



2020-2021 School Year Fall Reopening FAQs DRAFT

Thank you to all of our families who submitted feedback and questions related to our Fall Reopening Plans. We have tried to summarize the over 150 questions that have been submitted and categorize them based on general scheduling information and our plan's four key areas.

While development of these plans continues, and many items are still being finalized, we hope this document will provide the additional answers you are seeking. We will return to this document throughout the planning process and continue to update it in the weeks ahead. Some of these items will be referenced and further explained in future communications and videos.

As always, we appreciate your voice in this process along with your prayers and support. These are truly trying and unprecedented times for all of us. Our success, and the future success of our great school, depends on the work of our combined community. We transition forward with the assurance that our Lord loves us and will carry us through these challenging times!

In Christ,

Mr. C



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This document is effective as of August 5, 2020. It is meant to assist with planning in light of the state of affairs relative to the COVID-19 situation. Nothing contained in this document is intended to supersede or conflict with any applicable government order, and parts of this document may be superseded by government orders issued subsequent to the date of publication. The COVID-19 pandemic is an ever evolving situation and our policies and procedures are subject to change.

General Information on Orientation, Revised Start Date, PreK, start and end times and busing.

1. Will the start date change? Is it the same for all grades?

As of right now, our anticipated start date for onsite learning is **Monday, August 31st for students in grades 1-8 and September 8th for Home-based students.**

- a. August 31st - Grades 1-8 & Kindergarten Group A
- b. September 1st - Kindergarten Group B
- c. September 3rd AM PreK (see question 3)
- d. September 4th PM PreK (see question 3)
- e. September 8th - Home-based students begin; All onsite students PreK-8 present

Adjustments to these start dates may be needed as we finalize building preparations and procedures. In the event the dates should need to change families will be notified ASAP.

2. Will Kindergarten or PreK be staggered?

Kindergarten will utilize a process for orientation that allows students to experience the classroom and meet their teacher in a smaller group setting. Each Kindergarten homeroom will be split in half. Group A will come Monday all day and Group B will attend Tuesday all day. Group A & B lists are based on enrollment and will be finalized August 17. Kindergarten parents will be notified by August 18th. **The entire kindergarten class will begin together, after their separate orientation days, on Wednesday, September 2nd.**



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3. **Will the Pre-K program start be delayed or will everyone start on August 31? Any further instruction for Pre-K students?** The planned Pre-K start date with modified hours will begin on Thursday, September 3rd for the AM program and Friday, September 4th for the PM program. Both AM & PM programs will begin normal hours, Tuesday, September 8th. More information will be provided by the Pre-K teacher in the coming week.
4. **When are the dates and times for the class meeting/orientation/supply drop off for K-8 students?** Orientation will be held August 24th - 27th. A Sign-up Genius will be used to allow each family to choose a time to come to the school and drop off materials, meet Mr. C and the teachers and pick up classroom items. Time slots will be limited to control the total number of people in the building. Families will also have the opportunity to experience the entry health screening procedure at this time.
5. **Will the school day be shortened/extended?** At this time the school day will remain 8:55 - 3:25. To allow for a safer drop-off or pick up procedure, times may need to be revised and adjusted. Should the need to modify or alter these times become necessary families will receive advanced notification.
6. **Has there been consideration of a shortened school week?** Yes, early in the planning and data collection process a hybrid option was considered but received very little interest.
7. **Will the opening plan change now that other schools are opening only for remote learning for the first 9 weeks?** At this time we are continuing with our plan for onsite, five-day per week instruction with a home-based option unless otherwise directed or mandated by the State, County or Diocese.



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8. **How will drop off/pickup routines change?** We are currently evaluating our previous procedures and making necessary changes to ensure the safety of our students and staff. Due to the need to prevent students from congregating in the main lobby, no student may be dropped off or gather on the school premises prior to 8:35am. Students will not be allowed to congregate in the lobby and will be sent to homeroom immediately after being health screened. Students should have their masks on as they exit their vehicles. A diagram and complete explanation of the drop off and pick up procedure, as well as the entry health screening, will be sent home prior to the start of school.
9. **How will bussing be handled? Will it even be offered?** Bussing will be available and families needing bussing should contact their local school district. You can use the following emails to contact them:
- emotz@wadsworthschools.org (Erica Motz)
 - transportation@highlandschools.org (Karen Rusnak)
 - John.Ewart@cloverleaflocal.org (John Ewart)



