

# Visitation School Reopening Plan



Fall 2020

*Updated August 7*

Visitation School is eager to welcome all students back on campus for in-person instruction, five days a week on August 26. While this school year will be like no other, we remain committed to our mission to provide an excellent, Catholic education. As always, the health and well-being of our students, families, faculty and staff will continue to be our top priority as we navigate our return to campus.

Visitation School is blessed with an abundance of space — our small class sizes, expansive buildings and 60-acre campus allow us to meet social distance guidelines for in-person instruction in a unique way. In creating the plan, we followed guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control, the Archdiocese and outside experts. As guidance shifts, we will be monitoring and adjusting this plan accordingly.

We remain grateful for your continued trust and partnership.

The School Reopening Plan was developed and reviewed by:

## **Reopening School Task Force**

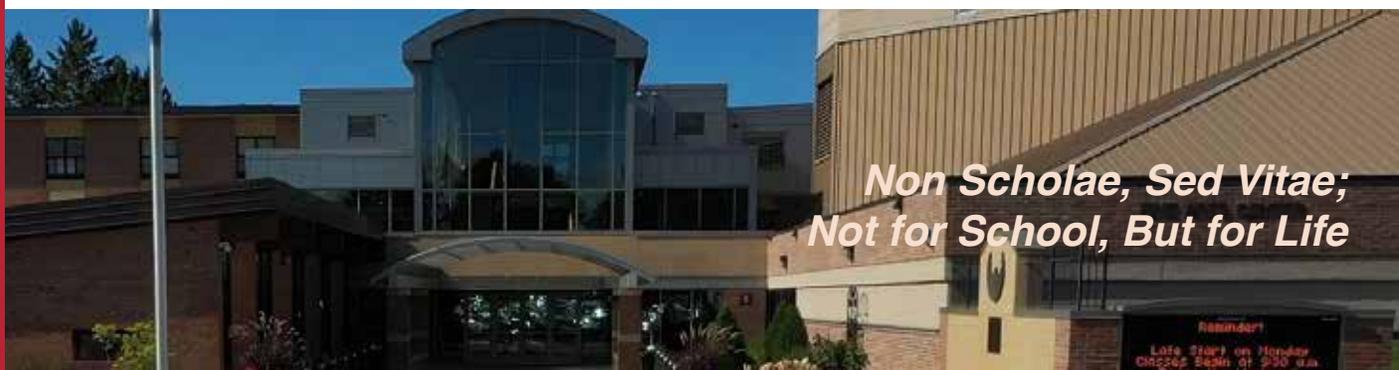
Anna Barter, Director of Upper School; Joe Conlin, Facilities Manager; Ann Feitl, Upper School Dean of Student Life; Rene Gavic, Head of School; JoAnne Geiser, School Nurse; Erin Nemetz, Lower School Director; Zindy Mooney, Middle School Dean of Student Life; Ben Tierney, Middle School Director; Helen Twomey, Director of Finance and Operations; Emily Wanning, HR Manager

## **Reopening School Committee**

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*“ Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace then, put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations, and say continually: The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart has trusted in Him and I am helped. He is not only with me, but in me and I in Him. ”*

Saint Francis de Sales



# Welcome to 20-21!

## First Day of School is August 26!



We are so excited to welcome students back to campus! Visitation will begin classes on August 26 — providing five days a week of in-person instruction for full school days and offering synchronous live streaming for those learning at home who have health-related concerns.

### Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

#### LOWER SCHOOL

##### Entrance: Designated Heart Doors (Door 5)

- LS students enter between 7:45 - 8 a.m.
- Temp checks will occur curbside
- School day: 8 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
- School supervision begins at 7:45 a.m.
- Parents entering school must complete screening, wear cloth face coverings and stay at Lower School staffed entrance.
- Lower School teachers will assist students in finding classrooms.
- Students go to their classroom.
- Montessori and Montessori Plus enter via Early Childhood Entrance (Door 4). Parents remain in vestibule. Temp checks will occur at the door. Teachers will assist students in finding classrooms.

##### Exit: Designated Heart Doors (Door 5)

- Parents pick up students at Heart or students go to carline.
- Parents entering school must complete screening, wear cloth face coverings and remain at LS staffed entrance
- LS teachers will staff entrance desk and be outside at dismissal.
- Students not picked up by 2:55 p.m. will go to Extended Day.
- LS Students with MS or US siblings/caregivers will be picked up at the LS Entrance.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL

##### Entrance: Middle School Entrance (Door 3)

- MS students enter between 7:45 - 8 a.m.
- Temp checks will occur curbside
- School day: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Parents stay in vehicles.
- Students go to assigned classrooms.

##### Exit: Middle School Entrance (Door 3)

- All MS students exit through the MS circle and doors between 3- 3:15 p.m.
- Parents stay in vehicles.

