



Nazareth Academy Catholic School

Readiness for Safe Return to School Plan

2020-2021

We believe it is important for students to be in school to meet their emotional, spiritual, and academic needs and we have been working on a return to school plan most of the summer. We accept the fact that there will be many changes and not much semblance of the past school days our staff, students and families know. However, we will do our best to provide a safe, secure, high-quality education that Nazareth has provided for the past 153 years. We will continue to monitor guidance from local, state, and federal officials, and follow the Governor’s directives for schools and will amend this “Safe Return Plan” as conditions improve or worsen, and as consensus around best practices emerges.

Current Understanding of COVID-19

*Taken from Diocese of Victoria in Texas Catholic Schools
COVID-19 School Continuity Plan 2020 - 2021

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

Disease Transmission:

The virus is thought to spread primarily from person to person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms (known as asymptomatic spread).

Preventative Health Measures:

- Frequent handwashing or use of hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands and properly cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Avoid close contact with others- stay at least 6 feet from others and do not gather in groups.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Stay home if you are sick.

Symptoms of COVID-19:

- People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness².
- Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms or combinations of symptoms may have COVID-19:

Cough	Chills	Shortness of Breath	Temperature equal to or greater than 100° F or feeling feverish	Repeated shaking with chills	Congestion or runny nose
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Muscle Pain	Headache	Sore Throat	Diarrhea	New loss of taste or smell	Nausea or vomiting
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Additional Information about COVID-19 Symptoms in Children

The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar in children and adults. However, children with confirmed COVID-19 have generally presented with mild symptoms. Reported symptoms in children include cold-like symptoms, such as fever, runny nose, and cough. Vomiting and diarrhea have also been reported.

Although most COVID-19 cases in children are not severe, serious illness that needs to be treated at the hospital still happens. Some data on children reported that the majority who needed hospitalization for COVID-19 had at least one underlying medical condition. The most common underlying conditions reported among children with COVID-19 include chronic lung disease (including asthma), heart disease, and conditions that weaken the immune system. This information suggests that children with these underlying medical conditions may be at risk for more severe illness from COVID-19.

PRAYER IN TIME OF COVID-19

“Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet, our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: ‘Do not be afraid.’ (Mt. 28:5). And we, together with Peter, ‘cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us’” (1 Peter 5:7).

Pope Francis
Strong in the Face of Tribulation:
A Sure Support in Time of Trial

PREVENT: Practices to Prevent the Virus Within the School

1. Teachers and staff members will take their temperature before coming to school in the morning.
2. Parents are asked to self-screen their child each day. If your child has symptoms or possible exposure in one's household, please report this immediately to Administration.
3. Students' temperatures will be taken by the teacher as they come into the classroom. Children and adults who have a fever (temperature equal to or greater than 100° F) will not be permitted to stay on campus. Parents must arrange for that student to be picked up within an hour of being called. We recommend you take your child's temperature before sending him or her to school; we will still double check the students' temperatures.
4. All visitors to the school will be screened with a temperature check and health/symptom questionnaire before being allowed to enter the campus.
5. Any student or teacher or staff member showing COVID19 symptoms will be separated and required to leave school and may not return until the criteria below are satisfied.
6. Areas used by an individual with symptoms will be cleaned as soon as possible, according to guidelines from the local Health Department.

RESPOND: Practices to Respond to a Lab-Confirmed Case in the School

If an individual with a lab confirmed case of COVID-19 has been in the school, the following procedures will be observed:

1. The Office of Catholic Schools will be notified.
2. The local health department will be notified, and the school will follow the latest required action steps and guidance for the appropriate response.
3. The local health department will likely advise an initial short-term (2-5 days) dismissal to allow time for tracing and required cleaning. Partial school closures are possible if affected areas are limited and can be closed off. For example, limited to one area on campus.
4. Teachers, staff and families of students will be notified, while keeping consistent with confidentiality requirements.
5. Areas used by the individual with COVID-19 will be closed off and specific CDC/Health Department instructions will be followed before cleaning and disinfecting.

Exclusion and Re-admission Criteria

*Taken from Diocese of Victoria in Texas Catholic Schools COVID-19 School Continuity Plan 2020-2021

Nazareth Academy Catholic School will adhere to the current recommendations from the CDC and Texas DSHS, subject to change.

1. Any teacher, staff member or student who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, diarrhea, feeling feverish, or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100° F, or close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 will be immediately isolated and sent home.

