



## St. Francis Xavier Catholic School/Marquette Campus

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Dear Families,

I hope that this letter finds all of you well and enjoying some time outdoors this summer. While so many things are different about this summer, it is great to know that the simple pleasures of hiking, biking and enjoying family time outdoors are still readily available to us all.

Over the past month, our administration and school staff have attended various meetings to develop plans to meet the needs of our students and families in the fall. As all of us know, information regarding the safe opening of schools seems to be changing on a daily basis. The Xavier Catholic School System is monitoring these situations and recommendations so that we can be sure to offer you an educational program that is both safe and responsive to the needs of our students.

As we consider various scenarios for school in the fall, we really envision a couple of main options for the start of school. Our first and preferred method is to have all students in attendance at school five days a week while practicing social distancing and following enhanced cleaning and sanitizing protocols.

In order to accomplish this, we will be:

- Utilizing different areas of the school as regular classroom spaces. Our music, art, library and flex lab will now become regular classroom spaces. The specialists (with the exception of physical education) will be going from classroom to classroom to teach their classes. This will enable us to keep classes small and spaced at the recommended 6 feet from other students.
- Utilizing staff in different ways to ensure that the needs of our students are met. Our classroom aides and other teaching staff will help us deliver a complete educational experience for all students.
- Making sure that safety precautions are taught and followed to minimize the possibility of the spread of Covid-19 to our staff and students. This will mean that we will be taking extra time for teaching protocols and reinforcing lessons about hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and other health measures. We will also be requiring that all students bring a cloth mask to school. The use of the masks will be determined by the age of the student and what is going on in the classroom at various times. Masks will most likely be required by all students when in a common area (Mass or hallways) and when working in a small group or directly with a staff member.

- We will be implementing new procedures for the beginning and end of the day. We will not be allowing students on the playground from 8:00 until 8:15. Instead, we will be asking that parents who usually drive their students to school come between 8:00 and 8:15 AM. We will have various doors designated for student entry where students will have a quick temperature screening and then go directly to the classroom. The end of the day car line will also need to be adjusted so that we do not have students and their families congregated in one congested area. You will be receiving more specific information about this at a later date.
- Procedures will be changing for entering the building, eating lunch and going to recess. As mentioned, we will be screening students when they enter the building. Parents will need to drop their children off at the entrance, and will not be able to enter the classrooms, with the exception of our orientation days. Lunches will be eaten in the classrooms and recesses will be staggered so that there will not be large groups gathering in any area.

We are also making plans so that we can quickly respond in the event that we need to close schools due to local or state conditions and recommendations. If this is the case, we have plans in place to make remote learning a better educational experience for your child.

- The Xavier System has made a commitment to provide technology tools to support our students both in school and at home if we should need to go to remote learning for any portion of the upcoming year. We will now have Chromebooks available for all students from Kindergarten through Grade 8. This means that students will not need to share Chromebooks on regular school days, lessening the need to sanitize devices between uses. It also means that if we should need to move into remote learning for safety reasons, that students will have easy access to devices that they can bring home.
- We know that when we were involved in distance learning this spring, we utilized several different educational apps that were sometimes confusing for families to access from home. We will now be using ClassLink which will streamline that entire process. All apps will be located in one easily accessible location.
- Teachers will be working together to provide options for remote learning, not only in the event of a shut down, but also for those students who may need to stay home for health reasons.
- The Xavier System has always offered reasonable accommodations to students who cannot attend school for an extended period due to medical reasons. This will continue to be the case as we deal with the coronavirus. Parents with concerns should contact their principal. School administrators will work collaboratively with parents to develop reasonable accommodations for the student.

This letter is meant as a brief overview of the plans being made. We will be getting you more detailed information as we get nearer to the start of school.

I know that you have a lot of questions about things moving forward. To help you with this, Dr. John Ravizza has put together some [Frequently Asked Questions](#). These may help you with questions you currently have.

It is our fervent hope and desire that our schools will be open for all students in the fall, but all of us play an important role in helping this to successfully happen. You can help us by doing the following:

- Stay at home as much as possible and avoid close contact with others who are not in your immediate family.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from other people when out in public.
- Teach your young children how to wash their hands. They need to be prepared to wash their hands frequently while at school. Practicing washing their hands for at least 20 seconds while at home will get your children prepared for doing this effectively when they are at school.
- Purchase a cloth face mask for your child and have them practice wearing it so that they know how to do this safely prior to school starting. Please do this in a positive and pleasant way so that they are comfortable wearing the mask and know that we are doing this to not only protect ourselves but all those around us.
- Remind your child to avoid touching their face, eyes, and mouth when in public.
- Teach young children how to blow their nose as well as sneeze and cough into a tissue or into their elbow.
- Practice opening things such as water bottles and lunch/snack items that you might be sending from home. In the past, teachers and aides have helped our young children open containers, milk cartons, and prepackaged food at lunch and snack time. We will now need to have students open these items independently as much as possible. While we certainly will help them if need be, we would prefer to have students be the only ones touching their lunch items. We would also ask that you avoid purchasing lunch items that are typically hard to open without adult assistance, such as fruit cups with juice.

We hope that by being vigilant and practicing the recommended safety precautions that we will be able to reenter school safely in August.

I hope you enjoy the remaining weeks of summer. We look forward to seeing you in the fall. Even though things will be different, the important things will remain the same. We will be joining together as a family of God to grow in faith and knowledge. Working as a team, we can make this a safe and successful school year for our students, staff and families.

Wishing you God's richest blessings,  
Laura Barnett, principal