



July 23, 2020

"The laborers in the Lord's vineyard should have one foot on the ground, and the other raised to proceed on their journey." --St. Ignatius of Loyola

Dear Families,

The year 2020 has certainly presented all of us with a unique journey! At St. Patrick Catholic School, we are excited and ready to be together again to learn and grow in Christ's love. I wish to update you on our preparations for the 2020-2021 school year in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. St. Patrick Catholic School staff has been working diligently to create a rigorous and safe return-to-learn plan in order to proceed with the journey of Catholic education that feeds your child and family spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually. We appreciate your patience as the process unfolds in these uncertain times. We know you will have more questions. Please be patient as we continue to update and communicate our plan.

Living our Mission

We are committed to providing a quality Catholic education, regardless of the mode of delivery being used. The education your child receives from St. Patrick School is distinct, as our Catholic beliefs, traditions, and teachings are deeply embedded in daily instruction. St. Patrick School staff are prepared to continue this for next school year.

Regardless of which mode of delivery is being used, St. Patrick School is committed to offering the highest level of education possible by focusing directly on the social, emotional, faith, and intellectual needs of each child.

- Religion classes and prayer opportunities will be held daily.
- Teachers will have daily communication and interaction with all students.
- Catholic beliefs, traditions, and teaching will continue to be deeply embedded in daily instruction.
- Mass will be held weekly.
- Service opportunities will be available for all students.
- Core classes will be taught daily.

Three Modes of Delivery

We have prepared three models for instruction in order to be prepared for the unknown of next school year. Each one is described below.

On-Site Learning-

This model indicates services are offered at St. Patrick Catholic School. It is our goal to begin the school year on August 24, 2020 with on-site learning. To meet this goal, we have planned for additional cleaning, social distancing, training, and health/safety plans.

Hybrid Learning

This model indicates services are offered both remotely and on-site. This model may be used to address specific student health concerns and a lack of readiness to return to the onsite model, as well as state mandates for social distancing, etc. Students using remote virtual learning will utilize Seesaw as the

Learning Management System for instruction. Scheduled Zoom meetings will also be utilized by the classroom teachers.

Virtual Learning

This model indicates services will be held remotely for all students. Virtual learning will be used in emergency situations when on-site learning is not possible. Students using remote virtual learning will utilize Seesaw as the Learning Management System for instruction. Scheduled large group and small group Zoom meetings will also be utilized by the classroom teachers.

Health and Safety

We recognize it is not possible to eliminate all COVID-19 exposure risks. We are implementing strategies to make our school as safe as possible.

Screening

- Upon arrival to school, students will have their temperature taken.
- Children or staff with a temperature of 100.3 or above should not attend school. If the temperature is discovered at school, the child or staff member will be kept away from others and expected to leave as soon as possible.

Face Coverings

- Face coverings are not required, but are strongly encouraged to be worn by staff and students.
- This model may change to strongly encouraged in some places, required in others. There are places, such as entering/exiting the building, transportation, and hallways that face coverings may be required.
- Families who choose to have their child(ren) wear face coverings will need to provide their own. The school will have a supply for students in need.
- Lessons and instructions will be provided to students on the appropriate use of face coverings, as well as the prevention of stigmas associated with use or non-use of face coverings.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be implemented.

Hand Washing and Personal Hygiene

- Hand washing will be done at a minimum of 5 times a day.
- Hand sanitizer and tissues will be available in multiple places in the classrooms and school.
- Students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after eating.

Limiting Exposure

- We will limit school visitors and access to the school building.
- Parents will not be allowed beyond the front entry of each building during drop off and pick up times.
- Students **SHOULD NOT** arrive to school before 8:00 am unless they are attending Latchkey.
- Staff continues to plan how to reconfigure and utilize building space to provide for as much social distancing as possible.
- Desks will be placed at a minimum of 3 feet apart with personal desk dividers for each student.
- Sectioned plexiglass dividers will be utilized on tables for small group work with the teacher.
- One way traffic will be implemented in the hallways.
- Two health office spaces will be utilized. One for illness and one for first aid/medication.
- We will utilize the lunchroom and church hall for additional space during lunch times.

Exposure

- All positive cases of COVID-19 will be reported to Allamakee County Public Health. We will follow their guidance for notification, contact tracing, cleaning, and closure.

What can you do?

Please understand that we are making the best decisions we can for everyone involved. We know that everyone will not be satisfied with all our decisions, but please remain positive around your children.

Their attitude about school will directly correlate with yours. Below are a few other things you can do to help our school community:

- Talk to your child about what school will look like, including the mitigation steps listed above.
- Discuss your family's expectation of face coverings with your child.
- Continue to read school communications as more information becomes available.
- When available, complete e-registration accurately and make sure your contact information is up to date in case we need to communicate with you.
- Please keep your child at home if they do not feel well. It is important to keep your child home if they have a fever. Please do not give fever-reducing medication and send your child to school.
- Report any exposure or positive cases to Becky Miller at school (563-568-2415) immediately.
- Please reach out with any questions or concerns. Our school staff is here to help!

Our school team continues to receive information almost daily from the Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Department of Public Health, CDC, Archdiocese of Dubuque Office of Catholic Schools, and the Allamakee County Health Department. Please know that plans and guidance may change as more information is received. Our local return-to-learn committee will continue to review this information in order to welcome your child back to St. Patrick School to continue their spiritual, social, emotional, and intellectual growth as safely as possible. Thank you for entrusting us with your most precious gift.

Sincerely,

Katie Fahey, Principal