



## CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL

---

JESUIT PREPARATION *for* COLLEGE...FOR LIFE

November 24, 2020

Dear Canisius High School Parents and Guardians,

We pray that you and your family are well. Thank you for your support and collaboration during the first quarter of the school year. We write to update you on important information.

**E-Learning:** Very soon after we sent you our letter of November 18 regarding the plan for testing students in order to continue in-school learning, our WNY region shifted to an “orange zone” necessitating a move to our e-learning plan. By now you should have received the plan sent to you via email this past week. We expect the transition to e-learning will be smooth given the strong experience of the faculty and students with our 1:1 iPad program and our various learning platforms. If your son experiences difficulties or if you have questions, please contact Mrs. Jeanne Whittington, assistant principal, at [whittington@canisiushigh.org](mailto:whittington@canisiushigh.org).

**Looking Ahead:** While it is possible to return to in-person classes while in an orange or red zone, it requires testing 100% of our students, faculty and staff in order to do so. It also requires testing 25% on a weekly basis every week thereafter. While possible to do this, we are not sure this is a prudent course of action as the holiday season is upon us.

We appreciate the challenges families would face over the holidays should your son be placed in quarantine due to exposure while at school. Plainly put, we would not want your son to be in quarantine or to hinder your family’s plans over these coming holidays.

It is important to note that the need to quarantine students has typically come from students who participated in activities outside the school day (Halloween parties, sleep-overs, indoor athletics and travel teams, and what often appear to be “harmless” student gatherings in the homes of classmates). If your son participates in one of these activities and someone in the group tests positive for the virus, under NYS protocols, it will cause your son and his classmates, friends, and/or teammates to be placed in quarantine. Please understand, we are not making a judgement here, we are sharing our experience with you.

There are 15 class days after the Thanksgiving holiday weekend before Christmas break – fewer if we subtract the days needed to test everyone. Time moves quickly. Given complications families face with regard to NYS protocols regarding quarantine and the new testing requirements, we have decided to continue our e-learning plan until at least January 4. Christmas break begins after school on December 18.

Please know that we do not make this decision lightly. While it is our strong preference that our students remain in school, the circumstances at this time call us to act prudently. We keep your son, your family, and our Canisius community at the center of our decision-making at all times.

**Testing:** If you have not yet completed the consent form to have your son tested (or not) for COVID-19, please complete the form found by clicking [here](#). It is increasingly important for us to verify that our schools remain some of the safest places for students to be. This testing will allow us to confirm that our rate of infection and transmission remains very low, which will contribute to our effort to re-open for in-person instruction. We urge you to consider this a relatively simple contribution to our school's efforts to remain open when the time comes. Testing students at some level will be required for them/us to return to campus.

Our faculty and staff are outstanding people and highly-trained professionals who will continue to work diligently to provide your son with the exceptional Jesuit education for which Canisius is justly known.

Be assured of our prayerful best wishes for you and your family. May you have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving.



Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J.  
President



Ms. Andrea Tyrpak-Endres  
Principal

