



# **St. Paul's Catholic School's 2020-2021 Return to School Plan**

**August 3, 2020  
Final**

St. Paul's Catholic School (SPCS) is committed to ensuring our mission of "working with the family to educate our children helping them develop strong *Faith, Leadership, and Excellence* in all endeavors in a Christ-centered community."

This SPCS Return to School Plan was approved by our pastor, Father Victor Feltes following consultation with the Diocese of La Crosse; St. Paul's Catholic School principal, staff, the Education Committee, and a sampling of parents; the Chippewa County Department of Public Health (CCDPH), and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (WI-DPI).

Our goal is not simply to start the year in school, but to remain in school with enhanced health and safety protocols in place. However, we will be prepared to move seamlessly to virtual learning if necessary. We plan to provide in-school classes unless otherwise required by diocesan policy or laws of the State of Wisconsin, Chippewa County, or the City of Bloomer, or COVID-19 infections significantly worsen in our area. (Note: The guidelines in this plan will be superseded by diocesan policies or civil laws whenever these guidelines conflict with them.)

### **Back to School**

- 5K-8<sup>th</sup> grade five full-days on-site instruction
- 4K is limited to full-day on-site instruction on Mondays and Tuesdays due to our partnership with the School District of Bloomer
- Teachers will provide teaching plans for a seamless transition to virtual learning
- Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday and Wednesday with different halves of the student body

### **Enhanced Health and Safety Protocol**

- Areas to be disinfected:
  - Frequently touched surfaces in common areas at least twice daily (Before lunch after school begins, and once again after the school day ends)
  - Frequently touched surfaces and shared items at least once daily
  - Entire building deep-cleaned at least once weekly
- Handwashing and sanitizing
  - Hand sanitizer and or disinfectant wipes will be available at all school entrances and in all classrooms
  - Staff and students will be required to sanitize hands upon entering or leaving rooms or the school building
  - Shared items will be disinfected between uses
  - All employees are encouraged to wash their hands (with soap for 20 seconds) every 45 minutes
- Modeling Good Hygiene
  - Teachers will model to students best handwashing and hand sanitizing techniques
  - Teachers will model to students best face covering handling and storage techniques

- Teachers will model to students coughing or sneezing into one's elbow or into a tissue to be discarded followed by sanitizing their hands
- Students are encouraged to bring a clear water bottle as drinking fountains will be shut off
- Shared Materials
  - Unless they are sanitized between each use, students should not share books, materials, or equipment
  - Non-essential school items should not be brought to school

### Screening

- Handouts describing symptoms of COVID-19 will be provided to households and staff
- It is the responsibility of the parent (guardian) to make certain a child is healthy and able to attend school
- Staff, families, and students are asked to report any concerning symptoms
- Those with multiple symptoms shall stay home and follow school guidelines for reporting absences
- Students and staff exhibiting symptoms of illness at school will be required to report to the office to have their temperature taken. Those with a temperature of 100.4°F or higher will be sent home and are not permitted to return until CCDPH guidelines are met. CCDPH must be contacted with results communicated to SPCS
- Students and staff exhibiting symptoms of illness at school but without a temperature may be sent home at the principal's discretion
- If one member of a household or sent home due to symptoms of illness all family members may also be sent home at the principal's discretion until CCDPH guidelines are met for return. CCDPH must be contacted with results communicated to SPCS
- Please refer to the CCDPH "Understanding COVID-19" PowerPoint presentation for further details of our quarantine and isolation guidelines

### Social Distancing

- Direct physical contact between persons is strongly discouraged
- Social distancing of at least six feet will be practiced everywhere to the greatest possible extent
- Follow the "6-15 Rule": try to avoid contact with persons closer than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes or more
- Classrooms, lunch periods, hallway/passing, bathroom breaks, and Mass will be structured to limit close physical contact
- 4K-5<sup>th</sup> grade students will spend most of their day in one classroom with one teacher
- 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students will spend most of their day in one classroom with use of other classrooms to a minimum
- Seating charts and assigned seats will be used
- Staff are to avoid areas of the building apart from their responsibilities

