



SAINT PETER
CATHOLIC PARISH + SCHOOL

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St. Peter Catholic Parish School

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(NEW) CDC's Guidelines for Preparing K-12 School for a Safe Return to School in Fall 2020

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>

Return to Learn

Greetings in Christ Jesus! As I write this letter, I am filled with joy that we will be able to be together (in person) to start the school year. We must continue to pray and praise God for His care of us, and that we have avoided serious illness over the past few months.

Of course, this new school year will look different than years past. The teachers, staff, and I trust in God's grace, and will work with Him to use our talents to fulfill our mission: Catholic Identity, Academic Excellence, and Formation in knowledge, values, and the faith in a Christ-centered community. Understanding that different families and individuals have different needs and comfort levels will mean all of us (St. Peter Faculty and Staff, Students, and Parents) need to see God in each other, give each other grace and understanding, and communicate respectfully about our needs. We must also be flexible and adaptable- willing to pivot as situations change quickly. A staff norm that we all try to follow is: "We should assume the best intentions of the other person."

There will be many changes to our programs to accommodate COVID precautions, but we do feel confident that we can run our smaller school with the necessary changes. If for any reason you do not wish to send your students to school in person, for all or part of the time, we will accommodate your student with distance learning. Teachers will have live cameras in their classrooms so remote students can view lessons and will work with remote students on classwork. The teachers are continuing to learn about online platforms, to be prepared for students who prefer to go virtual, and in case we are forced to go virtual again in the future.

Since March, I have been reading/viewing recommendations of the CDC and Public Health to ensure that our efforts put us in a position to be open. Part of that means compliance with Public Health requirements. It has been encouraging that the latest research and recommendations emphasize the importance and the benefit of our children being in and at school! I am happy to share those resources at the end of this newsletter.

To help you know what to expect this fall, I am outlining our efforts to create a safe, holy, and healthy environment for our staff and students. As always, please keep our school in your prayers, as I pray for all of you.

In Christ,

Mrs. Klaas

Protective Measures for the 2020-2021 School Year

Social Distancing:

Students will be grouped in cohorts by classroom. The classroom cohorts will be kept separate from one another throughout the school day.

Within the classroom, we will work to ensure 6 feet of space between students in lines, and in work areas to the greatest extent possible, except in areas where plexiglass dividers create a barrier between students.

Protective Equipment and Face Coverings

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER FOR FACE COVERINGS

1. Students ages 5 and up wear face coverings indoors
2. Employees are provided with and wear a face covering indoors and on buses.
3. Students and employees with face coverings are at least six (6) feet from other students and employees to the greatest extent possible.
4. Students and employees with face coverings are at least six (6) feet from other students and employees on buses to the greatest extent possible.
5. Students who cannot always wear a face covering maintain at least six (6) feet distancing from other students and maintain six (6) feet distancing from employees to the greatest extent possible.
6. Employees who cannot wear a face covering maintain at least six (6) feet distancing from other employees and maintain six (6) feet distancing from students to the greatest extent possible.
7. **Exceptions and exemptions** to the face covering order include:
 - Eating or drinking.
 - Communicating with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing and communication cannot be achieved through other means
 - Individuals for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by government safety guidelines.
 - Individuals with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents them from wearing a face covering.



Welcome to Our New Staff

We want to welcome two new teachers to our building this year. In Kindergarten/First Grade, we welcome Miss Anna Finnemore. Miss Finnemore graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in December of 2019 with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a minor in Special Education. She was also a substitute teacher for the Burlington Area School District this past spring. She has always had a passion for teaching and being able to express her love for God is a bonus!

In Grade Two/Three we welcome Mrs. Heather Jones. You may recognize Mrs. Jones as Miss Heather Hinline, big sister to Gianna and Samuel Hinline. Mrs. Jones has worked with elementary-aged children in an after-school program for years and spent part of her last summer teaching Gr. 2-3 science through Camp Invention. She has experience teaching middle-level students over the past two years in the Archdiocese of Kansas City. She is eager to take the knowledge and skills she has gained from teaching middle school and using them to educate younger students for success throughout their lives.

Before and After School and Parking

All Parent and Visitor Parking should occur IN THE PARKING LOT. For our students' safety, please **do not park** in front of school as that is where students will be waiting outside. During the day the blacktop is a play area for students, so using the parking lot throughout the day is also required.

