



# **DIVINE CHILD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

## **2020-2021 | RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN**



# 2020-2021 REENTRY SCENARIOS

## Rooted in Divine Child Elementary School's Mission

In true Falcon spirit, our Divine Child Catholic Schools community rose to the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring of 2020. With this same resilience and dedication to excellence, Divine Child Elementary School has been planning for various reentry scenarios for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. Guided by the State of Michigan's School Reopening Road Map, the Archdiocese of Detroit's directives and the CDC's guidelines, we have developed plans for the various phases of reentry, depending on the COVID-19 situation in the fall.

**SCENARIO 1** | In-Person (On Campus) Learning with more stringent health/safety protocols

**SCENARIO 2** | In-Person (On Campus) Learning with stringent health/safety protocols

**SCENARIO 3** | Online/Distance Learning

Please review the descriptions on the following pages to learn more about our building preparation as well as the health and safety guidelines by phase/scenario.

We anticipate that as well designed as plans may be, we will need to be flexible and adaptable in order to respond to whatever the situation may demand. To that end, we are very mindful of the potential need to shift between any of these plans throughout the year as the COVID-19 situation unfolds, and we have not ruled out a hybrid model of reduced days of on campus learning.

SCENARIO

1

**In-Person Learning with more stringent health/safety protocols**  
(MI Safe Start Plan Phase 4)

SCENARIO

2

**Flexible Learning (Online) Option**  
(MI Safe Start Plan Phases 4-5)

SCENARIO

3

**In-Person Learning with more stringent health/safety protocols**  
(MI Safe Start Plan Phase 5)

SCENARIO

4

**Online/Distance Learning**  
(MI Safe Start Plan Phases 1-3)

# MAINTAINING OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY

**The importance of instilling Catholic values remains at the forefront of the DCES mission.**

Whether we are meeting in-person or distance learning this fall, the DCES community will continue to grow in faith by:

- Dedicating each school day to the Lord through virtual daily morning prayers and announcements.
- Celebrating the Mass together (by grade-level), either in small, socially distanced groups or via live streamed services in which students will/ can participate from home. (The Church of the Divine Child has put in place a comprehensive "Return to Mass" plan designed to minimize risk for all worshipers. We encourage you to review this plan which can be accessed from the [Church of the Divine Child website](#).)
- Preparing second graders for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, as well as eighth graders for Confirmation.



**Our response and plan for all faith formation activities will match the guidelines from the state and the AOD.**

## SAFELY RETURNING TO SCHOOL

Per the Advisory Council's directive, if the State of Michigan remains in Phase 4 of the MI Safe Start Plan, Divine Child Elementary School plans to open its doors for in-person instruction. School will begin Monday, August 24.

Students will resume activities in the building that adhere to the State, Michigan Department of Education, AOD, and CDC reopening guidelines. As our state moves through the phases of the Michigan Safe Start Plan, Divine Child Elementary School's prepared to adjust its health and safety protocols as directed by the AOD and State of Michigan while ensuring a positive and safe educational experience for all students. *Though we are not proposing a hybrid instructional model at this time, that scenario and other iterations may be considered as the COVID-19 situation unfolds.*

Should the State of Michigan or our immediate area experience a spike in COVID-19 cases or if a stay-at-home order is implemented, Divine Child Elementary School is ready to move to exclusively distance learning for either the short-term or long-term. By using online platforms, such as Google Classroom and Seesaw, for on campus learning, our students will be prepared to transition to distance learning should the need arise.

### MONITORING & SCREENING FOR COVID-19

- To limit possible COVID-19 exposure to others in the DCES community, parents will be asked to fill out a daily, electronic self-monitoring form for each of their children before arriving at school.
- A student whose temperature reads 100.3 degrees or higher at home, will not be permitted to enter the building.
- Faculty and staff will also be required to complete electronic self-monitoring forms before entering the building.
- If a student begins to exhibit COVID-19 symptoms during the school day, the child will be quarantined and a parent will be contacted to pick up their child immediately.
- Students who previously exhibited COVID-19 symptoms will not be able to return until they can present a doctor's note with an approval to return to school.

### DROP-OFF & PICK-UP PROCEDURES

- Morning drop-off and after school pick-up procedures and protocols will be shared closer to the start of the school year.
- Students will enter and report directly to their classrooms, as we will not be gathering in large groups in the cafeteria and gym as we have in the past.
- Students may not arrive or enter the building any earlier than 7:30 a.m.
- Parents and students are asked not to gather on campus before and after school. Please promptly return to your vehicles upon completion of drop-off/pick-up.

### IF SOMEONE IS DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19

In the event that someone in our school community should become ill with COVID-19 we will report to and take direction from the Wayne County branch of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).