### **Face Covering**

A “face covering” is a piece of cloth or other material completely covering the nose and mouth including: a cloth mask without holes; a disposable mask; or a neck gaiter; or a clear plastic face shield

- (Note: The following represents our face covering plan unless superseded by diocesan policy or laws of the State of Wisconsin, Chippewa County, or the City of Bloomer. These guidelines will be superseded by diocesan policy or civil law whenever these guidelines conflict with them)
- Students are encouraged to bring masks from home and any style is presumed to be acceptable unless objected to by the teacher or principal. Staff members may also wear masks from home
- Parents are responsible for providing a clean mask each day for each child
- SPCS will provide each student with two reusable, washable, cloth face masks at the beginning of the year
- SPCS will provide each staff member with reusable, washable, cloth face masks and one clear plastic face shield
- For students and teachers, face shields are an acceptable alternative to masks (unless prohibited by law). Student face shields are to be purchased by their parents (guardians) and any style is presumed to be acceptable unless objected to by the teacher or principal
- A face covering will be worn by staff in the classroom when within six feet of another person or in high-traffic areas (such as hallways, common areas, etc.)
- Students in sixth grade and above and all staff will wear a face covering when moving in a room or in hallways
- A face covering need not be worn when eating or drinking or when alone
- Students in grade five and below will have the option to wear a face covering (See below regarding wearing masks on busses)

### **Recess & Physical Education**

- Students should wash or sanitize their hands before and after recess and physical education class
- Teachers and recess supervisors will encourage students' individual skill-development to limit physical contact with each other
- Students should sanitize their hands before and after any group games
- Any shared equipment should be sanitized before and after use in team competitions
- Physical education teachers will teach physical distancing and hygiene expectations for use in locker rooms

### **Hot Lunch Program & Snacks**

- Students will wash or sanitize their hands before and after meals and snacks
- Students will physically distance in the lunch line and sit every other seat in the cafeteria
- There will be no food sharing or self-service of food in the cafeteria or classrooms
- Students will be assigned seating in the cafeteria

### **School Library**

- Teachers will work with librarians to select book options that will be brought to the classroom for student selection and sign-out
- Returned books will be dated and quarantined in the classroom for at least 3 days before being handled by staff

### **Volunteers & Visitors**

- Non-essential visitors to our school will be restricted
- Incidental visitors and delivery persons will not be allowed past the main entrance or (if necessary) the lobby or school office
- To enter the building beyond the main entrance, lobby, or school office
  - Visitors will be screened for symptoms of illness including temperature
  - Visitors must sign-in with a name and contact information and receive a badge
  - Visitors will bring their own face covering to wear in the building
- For all students who need to leave school early, parents (guardians) should call the office upon arrival and the student will meet the parent at the school entrance

### **Transportation**

- Families are strongly encouraged to provide their own transportation to and from school when possible
- All students must follow School District of Bloomer Bus Protocol
  - Masks must be worn on busses
  - Loading and unloading times will be staggered at each building
  - Students will not be allowed to select their own seats; students will load bus from back to front sitting in the next available seat as they load
  - Hand sanitizer will be available on all busses
- Students will follow safe distancing upon loading and unloading

### **Field Trips and Extra-Curricular Activities**

- All field trips are presumed to be cancelled pending the principal's consideration of ongoing CCDPH recommendations
- All athletic events are presumed cancelled pending the principals' consideration of WIAA, and CCDPH recommendations
- All extra-curricular activities will be held at the discretion of the principal in consideration of ongoing CCDPH recommendations

### **What If: COVID-19 Positive Case & Exposure Response Plan**

- In the event of a positive COVID-19 case or secondary exposure (that is, diagnosis of a household member) SPCS will consult with the CCDPH regarding next steps
- Families and staff are encouraged to fully cooperate with the CCDPH's recommendations in the event of a diagnosed case
- If a student or staff is diagnosed with COVID-19, documented permission of a medical professional or public health official is needed to return to school for that person
- Remote learning options will be available to students diagnosed with COVID-19 and their siblings

### **Travel**

- Out-of-state travel by students and staff is discouraged
- SPCS may ask for destination information and that precautionary measures be taken
- Students and staff may be quarantined following travel on the basis of state or county recommendation