



RETURN TO SCHOOL

Plan for 2020-21 School Year



Excellence in Education



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MESSAGE FROM MR. MORTON

Dear Parents and School Community Members,

*"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come.
We have only today. Let us begin."
- Mother Teresa*

These words from Mother Teresa reflect the journey we are about to embark. I could not have been more proud of how our students, teachers and staff members handled the adjustments and sacrifices that were made along the route that led to a successful end of the last school year. Certainly, we would love to know what the next few months will bring, but COVID-19 has taught us the importance of living in the present.

Distance Learning filled a void when we could not return to school in the spring, but we all felt the loss of in-class instruction. As we begin the 2020-21 school year, it will be imperative everyone who enters our building each day follows the guidelines outlined in the Return to School plan. Managing the health and wellness of each person will be of primary importance if we are able to continue in-class instruction throughout the school year. Based on the adjustments made last spring, I have great confidence that we can manage the changes we will encounter when school begins and throughout the school year. Thank you for believing in and supporting the mission of our school.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Morton', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Morton
Principal + President

DEVELOPING THE REOPENING PLAN

This document will serve as guidelines for the Return to School plan that will be in place as we begin the 2020-21 school year. These guidelines are designed to keep students, teachers, and staff in school, with minimal loss of in-person class time. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) have consistently stated that wearing face masks, maintaining appropriate social distancing, washing hands, and sanitizing facilities consistently, have a profound effect on mitigating the spread of COVID-19. For these reasons it will be imperative that our school community accepts these protocols and are vigilant with the daily implementation of the protocols.

This plan was developed after extensive review of the school reopening guidelines published by the CDC and AAP, Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), and The Path Forward: School Continuity Guidelines for Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. We too have sought information from medical professionals within our school community, as well as parents, students, teachers, staff, and interested parties.

The following committees were established by the Bishop McGuinness task force, and met to offer guidance:

- School Operations
- Spiritual Development
- Academics
- Social + Emotional Care
- Extracurricular Activities
- School Community

RIGHT TO AMEND

Monitoring the virus is an ever-changing situation. We will continue to monitor the situation at the advice of civic leaders and health authorities, adjusting precautions, and protocols of the plan as needed. When a change occurs, the school community will receive immediate notification.

LOOK BACK AT SPRING

On March 11, the NBA basketball game at Chesapeake Arena was suddenly canceled moments before tip-off after a Utah Jazz player tested positive for COVID-19. From that moment in time, life as we knew it in our city, state, and country changed. Little did we know that following Spring Break our school, and every school in our state, would not return for in-class instruction for the remainder of the school year. With this decision, the move to Distance Learning was already in place. Distance Learning was launched and served as the school's educational platform for the remainder of the school year.

RESULTS OF DISTANCE LEARNING

During the eight weeks of Distance Learning:

- Daily attendance did not drop below 90% on any given day.
- 96% of all assignments were completed on time.
- Student grades remained at a high level.
- 82% of students received a score of 3 or above on AP Tests.

END OF YEAR CEREMONIES

Senior students and their families took part in a walk-thru Robing Ceremony in May. Graduation took place in Pribil Stadium on June 16, with graduates and their parents seated together on the field, and Archbishop Coakley was on hand to distribute diplomas.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

More than 150 students have been on-campus since June 6 for summer athletics. Other activities include the senior summer Catholic Social Teaching class, and the Work Grant program.

SAFEGUARDS AT SCHOOL

ENHANCED SANITIZATION

Enhanced cleaning and sanitization practices will occur with increased frequency to disinfect classrooms and common areas using disinfectants recommended by the EPA. Each classroom will be thoroughly cleaned before and after school each day. During school hours maintenance will continue routine cleaning with a focus on high traffic, high touch areas such as door handles, faucets and light switches. Teachers and staff members have been provided sanitation materials for their classrooms and/or work spaces.

FACE COVERINGS

Students, teachers, staff members and guests entering the building are required to wear a face covering at all times. Face coverings must: cover your nose and mouth; be made of a tightly woven fabric material such as cotton; include two or more layers of fabric; and able to be laundered without altering the shape or integrity. Face coverings must not include messages or images that distract from the learning environment, this includes: offensive language, inappropriate symbols or political messaging. Teachers may wear a face shield, in lieu of a mask. A Bishop McGuinness face covering will be available to purchase during the first week of school for \$6.00.

