

Fall Opening Plan

Stage 0: Virtual Learning

2020 - 2021



Dear BMHS Families,

As all of you know, we are on the heels of one of our most challenging school years. We have experienced hardships and faced many challenges. Even with the uncertainty of the times, we have managed to adapt and persevere. As we headed into summer break, we knew we would have to make significant enhancements to our academic program, as we faced the possibility of returning to a virtual classroom this fall. We began planning, and created the four stages of reopening that were shared in mid-June with faculty, staff and families. Throughout the summer we have continued gathering survey data from our entire community, hosting focus groups, and working with local government agencies. As we look to begin classes for the 2020-2021 school year on Monday, August 31st, we have finalized our fall reopening plans and will begin in Stage 0. The highlights of this stage include:

- Virtual classes for students that include 4 “live” classes each day
- Faculty & staff will be in the building each day (Note: Faculty will teach from their classrooms)
- A robust extracurricular program that fully engages students virtually
- Enhanced programs sponsored by our counseling department
- Additional purchases of books, materials and online resources to improve virtual instruction
- Lunch credit of \$100 each month we are in Stage 0
- Ongoing evaluation of our stages as we look to move into Stage 1

The pages that follow are an overview summary of our reopening plan, which provides more detailed information. Additionally, we will be holding virtual ZOOM Webinars during the week of August 3rd to provide an interactive opportunity to discuss and ask questions about our plan.

My administrative team, the faculty, our staff, and I look forward to working together to ensure we have a successful school year. We will continue to provide regular updates, including any modifications to our plan, as conditions may warrant or as directed by county, state and federal agencies. This global pandemic has reminded us that we are resilient people with hope to bring. It is my hope that we will gather, in person, one day very soon. May the peace of Christ be with you and your families.

Sincerely,



Dian A. Carter
Principal



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Overview

This plan represents an ongoing months-long strategic effort to safely begin the 2020-2021 school year during these unprecedented times. It is chiefly focused on promoting the health, safety, and mission continuity of the BMHS community all the while providing a world-class learning experience for each of our students. The document is intended to be flexible and scalable, with the understanding that guidance will continue to evolve. The administration, faculty & staff remain committed to adapting this plan and its operations as needed.

Bishop McNamara High School is committed to reopening and welcoming students, faculty, and staff back to campus. This plan outlines steps taken to prepare the campus for a healthy and safe environment for learning and working. This document addresses suggestions outlined by the CDC, the Maryland Department of Education, and the Prince George's County Executive's Office, and will explain the guidelines and provisions related to the school's interim policy on COVID-19, a strategy for cleaning protocols, physical distancing, academic program delivery, student activities, dining, and athletics.



Fall 2020 Reopening: Stage 0 - 3

FALL 2020 REOPENING STAGES



Bishop McNamara High School

STAGE 0
Virtual Learning

CURRENT STATUS

During this phase, local officials are most likely recommending some form of virtual instruction for students.

All learning happens virtually, via MACCESS.

Four classes every morning from 8:15 to noon.

Live synchronous instruction in every class.

Virtual homerooms meet every other day, to support social-emotional growth and development.

All clubs and extracurriculars happen virtually.

STAGE 1
Virtual & Classroom Learning

During this phase, local officials are most likely still encouraging social-distancing.

Students alternate between in person and virtual instruction. (Building at 50% Capacity)

Masks are required for all students and staff.

Students use multiple entrances to access school and complete daily health screenings.

Lockers are not available for use.

Daily classroom schedules include four- and eight-period schedule days.

Community lunch with physical distancing requirements.

All events (Mass, Back to School Night, etc.) will happen virtually.

STAGE 2
Modified Classroom Learning

During this phase, local officials are likely still restricting large group gatherings.

All students invited to attend school, in person. (Building at Full Capacity)

Masks are required for all students and staff while in the building or while attending large outdoor gatherings.

Students use multiple entrances to access school and complete daily health screenings.

Lockers are available for use.

Return to a four period class schedule.

Community lunch for all students with fewer physical distancing requirements.

All events larger than 50 people (Mass, Back to School Night, etc.) will happen virtually.

STAGE 3
Classroom Learning

During this phase, local officials have dismissed all school related restrictions.

All learning happens in the traditional classroom setting.

Masks are not required while at school.

Students return to the traditional arrival pattern, utilizing primary doors and entrances.


All students required to attend in person learning at school. Absences require a doctor's note.