#### UPPER SCHOOL

##### Entrance Designated Heart Doors (Door 5)

- US students without younger siblings enter between 7:30-7:45 a.m. or 8 -8:20 a.m.
- Students with LS/MS siblings enter between 7:45-8 a.m.
- Flex: 7:45 - 8:15 a.m.
- Classes: 8:20 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.
- Flex: 2:45 - 3:15 p.m.
- [See Schedule Here.](#)
- Temp checks will occur at entrance
- Parents stay in vehicles.

##### Exit: Designated Heart Doors (Door 5)

- US students exit through assigned Heart doors between 2:40 - 3:15 p.m.
- Parents stay in vehicles.
- If US students are taking MS students home, they are to get in their cars and pick up MS students at the MS Entrance alongside MS parents and guardians. US students should remain in vehicles.
- If US students are taking LS students home, they should meet the LS student at LS entrance desk.

## Transportation



Information on bus transportation will be communicated separately to families. Questions? Please contact Mary Jo O'Halloran at [mohalloran@vischool.org](mailto:mohalloran@vischool.org).

## Classroom Learning

Visitation classes will start on August 26 – providing five days a week of in-person instruction for full school days and offering synchronous live streaming for those learning at home who have health-related concerns.



- Students will be in classrooms with altered room arrangements to provide social distancing.
- Some classrooms have been relocated to larger spaces or split into two adjacent spaces to accommodate social distancing guidelines.
- Visitation students will be granted extensions for work completion as needed due to illness or quarantine.
- Teachers will use Owl to capture classroom video, Zoom to share and stream video to adjacent and distance learners, in order to allow students to synchronously access classes remotely from home or from an adjacent room.
- Movement of students throughout the day has been minimized.
- Off-campus field trips will be modified or postponed.
- Students will use their own school supplies whenever possible. When materials must be shared (lab supplies, iPads, etc) those materials will be sanitized between each use.
- Large gatherings will be modified. A plan for all-school Masses, convocations, and other school events is in process.
- Specific details per division will be shared soon.

## School @ Home: Synchronous Remote Learning



School @ Home will be provided as an option for all students in grades K-12 who need to attend school remotely due to health concerns or other extenuating circumstances. We will also offer materials and assistance to parents wishing to choose a distance option for Montessori Pre-K. Visitation School is committed to providing on-campus learning, but in the case that school is closed, we will provide remote learning to all students. Visitation has purchased new technology and made a few application changes to support synchronous learning for the remote learner.

- Video Conferencing: All divisions will be now using Zoom for video conferencing rather than Google Hangouts.
- Learning Platform: Lower School will move to Google classroom while Upper and Middle School will continue to use PowerSchool Learning.
- OWL technology: All divisions will have access to use newly purchased Meeting OWL Pro devices in the classroom to connect those in the classroom with those learning at home. The OWL device uses a 360 degree camera that automatically shifts to the person who is speaking and provides a panoramic view of the classroom. It also has a speaker to broadcast remote students' voices to the entire classroom.

**"BE WHO YOU ARE** *and be that well.*"

## Cleaning & Disinfecting



- The building will be cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines regularly throughout the day.
- Student desks or tables will be cleaned between classes, student exchanges, as well as after snacks and lunch.
- Daytime custodians will be disinfecting handrails, doorknobs and other high touch areas in classrooms, offices and bathrooms throughout the day.
- Classrooms, restrooms and playground equipment will be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each school day.
- All disinfectant is approved by the CDC for fighting COVID-19, and meets EPA standards for child safety and will be stored away from the reach of young children.
- Non-permeable dividers or barriers will be placed in high traffic areas or areas where it is difficult to maintain appropriate social distancing.
- The HVAC system will be monitored to ensure air quality and required flow of fresh air is maintained throughout the building.

## Health & Screening Protocols



- Parents will self-monitor their children at home using the COVID-19 screening checklist provided by Visitation including checking their child's temperature prior to coming to school each day.
- In addition, all students will undergo temperature checks prior to entering the building. Lower and Middle School students temp checks will occur curbside while still in their vehicles, and Upper School students will be checked at the Heart entrance. Any student with a temperature of over 100°F will not be admitted.
- Anyone experiencing symptoms, must stay home.
- Students who are exhibiting signs of COVID-19 at school will be isolated in the new infirmary and will be picked up by parents via a separate entrance.
- Unscented hand sanitizer stations will be placed at all main entrances, in every classroom and office, outside of every restroom and in hallways throughout the building.
- There will be increased handwashing/sanitizing throughout the day; including when entering and exiting the building, prior to and after any meal times and recess and after using the restroom.
- Water fountains have been closed except for the automated refill stations. Students are asked to bring a labeled reusable water bottle from home.
- Teachers will review coughing and sneezing etiquette techniques with students: cough and/or sneeze into elbow, wash or sanitize hands immediately afterward.
- Students will be instructed on social distancing expectations and all in the building will take precautions to maintain social distancing.

## Face Coverings



As recommended by the CDC and MDH, cloth face coverings prevent a person with COVID-19 from unknowingly spreading the virus.

- All employees are required to wear a cloth face covering.