LIABILITY WAIVER

Each faculty, staff and parent/guardian will be required to complete and agree to a liability waiver due to risks associated with COVID-19.

TRAVEL

To increase our efforts to return in-person, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City discourages out of state travel after August 1 – this applies to faculty, staff, students and families. The school reserves the right to require an out of school quarantine following any elective out of state travel. In the event essential travel is necessary, standard precautions such as, but not limited to, social distancing, the use of face coverings and good hygiene should be taken. If you have traveled recently and believe you might have come into direct contact with someone infected with COVID-19 or have come into contact with someone that is awaiting COVID-19 test results, please notify the school.

WELLNESS SCREENINGS

Families are expected to screen children for fever and/or other symptoms associated with COVID-19 prior to arrival at school each day. All students will participate in wellness screenings at school each morning. The school's fever policy will continue to be enforced, and individuals with a temperature of 100.4 F or greater will not be permitted into the school. Teachers, administrators and visitors will be screened each day. BMCHS has hired a registered nurse who will be responsible for daily temperature checks, daily health questions, notifying parents whose students have not passed the first period health check, and monitoring current cases.

SAFEGUARDS AT SCHOOL

ARRIVAL + DISMISSAL

Access into the school will be allowed from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Students will go directly to their first hour class when they enter the building. Any student in a school organized event, including tutorial, who needs access to the building before or after that time will be required to enter through the main entrance, and be supervised by faculty or staff. Before school care will be available on a case-by-case basis, and should be arranged with school administration.

CLASSROOMS

Classroom desks and common seating areas (including tables) will be rearranged to maximize space between students. Desks also will face the same direction, rather than toward each other, to reduce transmission. Assigned seating will be implemented.

HALLWAYS

Visual aids will be used when possible to illustrate traffic flow and appropriate spacing. One-way halls have been established to minimize face-to-face contact when changing classes. When one-way hallways are not possible, barriers will be provided where necessary, such as hallways with students moving in opposite directions and the Commons.

HAND HYGIENE

Frequent hand washing and sanitizing will be accommodated and encouraged. Students will be provided a spray hand sanitizer bottle, and will be encouraged to maintain proper hand hygiene, such as before and when changing classes. Classrooms will be equipped with hand hygiene products and additional hand sanitizer stations will be placed throughout the building in high trafficked areas.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Bishop McGuinness is a member of the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association. OSSAA will determine what activities are allowed to resume this fall, as well as throughout the school year. The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, in conjunction with BMCHS, will determine if and when the school can participate in any given activity. Normal school activities such as club meetings, dances, retreats and other extracurricular activities will be held at the discretion of the school.

FACILITIES

Access to school facilities by community members and external groups will not be allowed when school programs are in process.

SAFEGUARDS AT SCHOOL

FAITH FORMATION

All School Mass will be held monthly in the Petuskey Performing Arts Auditorium for each grade level. Regularly scheduled services like the Rosary Prayer Service, Daily Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, and Panera and Prayer will be held at their regular times. Class retreats and Kairos are dependent on approval by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

LIBRARY

The library will be closed, except for reservations made by teachers for class use. Printing stations will be available outside the library.

LOCKERS

Lockers will not be allocated to all students. If a student has a specific need for a locker, those requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

LUNCH

To decrease the number of individuals in the cafeteria at any given time, we will implement four lunch periods. Tables in the Commons will be limited to four students with plexiglass dividers. Additional seating will be available in Brandt Park and at the end of Senior Hall. Hand hygiene practices will be in place before and after mealtimes and common surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected between student groups. Additionally, steps are being taken to minimize lines and wait times when students receive school meals. Seniors will not be allowed to have open campus lunch. Outside food deliveries after the school day begins will not be allowed. This will limit the number of guests in our front offices, and help us protect our employees. This will be reassessed regularly to determine if it is safe to then allow food deliveries. Student checkouts during lunch will take more time due to wellness checks, social distancing and reduced capacity in our front offices. Please consider this when making your plans.

