



July 31, 2020

Pacelli Catholic Schools Re-Opening Document Released July 31, 2020

## **Preparing to welcome our students back**

To say that the 2020-2021 school year will be unlike any other year we have ever experienced is an understatement. We know that parents, teachers, students and the community as a whole, are all concerned about what things will look like and how we keep our children safe for the upcoming school year.

### **We want to first share several commitments with all of you:**

1. Student and faculty safety is at the forefront of our thought process every day.
2. Everyone will need to be flexible; this is an extremely fluid situation as information, public sentiment, current health situation in our community and possible treatments are continually evolving. The information we have today may be totally different tomorrow.
3. Our goal is to provide an excellent academic experience as closely matching that which we have provided in prior years.
4. We are concerned about our students mental health and well being, as well as their educational learning.
5. We have made substantial investments in technology, this year and in prior years, that will help us to adapt back and forth more fluidly between face to face and remote instruction.
6. Moving to a virtual learning environment may happen overnight in some cases.
7. We know that everyone's perspective and situation is different; we have worked hard to put a plan in place with that realization.

## **Our plan as of today:**

### **Schools will reopen according to our current academic calendar on August 25th.**

- High School will start with all students returning on August 25th
  - Face-to-face instruction will be offered every day to all students: i.e. “five days per week”
  - High school parent meeting will be on Monday, August 3 at 6:00 PM
  - Freshmen Orientation will take place on Thursday, August 20 from 9:00 - noon
- Middle School will start with all students returning on August 25th
  - Face-to-face instruction will be offered every day to all students: i.e. “five days per week”
  - Middle School parent meeting will be held virtually on August 20. TBD
  - Supply drop off will take place by way of a sign up sheet that will be sent to all families for them to come and drop off supplies. Drop off will be the week of August 17. Any families who choose to go completely virtual will also be able to sign up to pick up devices and books to have at home.
- Elementary School will start with a split schedule August 25 - 28th to help our youngest students adjust to new protocols
  - Group A will attend school on August 25 and 27
  - Group B will attend school on August 26 and 28
  - You will be notified which group your student is in by your classroom teacher by August 17th.
  - All students will receive instruction 5 days a week starting on August 31

### **Flexibility between E-learning and in Person Instruction**

- A form will be sent out to all families asking if their intent is to start the school year in person or remote. We ask that they be returned no later than August 14th, knowing that we are in a continually evolving situation.
  - Arrangements will be made with those students starting remotely.
- When we are in person, any student may participate remotely through in real time with their class.
- We anticipate that there will be a need to move to E-Learning quickly by class, grade or building.
- Families should prepare for potential notice of E-Learning for an extended period at any time.

**Masks** - Masks are required.

### **Registration of New Students**

We welcome new students to our Pacelli Family. Admittance will be determined by space and staff availability. If you are interested in applying, please visit our website at [pacellicatholicschools.org](http://pacellicatholicschools.org). Financial Assistance may be available.

## **How Parents Are Asked to Prepare for a Return to School**

- All students and staff will be required to wear masks while in school, with frequent breaks throughout the day when able to be socially distanced. Parents are encouraged to begin practicing safe mask-wearing with their children now so they are better prepared to wear a mask when they attend school.
- Over the past several months, Pacelli Catholic Schools has been working on our plan to reopen our schools for face-to-face instruction this fall. As a community, we have worked with our teachers, parents, and staff to learn to function in this “new norm” created by the pandemic. We ask for your support and patience and prayerfully ask each person to respect each other's decisions as every individual's situation is unique.
- Make a back-up plan for if your child is unable to attend school. It is critical that parents do not send their child to school if they are sick or have been exposed to someone who has been diagnosed with Covid-19. While we understand the challenges this may pose with childcare, our ability to remain open depends on parents assisting with keeping sick children home. If the Department of Health requires us to close, there may be little notice provided to parents.

We want to assure each of you that extensive cleaning protocols, using EPA approved chemicals, are being put in place throughout our facilities, as well as numerous other safeguards including spacing of furniture, reduction in use of shared objects and utilization of shields and barriers. Signage will also be placed strategically throughout our buildings reinforcing these protocols.

Our goal is to communicate with you, at a minimum, every other week until the start of the new school year. Please be patient and understanding as we continue to work through each detail needed to ensure we have as safe and successful a school year as possible.

In faith,

Cindy Weber, President  
Greg Kaster, Elementary Principal  
Ellen Lopas, Middle School Principal  
Larry Theiss, High School Principal