# PRECAUTIONS, CLEANING, PPE & MORE

## HEALTH & SAFETY PRECAUTIONS/CLEANING

In order to support the health and safety of students and mitigate the transmission of disease we are:

- Placing hand sanitizer dispensers in each room and high traffic areas (i.e., gym entrance, outdoor entrances, etc.).
- Applying a bioshield disinfectant designed to prevent the spread of viruses, bacteria and mold for 90 days.
- Deep cleaning all surfaces and spaces in the building, manually wiping surfaces and also utilizing electrostatic spray technology designed to mist the room with a CDC recommended disinfectant.
- Cleaning high impact areas and surfaces (i.e. bathrooms, entry ways, door handles, etc.) with a CDC recommended disinfectant several times throughout the school day.
- Installing 12 plasma generators (air purifiers) to the school HVAC system; these devices break down and destroy viruses, bacteria and mold by charging the air with positive and negative ions.
- Bulk ordering of cleaning materials, such as disinfectant wipes, disinfectant spray/cleaning solutions, hand sanitizer stations, etc.
- Bulk ordering of PPE equipment (face masks, face shields, gloves, gowns, etc.) to be on hand for emergencies or if students/staff misplace their masks.
- Utilizing water bottle filling stations in lieu of drinking fountains.
- Providing contactless IR thermometers in the clinic for use as necessary.
- Staggering recess times to minimize the number of students outside at one time, and maximize space for students to play; all playground equipment and the football field will be regularly disinfected with a CDC recommended disinfectant.
- Modifying lunch procedures to minimize the number of students gathered (i.e. staggering lunch times and utilizing multiple spaces); specifics on the modified lunch procedures will be shared closer to the start of the school year.

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- All students, faculty, staff and visitors will be required to wear a mask while in the building, per the current CDC, AOD, and MDE guidelines.
- Faculty and staff will be required to wear face coverings at all times- except while eating or if unable to medically tolerate.

**Our face mask policy is in place not only to protect our general student/staff population, but also students and staff who may be immuno-compromised/high-risk for COVID-19.**

## SPACING, MOVEMENT & ACCESS

- Students, faculty and staff will continue to maintain the recommended six feet social distance as much as possible.
- Markings will be placed on the floors to indicate where students should stand if waiting to enter a room, while stairwells will become one way only (only up or only down).
- Seats will be spread out four to six feet to maximize social distance and minimize contact between students; alternative teaching spaces to accommodate social distancing guidelines may be considered.
- Specials teachers may travel to homerooms to minimize student movement throughout the building.
- Gym class will be held outside whenever possible to adhere to social distancing practices.
- Logistics for band class are being assessed and will be shared closer to the start of the school year.
- We will limit the sharing of any school supplies to lower COVID-19 risk factors. Protocols for locker assignments and use will be shared at another time.

## STUDENT SUPPORT & TECHNOLOGY

### MEDICALLY VULNERABLE STUDENTS

Should your family have any immediate medical concerns or if your student is severely immuno-compromised/living with someone severely immuno-compromised (i.e. the doctor has identified this person as high risk) please notify Mr. Courage and Ms. Hable to assess whether we can support an individualized plan. Although we will not be able to accommodate every request, we will do our best to work with your family.

### MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

- We will designate a mental health liaison who will work across the school, and with local public health agencies and community partners.
- We will develop and activate communication channels for school staff/families to address mental health concerns resulting from COVID-19.
- We will provide parents and guardians with resources to aid in the return to school transition, including:
  - Destigmatization of COVID-19.
  - Understanding normal behavioral response to crises.
  - General best practices of talking through trauma with children.
  - Positive self-care strategies that promote health and wellness.

### INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

Instructional Support teachers will meet with students with accommodation plans individually and/or in small groups and may join classroom meetings. Social distancing and safety precautions will be implemented.

### TECHNOLOGY & ONLINE RESOURCES

In order to support and increase the school's technology preparedness, we have added to our equipment supply:

- 60 new iPads in addition to the iPad carts we already have
- 128 new Chromebooks in addition to the Chromebook carts we already have.
- Other classroom technology and technological resources including teacher computers and smart boards, for use both in the classroom and with online learning.

*For families in need of technology, there will be a limited number of computers and iPads available to check out on loan, should the need for distance learning arise.*

We are also:

- Expanding our online learning and assessment platforms (e.g., Seesaw, EdPuzzle, IXL, Star Testing).
- Increasing our staff professional development by partnering with leaders in the educational field to review virtual learning tools and techniques as well as professional development through the AOD (e.g., becoming Google Educator Certified Teachers, attending webinars and virtual conferences, etc).

## MOVING ONLINE

If distance learning becomes required, either temporarily or in the short term, students will engage in both a blend of synchronous (live) and asynchronous (available at any time) learning to provide both direct instruction and allow for flexibility in providing high quality education during a time of uncertainty.

We are mindful of the tremendous undertaking online learning will be for all involved. Please know our teachers' dedication to their vocation is stronger than ever. Our faculty will thoughtfully design and implement synchronous and asynchronous learning to ensure a high-quality online education for all students.

We also need to consider the appropriate amount of time for students and teachers to be engaged in Zoom /synchronous sessions, as each grade level grouping has a different level of capacity/attention span for the sessions.