2. Employees or students with new or worsening signs or symptoms listed above will not be allowed in school until:
 - In the case of a teacher, staff member or student who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to work/school when all three of the following criteria are met. (a) at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery; including resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, (b) the individual has shown improvement in all symptoms, e.g., cough, shortness of breath; and (c) at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
 - In the case of a teacher, staff member or student who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19. The individual may not return to work/school until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above.
 - If the employee or student has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work/school before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.
3. A teacher, staff member or student with known close contact to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 will not be allowed to return to work/school until the end of the 14-day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure.

Students who are absent due to following school requirements for fever, symptoms, or quarantine do not accrue absences if they keep up with their class via remote learning while away from campus.

MITIGATE: Practices to Mitigate the Likelihood of COVID-19 Spread Inside the School

For traditional students who return to campus this fall, the following measures have been put in place. In arriving at these protocols, we have consulted guidance from federal, state, and local health departments, as well as medical professionals from within our own community.

Health and Hygiene Practices: General

1. Teachers and staff members will take their temperatures before coming to school in the morning.
2. Hand sanitizer will be available at each entrance of the school, in various areas of the school and in every classroom.
3. Students, teachers, staff members will be encouraged to wash &/or sanitize hands frequently.
 - During the first week of school, students will be instructed on proper handwashing techniques.
4. Each classroom has two exit doors. One of the doors will be left open to allow for students to leave the classroom without touching the door handle, etc.
5. Our campus will have more thorough and frequent cleaning practices:

- The cleaning crew will follow additional protocols for frequent disinfection of high-traffic areas.
- Teachers will follow procedures for daily disinfection of their classrooms, such as wiping down of desks, tables, chairs, doorknobs, and any other frequently touched surfaces.
- A Clorox 360 machine has been purchased to disinfect the classrooms/school twice weekly and as needed.

Health and Hygiene Practices: Masks/Face Shields

1. In complying with the Governor's executive orders, teachers, staff and campus visitors will be required to wear a mask &/or face shield that covers the nose and mouth, while on campus – in classrooms, hallways, church, gym and other spaces where they may come into close contact with other people. Mask rules may be adjusted according to state and local regulations.
2. **All students (PK3–Gr.8)** will be required to wear a mask/face shield to school into the building each day. Please have your child bring a mask that they are used to wearing and feel comfortable with. The masks do not have to be a certain color or style, if the design or fabric is appropriate for school.
3. **PK3 – K:** While at their tables in the classroom, students in grades PK3 – K may not be required to wear a mask. When they transition from their desk to another area, they will be asked to wear the mask, if developmentally appropriate.
4. Because 6 ft. social distancing is not always possible in the classroom, students in **Grades 1 – 8** will be required to wear a mask or face shield. There will be times, when in the classroom, that teachers will allow the students to remove their mask for short periods of time, if they are able to socially distance and remain with their homeroom class. This will be at the teacher's discretion.
5. Masks will be required when transitioning from one room to another, going to the restroom, refilling water bottles, going to lockers, going to office or nurse, walking to cafeteria, PE, recess, etc.
6. Masks will not be required while outside **if distancing is maintained** nor while students are eating or participating in physical activities such as running, etc.
7. The school will have some extra non-medical, disposable masks on hand in case a student loses the mask, or an accident happens. These were donated by the Texas Education Agency.
8. Parents will be responsible for sending the students with a clean mask/shield each day. If you wish, masks can be hooked to a lanyard and worn around the child's neck to minimize loss of the mask or accident.
9. If your child has a medical reason that they are unable to tolerate a mask/face shield, please contact school administration.

Health and Hygiene Practices: Social Distancing

1. Classrooms are being arranged to permit as much physical distancing as possible. In classroom spaces that allow it, student desks will be placed 6 ft. apart.

2. Clear, plastic partitions have been made for the tables and desks in Grades PK3 – 3rd grade. These are also in the Science Lab and Art Room. This will be a barrier between the students while seated at their tables or desks.
3. In classrooms where students are regularly within 6 feet of one another, students will engage in more frequent handwashing/hand sanitizing and facial coverings will be worn.
4. In Grades 3–8, the teachers will move from classroom to classroom to teach classes, allowing students to remain in their homeroom as much as possible. This will minimize the need to disinfect the desks after every class and allows for less movement among students in the hallway. The ancillary teachers (library and music) will be coming to the homerooms to teach.
5. Locker assignments have been staggered to allow for spacing between students when at their lockers.
6. School Mass will continue to be a weekly part of our community life, but to accommodate social distancing, not all classes will attend Mass on the same day. All Masses will be at Our Lady of Sorrows to accommodate seating for our students. Visitors will not be allowed at our school Masses. Students in PK4 and Kindergarten will not attend Mass until it is deemed safe for them to do so.
7. A hot school lunch will continue to be prepared by our cafeteria. Students may also bring their lunch. Grades PK4, K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th & 7th will be eating in the cafeteria and will be seated 6 ft. apart. Grades 6 & 8 will be eating in their classroom. There will be no sharing of food or drink on campus, during snack or lunch. Students will be required to wear a mask into the lunchroom and remove while they are eating. Staff in the cafeteria will be wearing gloves and masks.
8. Recess, water, and bathroom breaks will be staggered to adhere to social distancing.

