



CATHEDRAL SCHOOL OF SAINT MATTHEW

Dear Parents of the Cathedral School of Saint Matthew,

[Spanish Version](#)

As we prepare to begin the 2020-2021 school year, we know that many of our school families are discerning which option is best for educating their children in the midst of the pandemic. Please know we have also been praying and planning to welcome our students back into this very unique school year.

Our goal has been and will remain to open to the fullest extent possible. We will follow the guidelines of state and local health officials and the Diocese for the well-being of our school community. In a previous letter to families we informed our parents that options will be available for providing the best possible education for our students. **Please read through this letter and then fill out the survey to assist us in planning.**

FULL CAPACITY, 5-DAY, IN-PERSON PLAN

In-person instruction in the classroom, 5 days a week, with the total number of students planning to attend in person (this number will vary based on the grade level).

- All staff and students will be required to wear a mask or facial covering while in the school building. We will seek to give “mask-breaks” when possible and deemed safe, and as permitted and directed by health officials and the diocese. Information changes with the masks mandate so we will get clarification as time nears and follow the guidance we receive. The goal is to give mask-breaks throughout the day.
- All staff and students will be required to wear a mask or facial covering when in motion or in common areas; this will not be a time for a mask break.
- Students will remain in cohorts (homeroom). Cohorts may expand at times from classroom to grade level, but not beyond that at this point.
- We will begin our school year without the Specials classes (Art, Music, PE, Spanish, and Library) until we feel ready to integrate the additional movement and contact into our school day. Students will also become more familiar with protocols & procedures before adding more transitions. We will resume Specials as soon as possible.
- We will add recesses and breaks for all students.



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- Middle School students will participate in block scheduling and alternate 3 of the 6 middle school teachers each day. For example, Mrs. Wroblewski (Math), Sister Joan (Language Arts), and Sister Lucia (Science) one day and then Mrs. Richter (Social Studies), Mr. O'Brien (Literature), and Miss Horvath (Religion) the next day.
- Social distancing will be promoted and enforced whenever and wherever possible and to the extent possible. We WILL NOT be in a position to guarantee 6-foot social distancing in the 5-day a week in-person instruction plan. The number of students for your child's particular class will determine the amount of social distancing between desks.
- **Students whose individual families choose to have their own child/children instructed remotely instead of in-person OR students who need to be quarantined for any reason or length of time will adhere to the following process:**
 - Instruction from the classroom teachers will be the same/similar as the instruction received by students in the classroom. Lessons will be recorded or live stream whenever possible and assignments posted.
 - Students will have the same assignments, activities, and expectations. The material, including a recorded lesson whenever possible, will be posted by the teachers to the platform (Padlets for grades PreK-3rd and Google Classroom for grades 4-8).
 - The grading policy for students who engage in remote learning will be the same as that for students who receive in-person education except occasionally at the discretion of a teacher. Students who receive their instruction remotely will review their teachers post from the day before.
 - The family must be willing to support their child and reach out to the teacher via email when any challenges or questions arise.
 - Consideration for the child to rejoin in-person can be made at the mid-term or trimester dates unless other arrangements are made with administration.

HYBRID INSTRUCTION PLAN

- This plan is designed only for when we engage it as a whole school community. This is not an individual option during full capacity in-person instruction.
- The purpose of the Hybrid Instruction Plan is to ensure the 6-foot distancing of the desks in the classroom and to lessen the number of persons together at once.
- We will provide students with *direct instruction* from the classroom teacher all five days. Two of the days will be in the classroom and the other three days will be remote.
- Alphabet groups will be divided based on the oldest child in the household.
- "Blazer BLACK Group" will be students with last names A-K.
- "Blazer ORANGE Group" will be students with last names L-Z.



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- “Blazer BLACK Group” will be *In-Person Instruction* on Monday and Wednesday with *Remote Instruction* on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- “Blazer ORANGE Group” will be *In-Person Instruction* on Tuesday and Thursday with *Remote Instruction* on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- This block hybrid method will allow students in grades PreK-8 to be in class with 6-foot-distancing for the desks. Students may still be closer to one another at times when not at their desks. We can not guarantee that children will stay 6 feet away from each other.
- **Students whose individual families choose to have their own child/children instructed remotely instead of in-person** OR students who need to be quarantined for any reason or length of time will adhere to the process as seen in full-capacity in-person. See above in the light green highlight for more information.

PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING [SURVEY](#) by AUGUST 4th

Fully remote (virtual) instruction as a whole school would only be employed per the mandate of the diocese, governor or local health authorities.

Please know our prayers are with you as your family decides which option is most appropriate for your child(ren)’s education in this unprecedented school year. As always, we will do everything possible to promote your child’s academic, social, emotional, spiritual, and physical development.

As most of you know, my mom passed on July 17. I want to first thank you for the many prayers and condolences. Her major decline began shortly before the COVID circumstances began and the sudden depleted resources for her made it necessary for me to remain with her throughout her final journey to Jesus. I want to take this opportunity to thank my staff for absolutely shining during my absence and to thank each of you for your patience.

Let us together keep our trust in the Lord during this challenging time and remain in His Peace, He is our Lord and King,

Sister Gianna Marie

Principal

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