### WEEKLY EXPECTATIONS FOR ONLINE CLASSROOMS

The following measures will be put in place to better facilitate student learning:

- Staggered class/subject days to allow for deep dives into instruction and course-load management while offering home/school-work balance and supporting the academic and social-emotional needs of our students.
- School-wide guidelines in place for uniformity online including:
  - Weekly previews/pacing guides which outline learning objectives and standards (grades K-8)
  - A comprehensive syllabus for each class (grades 5-8)
  - Standard time for all submissions will be 9:00 pm, with all assignments due Monday through Friday (no weekend due dates)
  - Grade updates on PowerSchool on a weekly basis so parents and students can see progress
  - For families in need of technology, there will be a limited number of computers and iPads available to check out on loan.

## SAMPLE ONLINE CURRICULUM

See below for a sample breakdown per grade grouping (as the school year progresses, teachers may adjust their teaching schedules to better meet the needs of their individual classes):

### GRADES K-2

- Whole group meets synchronously for morning check-ins and mini lessons
- Small groups meet for reading 2-3x/week (e.g. Mon/Wed/Fri)
- Literacy groups will also blend religion, social studies and science learning
- Small groups meet for math 2-3x/week (e.g. Tues/Th)
- **Minimum synchronous connections per week – 10**
- Instructional Support Teachers will meet with students with accommodation plans individually and/or in small groups and may join classroom meetings.
- In addition to the synchronous learning, asynchronous reinforcement activities and assignments will be ongoing throughout the week. This could include teacher recorded content/lessons, and utilizing our purchased digital learning platforms. Teachers may also utilize other available online resources to reinforce learning.
- **Specials Classes:**
  - Students will engage in 1-2 subject area specials classes on a weekly/bi-weekly basis, assigned by grade. This will limit grade levels from having all 6 specials in a given week.
  - Specials teachers may also join whole group instruction and morning check-ins throughout the grade levels.

### GRADES 3-4

- Whole group meets synchronously for morning check-ins and mini lessons.
- 2-3x/week of synchronous math
- 2-3x/week of synchronous literacy
- religion/science/social studies taught the context of literacy as well as units of learning and inquiry/project based learning
- **Minimum synchronous connections per week – 15**
- Instructional Support Teachers will meet with students with accommodation plans individually and/or in small groups and may join classroom meetings.
- In addition to the synchronous learning, asynchronous reinforcement activities and assignments will be ongoing throughout the week. This could include teacher recorded content/lessons, and utilizing our purchased digital learning platforms. Teachers may also utilize other available online resources to reinforce learning.
- **Specials Classes:**
  - Students will engage in 1-2 subject area specials classes on a weekly/bi-weekly basis, assigned by grade. This will limit grade levels from having all 6 specials in a given week.
  - Specials teachers may also join whole group instruction and morning check-ins throughout the grade levels.
  - Note: These are sample scenarios that may be augmented/modified, in particular in our 4th grade curriculum which operates with subject level teachers. 4th grade will operate, therefore, in a combination of the above and the grades 5-8 sample set up.

### GRADES 5-8

- Weekly video and/or digital previews per subject area outlining the scope, sequence and learning objectives for the week.
- Synchronous Block Scheduling per subject: examples: M/W-reading/math/science, T/TH-English/religion/social studies/electives.
- Scheduled synchronous office hours for individual or small group instruction/support
- Fridays may be used for small groups/individual assistance if needed.
- Instructional Support Teachers will meet with students with accommodation plans individually and/or in small groups and may join classroom meetings.
- **Minimum synchronous connections per week – 15**
- In addition to the synchronous learning, asynchronous reinforcement activities and assignments will be ongoing throughout the week. This could include teacher recorded content/lessons, and utilizing our purchased digital learning platforms. Teachers may also utilize other available online resources to reinforce learning.
- **Specials Classes:**
  - Students will engage in 1-2 subject area specials classes on a weekly/bi-weekly basis, assigned by grade. This will limit grade levels from having all 6 specials in a given week.
  - Specials teachers may also join whole group instruction and morning check ins throughout the grade levels



# QUESTIONS?

We recognize there are many more logistics and details of our school day that still need to be finalized. As we continue to receive guidance from the state, AOD, and our planning committee we will update you. We thank you for your support and patience as we navigate these new procedures. *\*Note: Procedures and protocols for athletics will follow MHSAA/CYO guidelines, and will be communicated to our student athletes by our athletic directors. We will update you as soon as we know more.* Please know of our continued prayers for all of our students, faculty, staff and families. May the Lord bless our school family, your family and all our loved ones.

## CONNECT WITH US

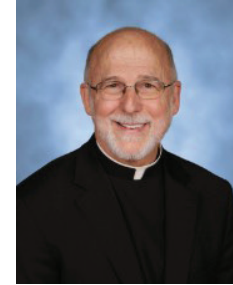
Please continue to watch for email, website ([www.DivineChildElementarySchool.org](http://www.DivineChildElementarySchool.org)) and social media updates regarding the changes to the return to school plan as the COVID-19 situation unfolds. If you have any questions or concerns, we invite you to email Divine Child Elementary School's administration.



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