Face shields will be available to faculty as needed during instruction.

- Students in grades K-12 are required to wear a cloth face covering while in the building.
- Each student in grades K-12 will receive a cloth face covering from Visitation.
- Please note, as we learn more about cloth face covering guidelines, we will be in communication.





## Managing COVID-19

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Visitation community must fully commit to transmission prevention.

**Students who are feeling sick must stay home.** The measures that Visitation School has put in place -- social distancing, increased cleaning protocols, operational changes, facilities updates, health screening protocols-- together with our partnership with students and families creates a culture of health and safety needed to decrease the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission.

**COVID-19 Positive:** Students and employees who test positive for COVID-19 will follow the health and quarantine recommendations provided by their health care provider and MDH.

- Families must notify Visitation School.
- Visitation School will support MDH, Dakota County and families in the contact tracing process.
- Appropriate communication will be shared with the Vis community regarding a positive test result, and in compliance with health privacy regulations, specific students and employees will not be identified.
- Students and employees may not return to school until cleared by their health care provider.

### **Close Contact with COVID-19 Positive Case:**

Those who have had close contact, which is defined as closer than six feet for 15 minutes or more with an individual that has tested positive for COVID-19, should contact their healthcare provider for guidance.

- They will be required to quarantine for 14 days while monitoring for symptoms.
- Students in quarantine will participate in classes via live synchronous School@Home option.

### **Close Contact with COVID-19 Symptomatic Individual:**

Students who have had close contact, which is defined as closer than six feet for 15 minutes or more with an individual that has exhibited COVID-19 symptoms and is awaiting test results should participate in classes via live synchronous School@Home.

- Once the individual has received results, the student may return to school if the test result is negative.
- If the test result is positive, students should follow the COVID-19 positive protocols outlined above.

**Contact Tracing:** Visitation School will support MDH, Dakota County and families in the contact tracing process.

**Notifying Visitation:** Please email [attendance@vischool.org](mailto:attendance@vischool.org) or call Scott Supplee at 651-683-1731 to report absences. To report positive cases, please contact school nurse JoAnne Geiser at [jgeiser@vischool.org](mailto:jgeiser@vischool.org).

### **Shifting Learning Levels/Building Closure:**

Visitation School will be in communication with MDH and Dakota County to inform decisions should a learning level shift be required or a short-term building closure be required

**"DO NOT LOSE YOUR INNER PEACE** *for anything whatsoever.*"



## Visitors, Parents & Volunteers



- Visitation will limit the number of visitors and activities on campus.
- All visitors, including parents, will be required to answer COVID-19 screening questions and will be informed of and required to follow Visitation's COVID-19 guidelines prior to entering the school.
- All visitors, including parents and volunteers, will be expected to wear a cloth face covering while in the building.

## Lunch Program



- To help ensure the health and safety of our students and employees, the hot lunch program will be modified.
- All students, faculty and staff may bring their own lunch or participate in the school's boxed lunch program.
- Due to restrictions on guests in the building, the dining room volunteer program is suspended at this time.
- Only pre-packaged and approved food items that follow the schools food allergy protocols may be shared by students or faculty/staff with other students or faculty/staff.



## Living Our Faith



Growing the faith of our students is an essential part of the mission of Visitation School.

- Daily prayer will continue to be a foundational part of our day.
- Students will attend virtual prayer services, rosary and Masses in small groups or via livestream.
- We will modify retreat programming.

## Social & Emotional Health



The mental health of our students, parents and faculty is a priority.

- Our school counselors will proactively support our students, parents, and faculty/staff.
- Social and Emotional Health programming will continue in all divisions.
- We are providing additional professional development for our faculty on how to support the mental health of our students.
- We will continue to find ways to support and provide resources to faculty and staff throughout the year.



## Athletics & Co-Curriculars



- Modified Athletics program will begin on August 17. Further details will be communicated.
- We plan on co-curriculars taking place in various formats pending safety guidelines.

## Events on Campus



- Large gatherings will be modified or suspended.
- A plan for all-school Masses, convocations, and other school events is in process.

## Shopping List for Families



- Thermometer for taking temperature at home each day
- Reusable personal water bottle
- Personal hand sanitizer (unscented)
- Cloth Face Coverings - several, so that a clean cloth face covering can be worn each day:
- MS/US: High quality earbuds will be needed.

## Communication



We are committed to providing ongoing communication to our families.

- A specific page is being created on our website that outlines Visitation's preparedness and reopening plans and includes FAQs that will be available in August.
- Updates will be shared through Parent E-news and email.
- Text alert system will be utilized if needed.

# VISITATION SCHOOL LEARNING LEVELS



Four instructional models were developed to pivot quickly and smoothly should circumstances evolve. [See full plan here.](#)

**Level One:** Physical Distancing Not Required

**Level Two:** Required Physical Distancing – Visitation will start on August 26 at Level Two

**Level Three:** Required Physical Distancing & Lower Density

**Level Four:** 100% Remote Learning