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1 - Preparing the Learning Environment - Health and Wellness (Social/Emotional, Uniforms, Masks, Health & Safety Checks and Parent/Volunteer Access)

- 1. What new procedures, plans or activities to evaluate the social and emotional wellbeing of the students will be implemented?** We will be working with our Psychologist to determine effective strategies to identify students with social/emotional needs. We also have a team reviewing ways to help students socialize and stay connected in light of the physical distancing that needs to take place. Once our State and Federal funding has been received we hope to move forward with plans to hire a part-time counselor to assist with these efforts.
- 2. Will there be any changes to the uniform policy for the school year?** Yes. For details refer to the August 3rd Digital Newsletter and the email that included this FAQ.
- 3. Please explain when, where, and at what times will children be required to wear a mask and will face masks be required while seated in the classroom for students in grades 3-8?** This requirement is subject to modification and will be changed to reflect the safest practices and recommendations of State and local health agencies. Currently ALL students will wear masks when entering the building and at dismissal, when traveling in the halls and in the bathroom. Students in all grades will be required to wear a mask throughout the day in areas like classrooms and hallways where 6 or more feet cannot be achieved. Teachers in all grade levels will plan for times when students can be spaced further apart to allow for mask removal. At this time, we plan for students to eat in both the current cafeteria and the gym which will be modified during the lunch period. In these instances students will be spaced 6 or more feet apart allowing them to remove their masks, eat and socialize. As previously stated, parents of students with medical issues preventing them from wearing a mask will



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need to provide documentation, from their doctor, to the school office. As with other COVID-19 related policies, this may be revised and changed based on guidance from State and local authorities.

4. **Are masks required for PE Class and recess/on the playground?** We are still seeking guidance from State and local agencies regarding this though Mrs. Kovick is planning for activities outside whenever possible. These outdoor PE activities will allow for enough social distancing to give students the chance to remove masks.
5. **Are face shields able to be used in place of masks?** There has been conflicting guidance on the effective use of face shields. While face shields are better than no face covering they generally do not provide the same level of protection as masks. This may be an option for students with a doctor identified medical issue preventing them from wearing a mask. We are continuing to monitor the guidance related to face shields.
6. **Is it possible to look into plexiglass shields at the students desk in lieu of masks all day? We've heard of a few schools using those at desks so students aren't having to wear a mask the entire day.** This option has been, and continues to be, reviewed. These individual, desk located, plexi-glass style shields can provide some protection as long as students remain behind and below them the entire time and do not turn to face, or speak with other students. They have several drawbacks including high cost, availability and less protection than wearing masks. At this time their use is not planned.
7. **Will the older grades need to change for gym class?** No. One of the modifications indicated in the "Modifications to the School Uniform" article found in the August 3rd Digital Newsletter will be for all students (including grades K-2) to wear their gym uniform as their primary uniform on their gym day. See the newsletter or document for more details.



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8. **How will you safeguard from parents who send their children to school knowing they have a fever or show minor symptoms?** There is no way for the school to guarantee a parent will not ignore guidelines and mandates and send their child to school with a fever or COVID-19 related symptoms. In order to reduce the chance of this happening, any family participating in the onsite program will be required to agree to the School & Diocesan COVID-19 Policies and sign the Diocesan Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risk Form. This policy makes clear the requirements necessary if a child is to come to school. Included in this policy is the agreement by parents to conduct daily home health checks prior to coming to school. Each student and staff member entering the school each day will also be required to have a health check at the main entrance (or bus entrance for those using buses). A student who has COVID-19 symptoms, like a fever, will be moved to a quarantine area and the parent will be contacted. This document will be emailed to parents prior to the start of school and will be signed the week of orientation.

9. **What is the protocol for when children get sick? (Fever, stomach flu, headache, etc) Will they need to stay home for 2 weeks? Or the standard 24 hours after no fever and no symptoms?**

A child who becomes ill with COVID-19 like symptoms while at school will be quarantined and the parent will be contacted. This child will need to be picked up as soon as possible. Regarding the need to quarantine our policy will follow the current guidelines of the CDC, State of Ohio, Medina County Health Department and Diocese of Cleveland.