NOTES: 1. The first day of class is Monday, August 31st.
 2. Our attendance policy will change for this academic year to allow for extended virtual learning should students or immediate family members require prolonged and continued periods of social distancing.
 3. During each stage of this school reopening sequence, significant disinfectant protocols will be completed throughout the school building.
 4. All athletic activities at BMHS will strictly align with guidance and policy from the WCAC.
 5. Beginning in the Fall of 2020, lunch credits will be provided while in Stage 0 or Stage 1.



Fall 2020 Reopening: Stage 0

FALL 2020 REOPENING STAGES



Bishop McNamara High School

STAGE 0

Virtual Learning

During this phase, local officials are most likely recommending some form of virtual instruction for students.

Four classes are held virtually every day.

Live, synchronous instruction of 20-30 minutes in every class, rotating between Maroon and Gold Day classes per the schedule. (on right)

Virtual homeroom offered every other day for 20 minutes to support social-emotional well-being, and to share important information.

Extracurricular activities include Student Support, Campus Ministry, and Counseling appointments, college visits, faculty and staff office hours, club and activity meetings, Omega Block classes, etc.

Maroon and Gold Day Classes Schedule

TIME	Maroon Day	Gold Day
8:00 - 8:15	Prayer and Announcements	
8:15 - 9:00	Period 1	Period 5
9:15 - 10:00	Period 2	Period 6
10:15 - 11:00	Period 3	Period 7
11:15 - 12:00	Period 4	Period 8
12:10 - 12:30	Virtual Homeroom	
12:45 - 1:30	Extra-curricular activities	

NOTES:

1. The first day of class is Monday, August 31st.
2. Our attendance policy will change for this academic year to allow for extended virtual learning should students or immediate family members require prolonged and continued periods of social distancing.
3. During each stage of this school reopening sequence, significant disinfectant protocols will be completed throughout the school building.
4. All athletic activities at BMHS will strictly align with guidance and policy from the WCAC.
5. Beginning in the Fall of 2020, lunch credits will be provided while in Stage 0 or Stage 1.
6. A \$25 weekly lunch credit added to students' tuition statements.

How are teachers preparing?

What we know about learning has not changed – it just moves online.

Teachers are engaging in professional development to build upon what we implemented this spring, and sharing lessons learned by teaching fully online courses this summer. We are also informing our approach through readings and online courses from globally recognized experts in online education, such as the University of Pennsylvania, Harvard University, and Stanford University. We are fortunate that technology has been a part of our learning environment for years, fully supported by dedicated staff.

What is the daily schedule?

The morning starts with a live broadcast of the prayer and morning announcements, followed by four class periods. Each class period features at least 20 to 30 minutes of live instruction with your student's assigned teacher. Attendance in virtual classes is required, attendance will be taken and recorded in Maccess. Short, 15-minute breaks are built in throughout the day.

Unlike last spring, classes will only take place in the morning and will have a live teacher teaching for at least 20 minutes. This type of teaching is referred to as synchronous instruction. All classes will still be hosted by Google Meet. Class materials will be available on Maccess.

We rotate between Maroon and Gold Day classes, per this schedule:

Times	Maroon Day	Gold Day
8:00 - 8:15	Prayer and Announcements	
8:15 - 9:00	Period 1	Period 5
9:15 - 10:00	Period 2	Period 6
10:15 - 11:00	Period 3	Period 7
11:15 - 12:00	Period 4	Period 8
12:10 - 12:30	Homeroom	Study Period
12:45 - 1:30	Omega / Extracurricular Activities	

Every student checks in during a virtual homeroom on Maroon Days for 20 minutes, to promote their well-being and to share important school news and information. The afternoon is reserved for study hall, scheduled check-ins with faculty or staff, Omega classes, clubs, and special community-building events. The afternoon is also reserved for the many at-home responsibilities that our students and faculty have as a result of this global health crisis.



How are the social and emotional needs of students supported?

Being family and educating both the mind and the heart, remain core to what we do.

Our counseling team is reinventing ways to deliver the same high level of social-emotional support, informed by our partnership with Harvard's Making Caring Common. This includes lessons that are integrated by teachers throughout each subject, and small group sessions taught by trained school counselors.

We will continue to find creative ways to make sure each student is engaged and supported – just like last year when we called home to every family within the first week of our closure, made special deliveries to seniors, and held virtual class and club meetings.

