



CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL

JESUIT PREPARATION *for* COLLEGE...FOR LIFE

August 5, 2020

Dear Canisius High School Parents and Guardians,

We pray that you and your families are well and enjoying these weeks of summer.

As we prepare for the start of the new school year, we are writing to provide you, as promised, with an update. Our school leadership has prepared a reopening plan to serve our students' educational needs, while being mindful of state regulations and the health of our entire community. **Our intent remains to open for on-campus classes as scheduled this fall.**

The reopening plan has been submitted to the Department of Health and New York State Department of Education. **The plan is attached for your information.**

In July, we welcomed one hundred boys to our campus for our summer Higher Achievement Program, and thirty for robotics workshops (in groups of ten each week for three weeks). Several sports clinics have also been held. Students seemed eager to come to campus.

These summer programs afforded us the opportunity to assess our protocols for checking-in students, faculty and staff at the start of each day. The system worked well and students moved swiftly through the process. All programs concluded safely and according to plan. We have no incidents to report.

We will use a similar check-in for each student when school begins. A health survey can be pushed to his iPhone or school iPad and must be completed prior to entering campus. Temperature checks will take place at school upon arrival inside the blue doors.

Cleaning and sanitizing protocols have also worked very well. Backpack electrostatic sprayers allow for rapid disinfections of classrooms and large spaces.

Masks. All are expected to wear masks or other acceptable face coverings at school when six feet of distance cannot be maintained or a physical barrier/desk shield is not present. Teachers must wear a mask or acceptable face covering during class and school duties.

We ask you to assure that your sons have a mask as they leave the house.

Desk Shields. We've purchased individual desk shields for students to use throughout campus. These portable shields fasten to classroom desks and tables in the cafeteria and throughout campus. Students will travel with them throughout the school day and store them overnight in their mentor group rooms. The shields will be sanitized daily.

Classrooms and Movement. Desks have been spaced in classrooms to observe physical distancing. The desk shield provides added protection and flexibility. Signage around campus will require people to "keep right" and observe spacing. Dedicated stairwells will be assigned for ascent/descent, and elevator usage will be restricted.

Lunch. Our food service provider will offer pre-packaged sandwiches, salads, snacks and other served items. As we've mentioned previously, we will move to a cashless system in the cafeteria. Students will need to have lunch money on their accounts in order to purchase items in the cafeteria. The accounts will be linked to their student identification cards which are equipped with barcodes for easy scanning. Please make sure your sons keep their ID cards in a safe space. Freshmen will receive IDs upon arrival. Students will carry their desk shields and eat in assigned locations in the cafeteria, auditorium, or other designated areas around campus. We are blessed with large spaces.

Please send your son to school with a water bottle (reusable, if possible) since water fountains will not be in use. The "bottle fillers," with filtered water, remain accessible.

Bussing. The dean's office is coordinating with local school districts which are responsible for developing appropriate policies for maintaining physical distance and sanitized vehicles. Canisius will communicate changes in these procedures.

We will limit our own 15 passenger "blue busses," to seven students plus the driver.

Athletics. The fall sports season is currently scheduled to begin on September 21. This delayed start was agreed upon by both the state Catholic and public high school athletic associations. Canisius students can currently [sign up](#) for fall sports try-outs, but try-out dates and practice schedules are on hold as we await state approval to proceed.

Campus Ministry. Retreats are being scheduled with lower numbers and individual room accommodations. School liturgies and assemblies will be held differently.

Fine Arts. Instruments, music stands, sheet music, and equipment will not be shared. When weather permits, chorus and band may meet outside. When meeting indoors, instruction may shift to small group ensembles or the study of music theory. Individual lessons and small ensembles will take place in the large rehearsal spaces or other designated areas. Use of small practice rooms will be limited. We've created individual art supply kits to avoid students sharing tools.

A packet of information will be sent by the principal's office with the "usual" details regarding the opening of school.

Flexibility will be the grace to name and pray for as we look to this new school year. Our intention is to be well-positioned to provide your sons with an outstanding Jesuit education in the fall. Please know that your support is much appreciated as you continue to stress with your sons the importance of maintaining physical distance, wearing face coverings, washing hands, staying home when sick, and complying with all health and safety measures.

We pray that you and your families are well, and we are excited to see your sons on campus in September.

With prayerful best wishes for you,



Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J.
President



Ms. Andrea Tyrpak-Endres
Principal

To view the reopening plan, please [click here](#).