



**Diocese of Youngstown**  
**Catholic Schools**

Faith • Knowledge • Service • Leadership

Return to School Plan  
Summary 2020-2021

# What We Believe

---

The Diocese of Youngstown has identified the following as guiding principles of our Return to School Plan:

**The health, safety and wellness of our students and staff members.**

**The ongoing development of the science and knowledge of COVID-19 as delineated and defined by the Centers for Disease Control, the Ohio Department of Health, local county boards of health and the Ohio Department of Education.**

**The continuance of high-level academic achievement and social-emotional development of our students.**

**The experience of Christian community built on faith and relationships, emphasizing human dignity and the responsibility to act for the common good.**

All Diocese schools will apply these guiding principles to their unique situation. Additionally, schools will provide parents with a School Handbook Addendum for COVID-19 that will detail updated polices and procedures.

# Educational Options

---

## **ON CAMPUS**

---

Traditional in-person learning five (5) days per week.

Enhanced safety protocols implemented.

Will be prepared to transition to remote learning if mandated by circumstances or health directives.

## **VIRTUAL LEARNING**

---

Virtual learning option available.

Each school to deliver proprietary learning model for families with health concerns.

Contact the school for further information.

# In-Person Learning Specific Considerations

---

## Face Covering

- All students in grades 3-12 will be required to wear a face mask to be provided by the parent/caregiver. All students K-12 riding the bus to and from school may be required to wear masks.
- Periodic face covering breaks will be provided throughout the day under strict social distancing guidelines.
- All staff members will be required to wear a face covering (mask or shield) throughout the school day.
- As recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) “the wearing of cloth face coverings may not be possible in every situation or for some people. In some situations, wearing a cloth face covering may exacerbate a physical or mental health condition, lead to a medical emergency, or introduce significant safety concerns.” If a child is unable to wear a mask due to medical reasons, the parent must provide a written note from the doctor.



## Temperature & Symptom Checks

- Parents/caregivers are expected to perform temperature and symptom checks prior to the school day.
- Schools will communicate their temperature procedures to parents. Teachers and staff will monitor students for signs of illness throughout the day.
- Temperatures of 100 degrees and up and/or the appearance COVID-19 symptoms (chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, headache, loss of taste/smell, congestion, runny nose, nausea/vomiting) are immediate school disqualifiers.



# In-Person Learning Specific Considerations

---

## Infection Protocol

- Parents/caregivers should immediately contact the school should a student test positive for COVID-19.
- If a student or staff member starts to show symptoms or have a temperature of 100 degrees F at school, they will be isolated from others in a designated room until pick-up can be arranged.
- School personnel must refer students displaying symptoms of COVID-19 to an appropriate health care professional or testing site. The County Board of Health will be contacted in the case of positive or suspected COVID-19 cases in a school building and will assist in contact tracing, notifying potential exposed or infected individuals.
- Individuals who potentially have been exposed should follow quarantine and other recommendations from local public health officials and their medical provider.
- If a student tests positive for Covid-19, the student must isolate and not return to school until they have met the CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation including: three or more days without a high fever; AND a reduction of other COVID symptoms by at least 75%; AND at least 14 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- If sickness is not COVID-19, the student/staff member may return to school when fever-free for a period of 24 hours and all symptoms subside.

# In-Person Learning Specific Considerations

## Social Distancing Standards

- Each school will maintain distances of three (3) to six (6) feet as the standard for developing social distancing routines in classrooms.
- Spacing during activities will be determined by the nature of the activity as well as other layers of protection (face coverings, inside/outside, barriers, etc.).
- Drop-off and pick-up procedures will be designed with increased social distancing protocols in mind (utilization of multiple doors, no congregating, etc.).
- Lunch and recess procedures will be designed with increased social distancing procedures in mind (lunch in classrooms, every other table, dividers between tables, etc.)
- Schools will carefully consider the efficacy of desk dividers/shields in classrooms when applicable and appropriate.
- Non-essential volunteers and visitors will be strictly limited.



## Sanitation & Hand Washing

- Students and staff must wash/sanitize hands (provided) upon entering school busses, buildings and classrooms each day.
- Students must wash hands/sanitize hands throughout the school day at regular intervals. Frequent breaks will be provided.
- Schools will provide hand sanitizing stations in high traffic areas and in classrooms.