Health and Hygiene Practices: School Routines and Practices

1. **Water fountains:** Water fountains will no longer be used. Students must bring a filled water bottle/container from home (not glass, please). The bottles must be clear and only contain plain water. No additives or other beverages are allowed. These bottles should be clearly marked with the student's first and last name. Water stations will be available for students to refill their container as needed during the day. If the child forgets their water bottle, they will be given a disposable cup to use for drinking.
2. **Parent Meetings:** Meetings will be held, at the administrator's or teacher's preference either by Zoom or telephone.
3. **Visitors to Campus:** Visitors will not be allowed on the campus at this time. Parents must drop off their students at the school entrance for their grade level. Please remain in your car. Staff will be available to guide the students to their classroom. If a parent or other guest must enter the building (ex: to go to the front office or nurse), they will be screened and their temperature taken.
4. **PE & Playground:** PE will occur as normally planned with increased socially distancing measures, masks, and no locker room use at this time. Students will not dress out for PE for the first month of school. All students will be wearing their school uniform during PE until further notice.

5. **Before School Care:** Before School Care will be from 6:30 AM – 7:30. At 7:30 AM students will be brought over to the NA Campus and released to their classroom teacher.
6. **Student Drop Off & Pick Up:** PK3 will be dropped off on Convent St. Pre-K 4 and Kindergarten students will be dropped off (and picked up) on Bridge Street. Students in Grades 1-4 will be dropped off (and picked up) on Glass Street. Students in Grades 5-8 will be dropped off (and picked up) on Church Street (Music Room/Playroom entrance). Parents will not be allowed to enter the school building so we ask that parents remain in their cars when dropping off their child(ren).
7. **Arrival of students:** Students that arrive at school before 7:15 will need to go to Before School Care. If they arrive after 7:15, but before 7:30, they will go to the cafeteria. Teachers will be in their classroom at 7:30 AM. Students in the cafeteria will be dismissed to their classroom. Students arriving after 7:30 will walk directly to their classroom.
8. **Dismissal & Car Procedures:** Students in PreK4 – 2nd Grade will be dismissed at 3:10 each day. Grades 3, 4, & 5 will be dismissed at 3:20. Students in Grades 6, 7 & 8 will be dismissed at 3:25. Pre-K 4 and Kindergarten students will be dropped off (and picked up) on Bridge Street. Students in Grades 1-4 will be dropped off (and picked up) on Glass Street. Students in Grades 5-8 will be dropped off (and picked up) at 3:30 p.m. on Church Street (Music Room/Playroom entrance). Students in Grades PK3 – 2nd grade should have car cards displayed in the window when picking up their children. PK3 & K should be on the driver’s side and Grades 1 & 2 should be placed on the passenger side.
9. **After School Care:** The application for After School Care is on the school website. See the application for fees and times. PK3 & PK4 will be in a Rm. 7 at the NA Convent. Grades K – 3 will be in the Convent Auditorium. Grades 4 – 8 will be in the Art Room on the NA Campus.
10. **After-School Activities:** Sports and extracurricular activities will be temporarily on hold for the month of August. Sports could begin in September.

Guidance and Duration:

We will continue to monitor guidance from local, state, and federal officials, and follow the Governor’s directives for schools. We will amend this “Safe Return Plan” as conditions improve or worsen, and as consensus around best practices emerges.

DISTANCE LEARNING

In 2020-2021, Nazareth Academy parents will have the opportunity to choose between two means of accessing our challenging Catholic curriculum and engaging with our excellent, hard-working teachers:

Traditional Student

- Students attend face-to face classes on campus, with increased safety protocols. This is our primary form of education and will be offered 5 days a week. This is the traditional standard of academic excellence and spiritual formation your family has come to expect from Nazareth Academy.

Remote Student

- Our remote learning experience, in which certain classes will be recorded each day so parents may access these for their children at any time during the day.
 - Students will commit to watching these recorded videos, as well as complete a weekly packet of work, provided by the teacher, that coincides with the weekly instruction in the classroom. Parents would need to come to the school each Monday and pick up the paper packet of work. **Students must commit themselves to this mode of learning for the entire 9-week grading period.** There will be a 3-week grace period to change your mind if necessary.

