



SAINT PASCHAL BAYLON CATHOLIC SCHOOL

K-8 Responsive Return Plan 2021-2022

The Responsive Return Plan outlines our plans and protocols for the 2021-2022 school year. We will continue to adjust and revise this plan based upon guidance from state, local, and diocesan authorities. The ability to adapt and modify our plan quickly and effectively as needed is critical. We are committed to doing all that we can to protect our students, and we pledge to provide you with timely communication regarding any new developments. With the protocols we had in place last year, we managed to remain learning in person for the vast majority of the year with few positive COVID cases and no cases the last four months of the school year. If necessary, these protocols could change based on new information we learn.

VIGILANT SCREENING



SELF-SCREENING AT HOME

Families as well as staff members are asked to complete a wellness check at home and a temperature check before arrival. It is critical that students not be sent to school if they are exhibiting any COVID symptoms. Please do not give your child fever-reducing medication and send them to school. Unlike last year, we will NOT be checking temperatures upon entry at school.



ISOLATION ROOM

An isolation room has been designated near the school nurse's office for students and staff who are exhibiting symptoms and are waiting to be picked up from school.



SCHOOL NURSE

The school nurse will be present at the beginning of the school day and at drop off. School administrators and the school nurse will oversee health and safety standards and communication with the local health department regarding updated COVID protocols, testing, and reporting.

HANDWASHING AND SANITIZATION



Every classroom will have hand sanitizer pumps near the entrance. Sanitizing stations will also be positioned at high traffic areas, including the entrance to the school. Students are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer (preferably trial size) to use, if possible. Most importantly, teachers will build into their schedules opportunities for handwashing, sanitizing, and cleaning of desks and materials.

CLEAN SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT



High touch surfaces (i.e. doorknobs, counters, etc.) will be cleaned regularly. For classes that switch rooms, each teacher will lead a cleaning routine before classes transition, including cleaning of desks and materials. Our custodial staff will thoroughly clean our school at the end of each school day, and germ foggers will be used more often in classrooms.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING EFFORTS AND COHORT GROUPING

Our smaller class sizes (average class size is 17) at the majority of grade levels will help to maximize physical distance. Adjusted classroom practices and routines will also help to decrease contact and increase the distance typically experienced by students. Students will generally remain in contact with their classroom cohort (i.e. homeroom) and students of their grade level.



- Excess furniture in classrooms has been removed in order to maximize the space used in each classroom to separate desks.
- Teachers will be encouraged to take their students outside for class weather permitting. Other areas on campus, such as O'Brien Hall and the Eymard Room, can be utilized when available to allow for physical distancing.
- Signs will be used as visual cues to remind students to maintain physical distance. Hallways will be labeled as one way in certain areas and marked with dots to provide visual cues for distancing.
- When possible, student cohorts/"pods" will be maintained. K - 3 classes will be self-contained, students in grades 4 - 6 will switch classes but remain with their homeroom cohort, and students in grades 7 - 8 will switch classrooms but remain with students in their grade level..

FACE MASKS



Due to the recent increase in the spread of the COVID-19 virus, we will begin the school year (the first month) with a face mask requirement for all students, staff, and visitors regardless of vaccination status. Masks will not be required outside. Masks must be worn on the school bus, as it is considered public transportation, thus falling under federal law. We will continue to monitor cases and recommendations set forth by the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, the Ohio Department of Health, and the CDC regarding our mask requirement.

VACCINATIONS



Vaccinations for COVID are not required in the Diocese of Cleveland. However, vaccination is the leading public health strategy available to slow the spread and hopefully put an end to this disease. We strongly encourage families to consult with your health care providers regarding vaccination decisions. Currently, children ages 12 and up do have an option for the vaccine.

The vaccination status of members of the school community, including school staff and students is considered confidential medical information and will be protected as such.

INSTRUCTION: METHOD OF DELIVERY



Our school will operate fully in person for the 2021-2022 school year. The option for full-time remote learning will not be offered this school year. Being face to face with our students best fosters the Catholic community that is the signature mission of our schools and provides the best environment for learning. We encourage parents to be diligent in sending their children to school when they are not ill, as consistent attendance is a positive factor in student achievement.

ADDITIONAL ADAPTATIONS AND PROTOCOLS



SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

We recognize that the social and emotional health of our students is also important. All staff will continue to build positive relationships with their students and create a sense of family within the school and their classrooms. Our goal is to create an environment that is **safe and secure** while also **warm and welcoming**. Mrs. Linda Page, our school psychologist, will be available for students, families, and on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.