SCHOOL SCHEDULE

School will start at 8:00 a.m. and end at 2:50 p.m., daily. There will be no special schedules, this includes Late Start, Assembly schedules and other special schedules – these have been placed on hold until further notice.

WATER FOUNTAINS

Water fountains will not be used for the foreseeable future in line with CDC guidelines. The water filling station in Senior Hall will be available to refill water bottles.

PROTOCOLS FOR EXPOSURE

POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST

Individuals who received a positive COVID-19 test will be required to stay out of school for the appropriate amount of time based on their situation.

- **IN THE SETTING OF SYMPTOMS**

The student can return to social interaction:

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND
- At least 24 hours with no fever without fever reducing medication AND
- Symptoms have improved

In rare cases, your health care provider may recommend that you stay in isolation for longer than 14 days, possibly up to 20 days, and you may need to finish isolation at home. In rare cases, repeat testing may be necessary but for most cases it is not. If the student has an immunocompromising condition, he/she should discuss with his/her healthcare provider.

- **IN THE ABSENCE OF SYMPTOMS:** The student can return to social interaction if he/she has no symptoms, and 10 days have passed since the date of the onset of symptoms.

These guidelines are constantly being updated by the CDC, and we are continuing to monitor them, and may change as conditions warrant. All positive COVID-19 tests involving students will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis with input from the administration, staff, family members, and others, if needed. [For more on COVID-19 isolation, visit the CDC website.](#)

PRIMARY EXPOSURE TO COVID-19

People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are considered to be primarily exposed. The definition of close contact is constantly being updated by the CDC – we continue to monitor the definitions and make appropriate recommendations based on those data. In many cases, the administration will contact the involved student and family to inform them of an exposure at school. We also ask that families inform administration of an exposure outside of school. In either scenario, the school will follow CDC recommendations for quarantine and return to social interaction.

- **CLOSE CONTACT**

- A person who is within 6 feet of someone who tested positive for COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period, irrespective of masking
- A person who has provided care at home to someone who tested positive for COVID-19
- A person who has shared eating or drinking utensils with someone who tested positive for COVID-19
- A person who has acquired contact with respiratory droplets from somebody who tested positive for COVID-19, such as by sneezing or coughing

PROTOCOLS FOR EXPOSURE

PRIMARY EXPOSURE (CON'T)

- **CLOSE CONTACT (CON'T)**

If a student is deemed to have fallen into one of these categories, there are two options:

- **OPTION A**

- Quarantine can end after seven days (return on day eight) if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring and there is a negative PCR or rapid antigen test within 48 hours before the time of planned quarantine discontinuation (day seven).
- Test must be collected on day five or later (assume a 48 hour turnaround time) but cannot be released from quarantine earlier than day seven, despite test results.
- Documentation of negative PCR or rapid antigen test must be shared with the school.

- **OPTION B**

- Quarantine can end after day 10 (return on Day 11) without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring.

When shortened quarantine is in place, these steps should be followed through day 14 after exposure:

- Daily symptom monitoring
- No medication to minimize or mask symptoms of COVID-19 while attending class or school activities
- Mitigation strategies, including correctly and consistently wearing a face covering and social distancing, which are part of school protocols

[For guidance on when to start and stop quarantine, visit the CDC website.](#) These guidelines are constantly being updated by the CDC, and we are continuing to monitor them, and may change as conditions warrant. All primary COVID-19 exposures will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

SECONDARY EXPOSURE TO COVID-19

A secondary exposure is defined as somebody who has contact with the person who has been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. At this time, the recommendations are to simply monitor for symptoms. No quarantine is required. Routine screenings will apply.

SOCIAL + EMOTIONAL CARE

The changes in social interactions among students had a profound effect on the Irish community since the onset to COVID-19. During Distance Learning, we learned that some of our students were struggling with the loss of day-to-day personal contact with friends and teachers. Realizing this, our counseling staff was quick to respond. There will be many challenges as we enter the school year, and our counselors are poised to address the needs of our students, as situations arise. Initiatives are being developed to help students cope with the numerous changes brought on by COVID-19.