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic may be stressful for you and your family. We understand that fear and anxiety about a new disease can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions. Public health actions, such as social distancing, can make people feel isolated and lonely and can increase stress and anxiety. However, these actions are necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Coping with stress in a healthy way will make you, the people you care about, and your community stronger.

If you feel you may need immediate support please contact your grade level counselor:

9th Grade	tia.bell@bmhs.org
10th Grade	michael.jones@bmhs.org
11th Grade	herman.frazier@bmhs.org
12th Grade (Last name ending in A-J)	alicia.oglesby@bmhs.org
12th Grade (Last name ending in K-Z)	shamelle.yemofio@bmhs.org



What steps is the school taking to ensure safety?

Healthy Campus Environment

1. Priority to provide a campus environment that is healthy and safe for all members of the BMHS community.
2. Screening program developed in collaboration with our school nurse and local health officials.
3. Ongoing partnership with the CDC with respect to contact tracing and other applicable guidance/support.
4. Designated space for isolation of students, faculty or staff with possible symptoms of COVID-19 until they can safely exit campus.

School-wide policy developed to educate campus community on expected behaviors for members of the BMHS community related to COVID-19

An education and training campaign for students will be delivered prior to their return to campus in Stage 1. This effort will include signage, website content, social media posts, videos, handouts, and other appropriate methods to educate the student body on best practices related to hand hygiene, physical distancing, staying home if ill, following proper cleaning protocols, and other relevant topics. Training will be available to students through online learning platforms and other means as identified.

1. Physical distancing measures deployed in buildings campus-wide
2. Installation of plexiglass barriers in high-contact locations throughout campus
3. Regular disinfection of high touch surfaces will take place
4. Additional PPE to be provided to faculty and staff who will be in regular, extended contact with students in enclosed spaces or as part of required job duties
5. COVID-19 awareness and safety training programs developed for virtual delivery to members of the entire community
6. Face covering and physical distancing requirements
7. Enhanced cleaning protocols, aligning with current CDC guidance
8. COVID-19 screening and/or ongoing symptom monitoring of all students and adults



Dress Code

Our dress code, even in the virtual setting, is founded on the belief that uniforms decrease distractions, simplify the morning routine, increase respect for each student, and prepare students for success by teaching professional dress expectations. By wearing the uniform in the virtual world, students will affirm the mindset of learning. Our Stage 0 dress code will support our community-building days like dress down days, senior t-shirt dress down days, and Spirit Weeks.

While in Stage 0, students in grades 9-12 must wear the BMHS Oxford button-down, a BMHS t-shirt, OR a traditional uniform. Seniors are encouraged to wear their senior polos. Students are not required to wear school-issued ties, blazers, skorts, or dress pants.

What happens if a community member tests positive for Covid-19?

If a community member tests positive for COVID-19, they should report this information to the school nurse who will contact the local health department, and initiate contact tracing. The school nurse will follow up with the individual regularly and relay pertinent information to administrators and school counselors, as necessary. Information will be kept as confidential as possible and shared on a need to know basis.

Before returning to school/work, the infected person must provide written documentation from either the health department or a health provider certifying that it is safe for the individual to return to the school community.

In the event that a community member who has recently been on the school campus tests positive for COVID-19, the school will be shut down for at least 24 hours in order to provide for a thorough deep cleaning of the premises.



How will the school be cleaned?

Hygiene and Cleaning/Disinfection

BMHS has developed broad internal guidance and protocols for campus facility cleaning and disinfection activities. These protocols outline scheduled cleaning and disinfection frequency of high-touch surfaces and school vehicles as applicable. High-touch surfaces include, but are not limited to, stair railings, door hardware, light switches, restroom fixtures, elevator control panels, water fountains, and vending machines. The following definitions apply to BMHS's protocols:

- Disinfect: a process that destroys or inactivates both the bacteria and viruses on hard, non-porous surfaces.
- Clean: the removal of visible soil (e.g., organic and inorganic material) from objects and surfaces, normally accomplished manually or mechanically using water with detergents or enzymatic products (e.g., soap and water).
- Staff schedules have been established for disinfection, increased cleaning of high-use areas and high-touch points, and routine cleaning.
- A focused and coordinated effort will be made to mitigate the risk of virus transmission via contaminated surfaces by prioritizing the areas to be disinfected by their frequency of use. Scheduled disinfection will be coordinated with class and work schedules. While every effort will be made to routinely disinfect high-contact surfaces, individuals bear responsibility to continue to practice good personal hygiene habits and adhere to the established physical distancing standards.
- All disinfectants used by BMHS are concentrates of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered disinfectants that are recommended by the CDC and World Health Organization for use against COVID- 19. Disinfectants will be applied daily. Due to the disinfectant remaining in the air for a prolonged period of time, disinfection of large areas will be conducted only when the space is unoccupied, typically during the overnight hours. However, spot disinfection may be conducted in occupied areas using regular spray bottles.



