



A Diocesan Roman Catholic School

DEDICATED TO PEACEMAKING

2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR REOPENING PLAN

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We are preparing for a new school year and new challenges with adjustments that call for increased partnerships with our families. Our plans will consider staff and student safety first and guide our school community through a year of both challenges and opportunities while taking note of changing realities.

Following guidance from the Rhode Island Department of Health, the Rhode Island Department of Education, the Centers for Disease Control, the Rhode Island's Governor's Office, and our Superintendent of Catholic Schools, our 2021 – 2022 Back to School Plans outlines our school's plans to welcome back our families and students to full in-person instruction during the fall of 2021.

As COVID-19 related information continues to evolve, we pledge to respond to the most relevant data and to share our ongoing strategies with our school community, always focused on the well-being of our students and family members as our absolute priority. Many of the protocols instituted in our 2021 – 2022 plan remain (wearing masks inside the school, keeping stable groups separate as much as possible, focusing on hygiene and cleanliness), but we understand that flexibility is the key and we need to adapt given changing circumstances.

We are committed in creating a safe and healthy work and learning environment for our teachers and students. Thank you in advance for your flexibility, cooperation, patience, and most importantly, for your commitment to keeping our community safe this upcoming school year.

IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

Bishop McVinney School will welcome all our students for full in-person learning during the fall of 2021. Virtual instruction will only take place should a student be quarantined or there are medical reasons requiring an absence from school (more than three days). Parents or guardians must submit a doctor's note with the reason to the school office. Should mandated interruptions to in-person learning arise from directives given by the Rhode Island Department of Health, RIDE, CDC, or governor's office, teachers are prepared to deliver high quality virtual instruction to our students. Adjustments and changes will likely occur, and we are dedicated to adhering to any modifications required as we approach the school year.

STUDENT DROP-OFF BY AGE/GRADE

Please reference the assigned entrance guide below to be sure you know where you are dropping off your student(s) on their first day of school. Siblings **must** be dropped off at their assigned entrance. Per the CDC guidelines, we will not permit any parents/guardians to enter the school building at the time of drop-off.

Entrance 1 (Side Entrance near parking lot): Grades 1 – 5 Drop-offs begin at 7:45 AM

Please use **Gordon Avenue** and stop on the street at or before the gated entrance to the parking lot to drop your student(s).

Entrance 2 (Main Entrance to School): 3 year olds – Kindergarten

Please use **Gordon Avenue OR Sayles Street** and stop on the street at or before the Main Entrance with the yellow doors to drop your student(s).

Entrance 3 (Side Entrance near playground): Grades 6 – 8 Drop-offs begin at 7:45 AM

Please use **Gordon Avenue OR Sayles Street** and stop on the street at or before the gated entrance to the alley along the side of the school.

BUS / WALKERS / PICK-UPS / AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Bus Students

All bus students will form their own pod and exit the building to the parking lot to get on their appropriate bus.

Walkers

Walkers/ Middle School pick-ups will be escorted by Principal Hebert and dismissed from Entrance 3 (see above for location).

Pick-Ups

All students in Grades Kindergarten through Grade 8 must be picked-up at 2:30 pm. They will be escorted to the Entrance 2 (**Main Entrance**) by a staff member.

Late Pick-Ups Procedure and Fee: In the event that your student is not picked-up by 2:45pm they will be sent back to their classroom. A late fee of \$25 per student will be assessed and added to FACTS for each late pick-up.

After School Care

All students staying for after school care will be dismissed at Entrance 2 (**Main Entrance**) upon the arrival of a parent/guardian/authorized pick-up person.

SCHOOL HOURS OF OPERATION

Early Childhood Hours: Monday – Friday 6:30 am – 5:30 pm

Kindergarten - Grade 8 **School Day** Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00am – 2:30pm

K-8 **Before School Care** Hours: Monday – Friday 6:30am – 8:00am

K-8 **After School Care** Hours: Monday – Friday 2:30pm – 5:30pm

HEALTH AND SAFETY (COVID-19 CONTROL PLAN) FACE MASKS AND COVERINGS

Face masks are **required** to be worn by all students in grades Kindergarten to Grade 8 at all times when they are in the school building, regardless of whether or not they can maintain 6 feet of social distance.

Early childhood students are **not required** to wear a face mask unless they are in a commonly used area, like the hallways or main office.

All staff is **required** to wear a face mask or face shield at all times when they are in the school building.

All visitors will be **required** to wear face masks. Any student, staff member, or visitor will be provided with a face mask upon entry if they do not have one.

SOCIAL DISTANCING + ORGANIZING PERSONNEL: IN-PERSON LEARNING

6 feet of social distancing instructions will be provided to all staff members so they are able to communicate the requirements verbally and in written form to students and parents. Proper signage will be posted at all entrances and throughout the school indicating social distancing guidelines for students and staff.

