live streamed) and asynchronous (recorded) learning utilizing a variety of digital tools and resources.