MASS

Students will return to attending Mass weekly. Students will distance themselves from each other as much as possible. Students may join a family member in the outer ring; however, family members are not permitted to join the class.



ABSENCES

Parents are required to report all absences or tardies no later than 8:30 a.m. Parents should provide details as to their child's symptoms. Our school nurse will follow up with all families whose child has potential symptoms of COVID-19. If the child or immediate family member has tested positive for COVID-19, please share this information with the school nurse. Families will follow the CDC guidelines and the Ohio Department of Health for a safe return to school.



TRANSPORTATION

Transportation by public school districts will be provided based on district guidelines. Masks are required on public transit according to a federal mandate, and school buses are considered public transit. If you have any questions about transportation, please contact your local public school district.



ARRIVAL

Drop-off for arrival will remain the same. Car riders will be dropped off at the main entrance no earlier than 7:45 a.m., and bus riders will enter through the doors by the music room.

DISMISSAL

Dismissal of bus riders and car riders will be done in smaller groups. Students are not to walk to the parking lot by themselves. Parents should wait for them in the coned area with other families.



PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF OF STUDENTS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Parents/guardians may walk their child to the door, ring the bell, and announce the child who will then proceed to the office. Please do not enter the building. If picking up a student, the procedure can be followed. The office staff will sign the child in/out. If picking up a child early, please remember to send in a note so that the child is waiting in the office.



LUNCH

Lunch will be served cafeteria-style in O'Brien Hall. Students will also eat in the cafeteria with alternating seats being used. Students will have assigned seats in the cafeteria so that contact tracing can be done should there be a positive case since masks will not be worn while eating. We will also resume the use of the finger scanner to deduct money from student lunch accounts. The snack bar (cash only) will also return this year.



RECESS

Weather permitting, students will continue to enjoy recess outside. Students will remain in designated zones according to grade levels, but they will be allowed to mix with the other homeroom at their grade level. Indoor recess will be in homerooms.



WATER FOUNTAINS

Water bottle refilling stations were installed last year. Water fountains will only be used as refilling stations for individual water bottles. Students should bring their own water bottles to school.



SPECIAL CLASSES

Students will return to visiting the classrooms for their special classes (i.e. art, physical education, music, STEM/technology).



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

We will offer our instrumental music (band) program once again through Music Alliance for students in grades 4-8. The band instructor will most likely be at our school two days a week.



VISITORS TO SCHOOL

Visitors will be allowed on a limited basis and access may be limited based on the school's assessment of health and safety routines. A Visitor Self-Screening Form needs to be completed prior to entry. We kindly ask that all visitors remain outside our main doors and communicate with our office staff through the security system when possible. A plexiglass shield remains in the front office in order to safely serve our visitors. We ask that parents not deliver forgotten items to school in order to limit the number of people entering the school.



EXTENDED DAY

The same guidelines and procedures used in school will apply to Extended Day. The size of O'Brien Hall allows for greater physical distancing during Extended Day.



FIELD TRIPS

We hope to have field trips return this year.



SCHOOL EVENTS

We are committed to maintaining our strong faith and school community. We hope to resume traditional school events this year with safety protocols in place.



SCHOOL CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

We acknowledge the importance and value of extracurricular activities for our students, and we hope to bring back many of the clubs and activities that we have offered in the past. We are confident that we can keep our students and staff safe by following the same protocols used during the school day.



COMMUNICATION

Gradelink (emails, text messages, and phone calls), the school website, and the weekly family newsletter will be used to communicate information to families. In order to limit/eliminate the number of papers being sent home, communication folders will be used on a limited basis. All groups are asked to submit items digitally to the school office, and they will be linked in our family newsletter.



CYO (CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION)

Protocols for athletic participation are promulgated by [parish CYO](#) or the [OHSAA](#).

QUARANTINE AND RETURNING TO SCHOOL

SPB will follow the guidance of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). Please note the following:



- Anyone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 should contact their primary care provider and depending on their access to care, they will be given testing instructions.
- Families and staff members must notify the school if they have been diagnosed with COVID-19, exposed to anyone with COVID-19, or if a member of the immediate household is presumed to have COVID-19.
- The CCBH and/or the school will conduct the contact tracing for those at school.
- All students and staff will follow the [CCBH guidelines](#) and/or the [ODH guidelines](#) for school attendance and readmittance to school after a positive COVID-19 diagnosis or exposure to COVID-19. This flow chart from ODH, [Guidelines for Quarantine After Exposure in K-12 Classroom Settings](#), is an excellent guide.

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