

Dear Bishop Dunne families:

Thank you for your responses to our Return-to-School survey. Nearly 170 families responded, representing approximately half our school population. There are still many questions to be answered, and, as we know, the answers could change tomorrow.

We continue to work on plans and research the possible scenarios and options to allow us to open school in August and keep everyone safe. The Diocese of Dallas will guide the Catholic schools as final decisions are made closer to the opening of school.

While final plans are still being worked on, I wanted to address many of the questions you asked in our survey. We will continue to answer your questions and send you information as it is updated.

**What are we doing now?**

We are planning for every aspect of the opening of school. This includes schedules, cleaning, school-year activities, academics, staffing and facilities. We are also planning for graduation on July 10 and hiring teachers. Faculty have met to develop academic plans and professional development will be available to help faculty learn more about eLearning.

**Are we changing the school calendar?**

We are not planning to change the school calendar. While a few schools are considering longer breaks, our current plan does not include going in that direction.

**Will there be athletics in the fall?**

We are part of TAPPS (High School) and DPL (Middle School). They are working on scenarios for sports and activities. We will follow the latest guidance of medical professionals as we plan for participation in athletics.

**Will there be clubs and other activities at Bishop Dunne?**

Many organizations will continue to gather and plan for programs. It is likely some of those will be virtual, keeping groups smaller than usual. We will not have large gatherings of students next year.

**Will there be class retreats?**

We will develop plans for retreats so students can explore faith and spirituality. They will be on campus and groups will be kept small.

**How will we keep the school clean?**

We have purchased new air filters that will help keep the air circulating through the building clean. The Director of Facilities will coordinate more regular cleaning of bathrooms. High-touch surfaces will be cleaned throughout the day. The building will be thoroughly cleaned each evening.

**How will we manage social distancing?**

We are working on best practices to keep students as far apart as possible. Hallways will be marked so students will walk one way on each side and in some cases, hallways will be one-way. Students will be in their classroom groups but not in large groups, such as all-school gatherings. Mass will be held for small groups in the auditorium, while the rest of the school watches it in the classroom.

**How will lunch be served?**

We are working on our plans for lunch to have students in smaller groups. Lunch will likely be pre-ordered and probably pre-packaged such as a box lunch.

**Will masks be required?**

Yes. All students and employees will wear masks. Students will purchase their own masks. Masks with Bishop Dunne logos will be available for purchase in the Falcon Store. We will find ways to give students breaks from their masks outside during the day. In a diocesan meeting this week, the medical expert emphasized the importance of masks for everyone. He told us that masks are a key to staying healthy.

**Will there be large gatherings at school?**

There will not be large gatherings. We are rethinking how we build community without having the whole school together in the same setting.

**Will there be Senior Service?**

The Senior Service class has been the avenue for our students to fulfill the Social Justice requirement for the Bishop's theology curriculum. Seniors will not perform service in the community. Mr. MacLellan will teach a Social Justice class for seniors.

**When will we know what the school week will look like for Fall 2020?**

The deadline to submit information to the Diocese is July 17 and they will work with us, and the other schools, to finalize plans. We will communicate our plans as soon as possible, but probably closer to August 1. Regardless of what plan we utilize, there will be an eLearning option. Thanks to a generous donor, we have purchased new laptops for faculty so they will all have the technology to support eLearning.

Thank you for your patience. We are working hard to make sure we keep your children and our employees safe. We will follow the guidance of local health authorities. Please let me know if you have questions.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Marchiony  
President