VIRTUAL McGUINNESS

As the first day of school, August 12, approaches, and the pandemic evolves, families have expressed interest in a Virtual McGuinness option. Catholic Virtual is able to provide families who desire a solely virtual model – either for medical reasons or based on their comfort level with the pandemic – that aligns with the Bishop McGuinness curriculum, including Theology. Commitment to Virtual McGuinness is a semester-long commitment.

Virtual McGuinness, offered through Catholic Virtual, offers 14 hours of online instruction a week, with accompanying assignments and one-to-one support. Catholic Virtual specializes in virtual learning, while continuing to collaborate with us on progress at the local level. It provides accredited online and blended learning programs for Catholic schools worldwide. Instruction is delivered through Catholic Virtual teachers who have degrees in their fields, are certified in Oklahoma, and have all the appropriate approval from organizations such as the College Board, NCAA and NCEA, and are also accredited through Cognia.

Students who pursue this option will still remain actively enrolled at Bishop McGuinness, which allows them to participate in school activities, access counseling services, and remain a part of the Irish community.

Enrollment for Virtual McGuinness is open thru August 14 – [please email Dr. Andrew Worthington](#) for information on how to register.

TUITION + FEES

At this time there are no plans to change the BMCHS tuition structure. Regardless of the learning model, the school's cost to provide educational services do not decrease; therefore, we are unable to offer any change in tuition. In fact, due to the increased need for sanitation supplies, safety protocols and technology infrastructure, the costs of running the school during COVID-19 actually increase as we work to implement these different models.

TRAVEL GUIDELINES

TRAVELING BY AIR

Students and faculty traveling by air will be required to quarantine for five (5) days upon their return to Oklahoma City. Students and faculty can return after a 72 hour quarantine, if they receive a negative COVID-19 rapid test or a negative PCR test.

TRAVELING BY GROUND TRANSPORTATION

Students and faculty using ground transportation to travel out-of-state, will be required to quarantine for 72 hours upon their return to Oklahoma City. A COVID-19 test is not required to return to school.

EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

Students and faculty who have contracted COVID-19 during the 2020-21 school year will not be required to quarantine if traveling during the break.

Students and faculty who have received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine will not be required to quarantine if traveling during the break.

DOCUMENTATION

Students and faculty who have received their COVID-19 vaccinations, or have contracted COVID-19 during the 2020-21 school year, must share the documentation with Ms. Courtney Gougler. Documentation includes: COVID-19 vaccinations sheet and / or a note from your doctor indicating when you contracted COVID-19.

RETURN TO SCHOOL COMMITTEES

ARCHDIOCESAN HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

led by Dr. Diane Floyd, Superintendent of Catholic Schools

BISHOP MCGUINNESS COVID-19 TASKFORCE

David Morton, Principal + President
Anne Hathcoat, Asst. Principal
Rebecca Damron, Sophomore Counselor
Veleecia Hearne, Senior Counselor
Janet Ciupak, Chief Financial Officer
Katelyn Kelly, Communications Coordinator
Dr. Stephanie Grim

Bob Epps, Asst. Principal
Andrew Worthington, Asst. Principal
Courtney Gougler, Freshman Counselor
Sandy Nedbalek, Junior Counselor
Mary Joyce, Director of Advancement
John Hamilton, Director of Athletics
C.J. Fedor, Athletic Trainer

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Dr. David Chansolme
Jeff Segell
Ben Williams
Mary Joyce, Director of Advancement
Andrew Worthington, Asst. Principal

Lisa Edmonds
Amy Walters
Janet Ciupak, Chief Financial Officer
David Morton, Principal + President

GUIDING COMMITTEES

School Operations: David Morton + Andrew Worthington
Spiritual Development: Kelly Allen
Academics: Andrew Worthington
Social + Emotional Care: Kylie Lyons + Rebecca Damron-Whitehead
Extracurricular Activities: John Hamilton
School Community: Diane Drum + Veleecia Hearne-McKeever

STUDENTS

Senior Catholic Social Teaching Class
Work Grant Students
Student Council