Stable Groups

Students will remain in their designated classrooms throughout the school day with the exception of outdoor class-time and/or recess. Classroom layout will allow for 3 feet spacing between teachers and students.

Middle school content area teachers will travel to the students taking safety precautions such as mask wearing, hand washing, and observing social distancing guidelines.

Specialty teachers will travel to classes and also engage in mitigation efforts such as wearing facial coverings, washing hands between classes, and observing social distancing guidelines.

Outdoor class-time will be permitted for all age / grade levels and scheduled appropriately throughout the school day, subject to the weather.

Bathrooms

All Early Childhood classrooms have a bathroom with 2 stall and 2 sinks for their own use. These bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected regularly throughout the day.

Kindergarten through Grade 8 will have designated bathroom stalls and paths of travel to adhere to social distancing. Bathrooms and the travel paths will be communicated and enforced verbally by teachers and visually with maps and clear signage posted in the classrooms and bathrooms. Hallways will be properly marked with signage to indicate proper 6 feet distancing with staggered passing times.

Lunch

Schedules will be created so that grades 1 – 8 can use outdoors (weather permitting), cafeteria, or classroom locations for lunch. Emphasis is on maintaining stable groups. There is limited use of cafeteria space as students need to be 3 feet from each other when inside. All lunch areas will be cleaned after each stable group.

Recess

Schedules will be in place for recess for all students to ensure all stable groups are separated by at least 6 feet of spacing. All students will be required to thoroughly wash their hands for at least 20 seconds before and after recess. Early childhood grades and kindergarten classes will follow a schedule for playground use. After each use, the playground will be thoroughly sanitized and cleaned before another stable group may use it. Students in grades 1 – 8 will observe recess schedules utilizing the side parking lot and church area.

After School Care

Social distancing instructions will be provided to all staff members so they are able to communicate the requirements verbally and in written form to students as well as parents.

After School Care will follow Department of Human Services (DHS) regulations and guidelines. Consistent and stable groups will be maintained in the after school daycare program. Social distancing will be maintained and stable groups will be separated by at least 14 feet if they are within a larger space maintained by other stable groups.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

You are required to complete a daily home health screening with your child(ren) each morning before sending them to school. In the event your child does not pass the health screening, they will be required to stay home. Please see health and quarantine policies below.

A health screening informational document and symptom signage will be clearly posted at each entrance of the school and in the main office to communicate the screening requirements.

RESPONDING TO A POSITIVE CASE OR OUTBREAK

Students who are sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID-19 or recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 should stay home. Any student who develops COVID-19 symptoms while at school will be taken to the school health professional and the isolation room immediately.

Parents/guardians will be notified to **pick up the student within the hour**. Parents/guardians should seek medical advice for the student within 48 hours and schedule a COVID-19 test as needed. If the test result is positive, individuals must isolate for a period of at least 10 days. Students may return on Day 11 per directives of the RIDOH.

Symptomatic students will not be allowed to return to school until documentation from a medical provider indicates the testing was negative and there are no other restrictions, there is no evidence of illness restricting attendance, or it is documented that the individual is no longer contagious.

Students who are not vaccinated may need to quarantine if they are deemed to be a close contact—that is, they must stay home as they may infect others. The school, most likely the principal and the health professional, will identify all persons who were within 6 feet of the positive case for 15 minutes or more over 24 hours. The school will notify the parents to inform them that their child may be infected. Students who are identified as a close contacts may get a COVID test on Day 5 (Day 0 is the last day of contact). If negative, they may return to school on Day 8. Please monitor for symptoms through Day 14. If a student tests positive for COVID, the student can return on Day 11 barring any symptoms. Non-vaccinated students must also quarantine if they travel internationally or visit “hot” states.

As soon as possible, all items touched by the student who is ill at school will be removed, cleaned, and disinfected. Any common surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected as well. Any closed windows need to be opened to increase ventilation. All areas utilized by the sick student will be cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines. A thorough cleaning will be administered to the entirety of the classroom. In some cases, the affected child’s classroom, which has been operating as a stable group, may have to self-quarantine for a period of time to be determined by the RIDOH. During this time of quarantine, remote learning will take place to ensure continuity of learning.

MINIMIZING ACCESS BY COVID-19 POSITIVE OR SYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS

As mentioned previously, parents/guardians must screen their children at home before school begins using a self-attestation form of an App. All students must stay home if they fail the screening before leaving for school. If a student screens positive for any COVID-19 symptoms, the student's parent/guardian should seek medical advice from the student's healthcare provider and inform the school of the student's absence.

MENTAL HEALTH LIASON

Bishop McVinney School has been blessed to have had the services of Barbara Hayes, an excellent social and emotional counselor to both staff and students for many years. Mrs. Hayes will act as our mental health liaison and will work with the RIDOH and community partners. She counsels students one-on-one who are potentially at risk for social, emotional, and mental health challenges. She meets regularly with faculty to assess and evaluate potential concerns with individual students.