1 WET HANDS AND APPLY SOAP



2 RUB PALM TO PALM



3 RUB PALMS WITH FINGERS INTERLACED



4 SCRUB THE BACK OF YOUR HANDS



5 CLEAN BASE OF THUMBS



6 WASH FINGERTIPS AND FINGERNAILS



7 RINSE HANDS WITH WATER



8 DRY HAND WITH TOWEL



9 YOUR HANDS ARE NOW CLEAN



# In-Person Learning Specific Considerations

---

## Deep Cleaning

- Schools will develop a checklist for cleaning protocols based on Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance.
- Schools will continually disinfect common areas on a consistent schedule with approved sanitizing disinfectants.
- Windows and air vents to remain open throughout the school day (when applicable).
- When possible, student class exchange will be limited. When class exchange does occur, desks and seats will be sanitized between classes.
- In the case of infection, schools may elect to bring in outside companies to deep clean the building.



# Responsibilities & Expectations

---

---

## PARENT/CAREGIVER EXPECTATIONS

- Perform daily temperature checks and symptom assessments prior to school day
- Keep child(ren) at home when experiencing symptoms or temperature over 100.4 degrees
- Provide child(ren) with a face mask to wear while at school
- Communicate with school personnel if child(ren) become ill

## STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- Maintain 6 feet social distancing from peers whenever possible
- Wear a face mask at all times (grades 3-12)
- Assist in cleaning and disinfecting desk area (when age appropriate)
- Sanitize hands upon entering the building each day and upon entering classrooms. Utilize sanitation stations in each building
- Follow all directional signs in hallways controlling traffic
- Communicate to teacher or another adult when feeling ill

## STAFF MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

- Ensure and maintain classroom setup that provides social distancing for students
- Wear a face mask at all times
- Ensure students maintain social distance whenever possible
- Provide consistent reminders to students and stakeholders regarding safety measures
- Eliminate shared classroom materials
- Keep classroom doors open to maximize airflow and reduce number of touches to door handles

# Academics, Programming & Extracurricular Activities

---

## Curriculum & Technology

- All schools will continue to deliver high-quality instruction in core subjects (Religion, Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science) in grades K-12.
- "Special" subject areas (Physical Education, Art, Library, STEM, etc.) will continue to be offered to students. In certain situations, these courses will require alternative options.
- Preschool classes will still be offered and will operate within the same consistent health guidelines and Ohio Department of Education licensing rules.
- Schools are working toward a one-to-one ratio of device per student. Grades 3-12 will continue to utilize Google Classroom as their main technology platform.
- All field trips have been cancelled for the 2020-2021 school year.

## Testing

- Students in grades K-8 will continue to take STAR Reading and Math assessments at least three times per year. Additionally, we plan to administer the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, the Aspire test (grade 8) and the PSAT and ACT in all high schools.

## Special Education/Support Programs/Counseling

- All schools will evaluate Individual Education Programs (IEP) to determine appropriate modifications. Schools will make individual contact with the parents/caregivers of students who receive these services.
- Students will have continued access to school counselors and other support personnel to assist with ongoing mental health and other social-emotional challenges.

## Activities/Athletics

- Athletic administration and participation guidelines will be set by guidance issued jointly from the Governor's Office and the OHSAA.
- Band lessons for individual students may take place in person or through videoconference. Schools will determine separate policies and procedures for group practice sessions. Decisions related to athletics will most likely occur day to day, week by week.
- Due to ongoing health concerns, all other school programs may be conducted virtually or will be cancelled for the 2020-2021 school year.

# Catholic Identity & Community Life

---

## **School Mass & Sacraments**

- Schools will work with local pastors and parishes in determining whether all-school masses will be scheduled.
- Schools will continue to provide preparation for the Sacraments in collaboration with Diocesan directives.

## **Traditions/Events/Stakeholder Meetings/Fundraisers**

- All meetings (Booster Club, Home & School Board, etc.) will be required to meet in small group settings with masks and social distancing in place. Virtual meetings will also be considered. No stakeholder meetings will be permitted during the school day.
- All fundraising efforts should consider health and safety guidelines as much as possible with guidance from the local health department.
- School traditions will be considered on a case-by-case basis and must meet baseline health and safety guidelines to be considered.

## **School Calendar**

- Each school will communicate their school calendar to families.
- If, due to new circumstances, school start and end times need to change these will be communicated to families as soon as possible and the school calendar adjusted.

# Tuition & Fees

---

**Tuition is still required as Catholic Schools depend on this revenue to pay employees and to provide for other school-related expenses.**

**School fees will be considered or adjusted on a case by case basis.**

**For those struggling to meet tuition payments due to family and/or personal circumstances, please contact your child's principal.**

This plan has been developed with the best information currently available. The pandemic is an ever-evolving situation, so amendments and adjustments will be made as needed and permitted as the year progresses. Please pray for all as we live our lives in our world affected by the pandemic.

Contact your school for more information and their local plans.

More detailed information regarding the Diocesan Plan can be found at [www.doy.org](http://www.doy.org).