10. **Is there a contingency plan if a staff member tests positive for COVID? What will happen if a student in the class tests positive? If a student or a family member of a student in the class gets COVID, will the entire class have to quarantine for some time? If a student falls ill, (seasonal flu, common cold or COVID) will they then be given work to complete at home as they would in the past to not fall behind?** Any student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 will be reported to the Medina County Health Department. At that time, the



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school will follow the directions and guidance of MCHD as it relates to communication, contact tracing and quarantine requirements. Students who need to remain out of school will have the opportunity to take temporary advantage of the Home-based programming so as not to fall behind. As has always been the case, our staff will work with students to ensure they remain caught up.

11. **Will parents be allowed into the school to pick up their children or see classrooms?** Due to the need to limit who enters the building, and per recommendations by the State of Ohio and the Diocese of Cleveland, only previously approved and scheduled VIRTUS volunteers and staff will be allowed into the classrooms.
12. **Will the safety procedures being implemented be reviewed on a regular basis?** COVID-19 is a fluid situation and we will be regularly reviewing all of our procedures, policies and programming.
13. **Will there be hand sanitizer available for students to use?** While the CDC and the AAP stress the need for, and importance of, regular hand washing (with soap and water) as the most effective prevention for COVID-19, we will also be providing hand sanitizer in each classroom and learning space throughout the building.



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2 - Curriculum & Instruction - Onsite, Home-based and Remote (Classroom Structure, Lunch, Extracurriculars, Routines, Aides, Intervention Support, Switching to All Remote)

- 1. What types of modifications are being considered for the kindergarten learning environment, since much of their curriculum is hands-on?** Hands on learning is critical in any learning environment regardless of age but plays a unique role in learning in the primary classroom. Currently our teachers are working to keep a hands-on component as much as possible as well as finding ways for students to work collaboratively with their classmates while social distancing. Many classrooms, including kindergarten, will continue to do centers for reading and writing, math and “fun”. Teachers are purchasing (often with their own funds) many items to facilitate these centers safely including items like containers so that each student will have their own supplies. In kindergarten they will continue to do cooking and STEM activities the same way (individually packaged) as to not take away from the complete learning experience.
- 2. Will children still have the other “special” classes (art, music, etc.)?** Specials classes afford our students a truly well-rounded educational experience. For students participating in the Home-based program, activities in classes like art and music will be optional and likely quarter long. For onsite students our current planning is for them to receive Specials classes as they normally would, allowing for modifications due to COVID-19 safety restrictions.
- 3. Will there still be after school enrichment programs like Chess Club, Lego Club, Singing Hearts?** A hallmark of our programming here at Sacred Heart has always been the availability of clubs and extracurricular activities. To that end we would like to continue to offer such activities based on the availability of volunteers and the opportunity to conduct



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these extracurriculars within COVID-19 guidelines. More information regarding these clubs and activities will be released as it becomes available.

4. **Will hot lunch be provided and what will lunchtime look like?** We are still working on plans related to lunch and recess but social distancing will be in place. We are working with the Wadsworth School district on planning for school lunches but at this time hot lunch service WILL BE AVAILABLE.
5. **Will there be before and after care?** At this time we would like to continue to offer both before and aftercare but we have a staffing shortage that needs to be met if this program is to be offered in a safe and effective manner. If you or someone you know would be interested in a position in our aftercare program please contact Mrs. Kelly at sah_lkelley@tccsa.net. A final determination on aftercare will be made soon.
6. **Is there more specific information available about the remote learning option like will the home based and on site program curriculum be the same and can we change programs throughout the year?** While we believe that the best place for our students is onsite and in-person we also understand that some of our students and their family members may have health issues that make in-person learning a difficult endeavour. To that end, our teachers and staff have come together in just a few short months to develop a home-based alternative. Families will receive a comprehensive summary of the program by Saturday, August 8th. Families who wish to participate in this program will need to complete an online commitment form no later than 11:59pm on Saturday, August 15th. A link for this form will be sent along with the summary of the program.