How is the school nurse utilized?

The Bishop McNamara High School RN (Registered Nurse) is a public health expert. She will be educating our community on COVID-19 transmission, signs and symptoms, ways to mitigate the virus, and what actions to take if experiencing any of those symptoms. Additionally, our school nurse remains an active participant in our school operations planning to ensure we are implementing all necessary mitigation strategies.

The school nurse will also respond to emails and phone calls from our community for all health concerns.

Should a student or family test positive for COVID-19, the school nurse will contact the family to find out the status of the individual and offer further guidance about contacting their provider and getting tested for COVID-19.

If anyone tests positive for COVID-19, they are to notify the school nurse as soon as possible. This information will be shared with the local health department so as to begin contact tracing. The school nurse will then share this information with administration in order to keep accurate records.



What are the school entry and exit procedures?

There will be no students on campus on a daily basis for classes. The Front office is open for families and visitors, who should not go past the front office. For employees, entrances and exits are as follows:

Main Building:

Entrances

- Front Entrance doors closest to the Main Office
- Canopy entrance by the Mona Center
- Brother Andre Room door
- Door from patio by bookstore to hallway by the bookstore

Exits

- Front Entrance doors closest to the chapel
- Doors closest to the weight room
- Holy Cross Hall door nearest the music practice rooms
- Holy Cross Hall door by the nurse's office
- Doors from Mona Center to the back patio
- Door from Leadership Center to patio by the bookstore

Fine Arts and Athletic Center:

Entrances

- Doors closest to the softball field and theatre

Exits

- Doors closest to the bleachers and gym

Mt. Calvary Building:

Entrances

- Doors closest to the softball field

Exits

- Center stairwell doors

Faculty and Staff will be required to complete this basic health information survey less than 90 minutes prior to any arrival to campus. Those who have not completed the survey will be required to leave campus. Similarly, those who have exhibited symptoms of COVID-19 will be required to leave campus. Additional policies and procedures have been rolled out to BMHS employees to ensure their own safe return to campus.



What will dining look like?

During Stage 0, students will dine at home. Lunch credits will be provided for missed meals at \$100 / month per student. Lunch credits will show up on students' payment plans for the month following the missed meals.

What is the impact on Athletics?

BMHS is committed to following all the guidelines established by the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference (WCAC). As of July 27, 2020, a formal decision regarding athletic participation in the WCAC for the 2020-2021 school year has not yet been made. Once a decision has been made, details on what to expect will be communicated.

Currently, small group (pods of 10 -1 coach, 9 athletes) workouts are occurring as permitted by school administration. These workouts are following the Responsible Return to Sports Protocol.

The Athletic Training Room is closed during Stage 0. Athletic Training Staff will provide emergent care and screenings as needed for workouts and as the conference allows. Any athlete traveling to restricted COVID-19 areas must follow CDC guidance on quarantining before returning to group practices.

What is the impact on Performing Arts?

The performing arts are just as valuable in the time of social distancing – perhaps now more than ever.

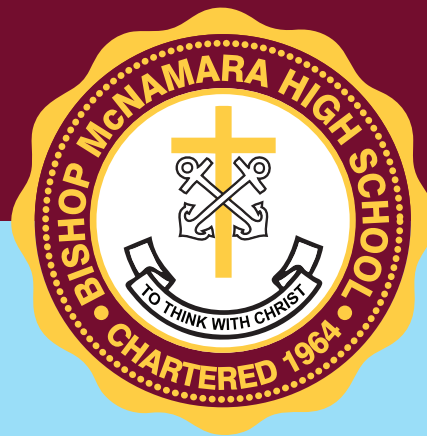
Although in-person concerts and performances will not happen during Stage 0, we can adapt our teaching to focus on other aspects of the performing arts. We have always integrated some aspect of technology throughout our classes, rehearsals, lessons, and practice sessions. Online teaching allows for unique and valuable learning experiences, that continue to help students enhance their creativity and self-expression.



Fall Opening Plan

Stage 0: Virtual Learning

2020 - 2021



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