Remote Student (Temporary)

- In case of COVID-19 infection or self-quarantine.
- In the event of government-directed school closure.

A general outline of what Remote Learning will look like in 2020-2021 is provided.

If schools are once again mandated to close, Nazareth Academy Catholic School will use the same curriculum for distance education as for in-school instruction. Materials will be adapted and on-line resources will be supplemented. As early childhood and elementary school students are still developing their independence, a teacher-parent partnership is necessary for students to engage in distance learning tasks and to access online resources. Expectations include:

PK3 & PK4

The distance learning plan for Pre-Kindergarten will include weekly Zoom meetings, recorded sessions from grade level teachers, and online or home activities. A paper packet of worksheets and activities, that coordinate with the recorded lessons, will need to be picked up each Monday, prior to the weekly lessons. All paper/pencil activities **must be completed** within the week and returned on the following Monday when a new packet of learning activities will be picked up. Families will also have the opportunity to participate in daily (Mon-Fri) office hours with teachers to answer questions or if your child needs extra help. These times will be dependent upon the teacher's available planning periods and will be posted in Google Classrooms. Students will participate in Literacy, Math, Religion, Art, Music, or Library each week. Additional activities can also take place throughout the day (e.g., reading aloud, pretend play, investigations, writing, or drawing).

Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Grades

The distance learning plan for Kindergarten – 2nd grade will include weekly Zoom meetings, recorded sessions from grade level teachers, and online or home activities. A paper packet of worksheets and activities, that coordinate with the recorded lessons, will need to be picked up each Monday, prior to the weekly lessons. All paper/pencil activities **must be completed** within the week and returned on the following Monday when a new packet of learning activities will be picked up. Parents will pick. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in office hours with teachers from between 8:00– 3:00 to

answer questions or for extra help. These times will be dependent upon the teacher's available planning periods and will be posted in Google Classrooms. Students will participate in English Language Arts, Religion, Math, Science, and Social Studies daily and will have weekly opportunities to participate in Art, Music, PE or Library. Students will also have the opportunity to attend office hours and teachers will invite students to support/remediation small groups based on need.

4th through 8th Grades

The distance learning plan for grades 4 – 8 will include a weekly Zoom meeting, recorded lessons from grade level teachers, and online or home activities. A paper packet of worksheets and activities, that coordinate with the recorded lessons, will need to be picked up each Monday, prior to the weekly lessons. All paper/pencil activities **must be completed** within the week and returned on the following Monday when a new packet of learning activities will be picked up. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in daily office hours with teachers from 8:00 – 3:00 to answer questions or for extra help. These times will be dependent upon the teacher's available planning periods and will be posted in Google Classrooms. Students will participate in English Language Arts, Religion, Math, Science and Social Studies daily and will have weekly opportunities to participate in Art, Music, PE or Library. Students will also have the opportunity to attend office hours and teachers will invite students to support/remediation small groups based on need.

Attendance

A student's attendance in a Zoom meeting, a daily log in to Google Classroom and/or turning in assigned work determines one's presence or absence. Students and parents will be notified weekly of any absence with a due date for any missed assignment and removing the absence.

Grading

The current grading system as specified in the Student-Parent Handbook will be used. All student work will be graded as it would be if the child were in the classroom.

Protocols listed in this plan may be changed based on state and local guidelines and will be adapted as necessary. Our COVID Safety Committee will continue to meet, as needed, to address concerns and guidelines.

A Prayer of Gratitude

Lord, as we participate in the all-too-consuming activities that require our attention this day, we pray that we would not lose sight of You.

Give us this day a heart of gratitude.

Give us a heart of gratitude which looks beyond our appreciation

for things,

for comfort,

for peace,

for prosperity.

Readiness for Safe Return to School Plan

*Give us a heart of gratitude which is ever and always
thankful for the Giver*

*thankful for the One who has provided
thankful for the One who, unlike His gifts, will never fade away.*

*Give us a heart of gratitude which refuses
to surrender to frivolous complaint,
to seek more than you have given,
to succumb to the annoyances and frustrations of this world.*

Give us a heart of gratitude which is so filled with thanksgiving that worry and concern have no room.

Give us a heart of gratitude which remembers You as the present Giver who is our refuge and our portion.

*Give us a heart of gratitude which cries out thanksgiving and praise even in the midst of anguish, pain, and
frustration.*

*Give us a heart of gratitude which is capable of love, hope, and peace despite the tensions, hurts, and
foolishness of this world.*

Give us a heart of gratitude which is ever and always Yours.

Amen.