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10. **If the in-school learning gets too uncomfortable for my child (procedures, masks, etc,) can a family change to remote/ home based learning at any time?** If you start with remote learning will there be an opportunity to transition back to in school learning? This will be explained in the Comprehensive Summary.
11. **Will students still work with aides in school and how will remote students have access to an aide at home if the aide is in the classroom helping the students who are on site?** Yes, aides will still be working with students onsite. Once learning aide schedules are finalized we will review and plan for opportunities where our aides can assist home-based students as well.
12. **What happens if the school is forced to close again without much warning?** Our hope is that school closure and a shift to required remote learning will not be necessary this year. If such a situation is required, we are working on plans to ensure our students still receive an outstanding, rigorous curriculum that also allows families the flexibility necessary to facilitate such a change. We, like so many other schools, learned a great deal last Spring and we continue to learn and grow in our understanding of how to provide the best quality learning environment for our students should a remote learning situation be needed. Should such a mandate or recommendation be implemented at the State or local level, all plans will be communicated to parents and additional parent feedback will be used throughout the plan's implementation.
13. **If forced to move to remote learning, how will IEPs be translated to a home based learning situation?** Providing help and resources to students in a required remote situation is critical and we plan to work closely with our support and intervention staff along with Wadsworth Public Schools to build on what we learned last spring. Due to the unique nature associated with students with learning needs these situations will be reviewed on an individual basis as indicated by the IEP.



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14. **If remote instruction is required at any point in time, will there be a structured school schedule? Or will it be more flexible and open to availability as it was in the spring?** We have learned a great deal from our remote situation in the Spring. If we are required to move to remote learning, our program will be flexible enough to accommodate the varying needs and situations of our families while at the same time ensuring the high academic standards of Sacred Heart School.



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3 - Enrollment and Finance (Financial Impact of COVID-19 and Current Onsite and Home-based enrollments)

- 1. We have heard that a lot of schools are having to spend more because of COVID-19. Is the school able to shoulder the increased costs?** The COVID-19 situation has brought with it significant financial costs not normally incurred by schools. Sacred Heart is no exception, but we belong to a truly blessed community. As such, we are actively seeking ways to absorb the added costs of sanitization, cleaning, PPE, additional staffing, individual student materials and technology. Fr. Joe and our parish community continue to be supportive of our efforts to provide a safe and secure learning environment for our students. Our staff too, continues to demonstrate their love and support both in time and financial resources that go far beyond what is to be expected. We also have received a wonderful outpouring of support from some of our families willing to donate their time, talent and treasure to support the school. Those wishing to donate may indicate this by completing our [“How Can I Help” Form \(CLICK HERE\)](#).
- 2. At this time, about how many families are thinking about homeschooling versus sending their children to school?** Currently the Parent Feedback form, with about 130 families responding, indicates:

 - 86% Onsite Learning (112 families)
 - 14% Home-based Learning (18 families)



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4 - Ensuring our Catholic Identity and Strengthening our Faith Family (Mass for students, Student Buddies, Extracurricular Activities & Clubs)

- 1. Will the kids attend weekly Mass?** Yes, our faith and commitment to providing encounter opportunities for our students is at the center of all we do. The source and summit of our faith is the Eucharist and the Mass. For the short term, while various COVID-19 guidelines are in effect and due to the spacing restrictions, students in grades 3-8 will attend Mass on Thursday mornings. Students in grades K-2 will attend Liturgy of the Word each week on Tuesdays. Likewise, for Rosary and Benediction on Wednesday afternoons in October we will have those students in grades 3-8 pray together in the church, while students in K-2 will be learning about the rosary, the prayers, and praying a decade from within their classroom. All students will continue to pray together each morning and afternoon, as well as on the First Friday of each month when, as a school, we pray the Chaplet, led by our 8th graders.
- 2. Will the younger grades be assigned buddies?** Yes, building peer relationships is an important facet to the growth of our students and a tradition here at Sacred Heart. Like so many other aspects of school this year, this program will need to look different. At this time, ideas are being reviewed that would allow safe ways for our older and younger buddies to interact. Some of these ideas even include ways to build this connection should we need to move to a completely remote learning situation.
- 3. Will the students have the much needed time to socialize and burn off energy?** Yes, as indicated in our Fall Planning Video, socialization and movement is important. COVID-19 has created a situation that requires us to be flexible and adaptable. We are working on plans that include cohorted recess and significant use of outdoor spaces where teachers can give students the opportunity to move more freely, remove masks and socialize.



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4. **Will school parties still be allowed? And/or birthday treats/celebrations?** We would like to see these types of celebrations continue. Specific guidelines for the safe exercise of such activities will be forthcoming.
5. **What are the plans in choosing Student Counsel and officers for this coming year?** Student Council provides students with the opportunity to step into leadership roles and develop skills that will benefit them for a lifetime. The role of the Student Council including the election process is being reviewed and will be announced in September.