



Office of Maine Catholic Schools DIOCESAN SCHOOL RE-OPENING PLAN

For Fall 2020 in response to COVID-19

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. May your kind spirit guide me on ground that is level. – Psalm 143:10

The Office of Maine Catholic Schools, in collaboration with the Maine Department of Education, local health officials, administrators, and other diocesan staff, has worked diligently to develop a school re-opening plan that allows students to return to campus in a manner that reduces health-related risks while maintaining an environment in which we focus on the education of the whole child.

Our schools will provide virtual and on-campus learning with the necessary campus and classroom modifications needed to support students' safe return to school in Fall 2020. This plan may be updated regularly based on the guidance of local and state health officials. School principals will share updated information on the school's website and distribute all updates to parents via the school information system.



Temperature Screening

Students, teachers, and staff will be required to get temperature checks daily upon arrival. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4°F or above will be sent home. A doctor's note will be required prior to going back to school. Random temperature checks may be done throughout the school day. Anyone with a temperature or feeling ill should stay home to maintain a healthy school campus.



Visitors & Volunteers Protocol

At this time, it is our recommendation that for the 2020-2021 school year we forgo the use of campus volunteers when possible. Schools will provide alternative means of serving our communities. Visitors will not be permitted on the campus during the school day other than the front office. This recommendation is made based on the need to limit the exposure of our students, faculty, and staff.



Cleaning & Disinfecting

Enhanced cleaning protocols have been established to disinfect the campuses daily. High touch surfaces will be regularly disinfected throughout the school day. Teachers and staff will be provided the necessary cleaning and disinfecting materials.



Mass, Gatherings & Sporting Events

School Masses will follow the protocols in place by each parish. All athletic sporting events must adhere to state, local and MPA guidelines. Strategic physical distancing for all large gatherings on campus, inside and outside of the schools' facilities, will be observed.



Strategic Physical Distancing

Teachers and staff are required to wear face coverings. Students are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings. Classroom seating will be arranged to maximize strategic physical distancing and to limit face-to-face contact. Classes will alternate use of the cafeteria and other campus areas such as outdoor spaces to maintain reduced capacity and strategic distancing protocols.



Academics & Virtual

Students will begin the 2020-2021 academic year on campus with the expectation that specific health and safety procedures will be required. Parents may choose to have their children participate in virtual learning, which means that a student will be participating with the class via livestream for the entirety of the academic school day and will not participate in on-campus activities, to protect their health and safety.

For additional resources, please visit the Maine Department of Education Reopening Plan at <https://www.maine.gov/doe/covid-19/reintegrate>.