Students may be dropped off before school at 7:45 AM. Students in K-5 will **wait outside in lines** until 7:50 to go inside to their classrooms. (If it is raining or below zero, students will wait in their classrooms.) Students in 2-5 will enter via the rear doors of the school. Students in K/1 will use the front doors. Door use will remain consistent for these grade levels throughout the day.

Morning prayer and End of Day Prayer will occur over Zoom in the classrooms. Morning Prayer will be at 7:55 AM. End of Day Prayer will be at 3:00 PM.

Dismissal will occur in the following manner. Each family will be assigned a number, and given a brightly colored sign with their number to be placed in the front window of their vehicle. In the case of a car pool, we will create a sign with the multiple numbers of the family members involved. When you park in the parking lot, please park facing the church as much as possible. Place your family number in the front window of your vehicle. Two school staff members will come outside with walkie talkies, and radio the classrooms for students. Students will come out of the building and head to their appropriate vehicles.

Mass-Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays

Students will attend Mass on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. They will sit 3 per pew. If parents attend Mass, students are allowed/encouraged to sit with their parents if that is something the parents wish. Students in PreK will not attend Mass on Monday, Wednesday, Friday unless their parent is at Mass and to have their PreK student sit with them. PreK students will have their own prayer time in church with Father Chris.

Lunchtime / Recess

The CDC, the Health Department, and the AAP are recommending no large or congested gatherings. Depending upon numbers, we are planning children will be eating lunch by classroom in the cafeteria. Your child can bring a cold lunch from home or order a hot lunch using the monthly menu that will be sent home. We will tray up food, and then call students by table to pick up their trays. We will disinfect tables and chairs between lunch shifts. In the event that we must also use classrooms for lunch students will socially distance in their classroom spaces.

During recess times, the playground will be divided into sections and students will play in their assigned sections. These sections will rotate so that over the course of the month, students will be able to play on all sections of the playground.

School Supplies

School supplies will NOT be shared in the classroom. For this reason we ask that you CLEARLY LABEL your children's pencils, pens, folders, erasers, markers, crayon boxes, colored pencil boxes, glue bottles and/or glue sticks, dry erase markers, etc. In addition, we will periodically use disinfectant wipes to work toward that germ free learning environment.

If you are beginning to shop for BACK to SCHOOL Supplies, you can click on the [link here](#).

Frequent Hand Sanitizing and Hand Washing

Students will frequently be required to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer throughout the day—when they leave the classroom, upon returning to the classroom, when using the restroom, before and after lunch, before and after recess, upon arrival and before dismissal. If you have a specific sanitizer you would like your child to use, please send that with them to school.

Drinking Fountains/ Water

Drinking fountains will be covered but the Bottle Filling portion will be open. Students are asked to bring their own water bottle, clearly labeled with their name. Water bottles should go home each night to be washed and returned the next day.

School Website

Our school website contains helpful information and resources. Please go to www.ashtoncatholic.org/school to view School News, and to support our school, and go to www.ashtoncatholic.org/parents to view other Parent Resources such as Dress Code information, School Supply List, School Handbook, and School Calendar.

Students Coming to School/Expectations for Families

Monitor student temperature daily. If student has a temperature above 100 degrees, is medicated for a fever, or has a cough, or other COVID symptoms, keep them home.

- Students with a fever must stay home for 24 hours after fever has ended without medication.
- Families should be following Dane County guidelines at home, including mask wearing, vacation quarantining, hygiene, etc.
- If a student tests positive for COVID, you must inform St. Peter School.
- If you are notified that your child is sick, pick them up (or arrange pick up) **within an hour**.

A reported case of COVID in a classroom, whether an adult or a child, would require the entire room is quarantined at home for 14 days. Siblings of the child from the quarantined classroom would also be quarantined for 14 days.

Extra Masks

The school has received a shipment of 500 masks that we can provide to students whose mask gets dirty during the day or lost. If purchasing a mask is a hardship, please let us know. Also—remember to label your child's mask with their first and last name.

Uniform Swap from July 27-July 31 (during Totus Tuus)



Gently used clothing from sizes 4T-14 is available in the school cafeteria. Cost-\$2.00/item.

Articles Relating to Students in School

[German Study Shows Low CoVid Virus Antibody In Schools](#)

[Data Supports Schools Reopening](#)

[COVID 19 in SchoolChildren: A comparison between Finland and Sweden](#)

[NPR Article: What parents can learn from child care centers that were open during COVID](#)

[Children and COVID 19](#)



Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10 CSB