



# RETURN TO SCHOOL

*Plan for 2021-22 School Year*



Updated: July 27, 2021



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# MESSAGE FROM MR. MORTON

Dear Parents and School Community Members,

COVID-19 created many challenges for our school community last year. Sadly, the virus claimed one of our most beloved teachers, as well as several family members of current students and alumni. As the new school year approaches, many of the safeguards imposed during the 2020-21 school year have relaxed, but it is important that we not let our guard down.

I could not be more proud of our faculty, staff, students and parents for the way we navigated our way through and around the COVID-19 pandemic last year. It is remarkable that we only lost two instructional days of school due to COVID-19. As the new school year approaches, however, COVID-19 cases around the country, and particularly within our own state, are once again on the rise. The new variant seems to be focused on a younger population, and particularly those who have not been vaccinated. We have hosted several vaccination clinics this summer, and I am happy to say that many of our families and teachers have taken advantage of this opportunity. We will host another clinic on Friday, August 6 at 2:00 p.m. Information about upcoming COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics hosted at Bishop McGuinness will be sent out via email. Vaccinations at Walgreens and CVS pharmacies are also readily available.

I am hopeful that many of our students will be vaccinated prior to the start of school. This is certainly not a requirement for attendance, but vaccinated students, or students who have had COVID-19 within 90 days of exposure, will not be required to quarantine unless regulations change from the CDC or Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. We will not be requiring masks for our students, teachers, or staff when school begins; however, all non-vaccinated students are strongly encouraged to wear a mask when they are in the building. **Students and faculty are asked to keep a mask with them at all times.** We will encourage mask wearing when we gather in large groups for Mass or assemblies. If our COVID-19 numbers are low, and we are seeing little effects from being in school, we may suspend that rule after six weeks.

Non-vaccinated students will be subject to quarantine if they have been exposed at school, a school activity, or away from school. We will follow the quarantine protocols listed on our website and in this document. Also, we are asking all students who have been vaccinated to register their vaccination card with the school during orientation. Again, this is not a requirement, but it will keep us from unnecessarily calling them out of class, or contacting parents in the event of an exposure. Students who have been vaccinated and are participating in athletics will not miss games or practice time due to an exposure. Non-vaccinated students, however, will not be able to participate in games and/or practices while in quarantine.

Like last year, COVID-19 protocols are fluid and can change depending on infections within our school population. I am excited to report that 99% of our faculty and staff have been vaccinated. I am hopeful that our student population is at or above the 60% for Oklahoma County. The higher our vaccination rate, the greater chance of having a normal school year. As always, if you have questions about COVID-19, do not hesitate to contact myself or one of the other school administrators.

Yours in Christ,



David Morton  
Principal + President

# RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN - THE BASICS

## ACADEMICS

- Students will continue traditional, in-person learning.
- In the event of school closure due to COVID-19 or inclement weather, we will return to virtual learning.

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Extracurricular activities will continue with safeguards in place.

## LUNCH

- Students will continue to be split into four lunch periods each day. Lunch will resume as normal in the cafeteria.
- Breakfast and lunch are free to all students for the 2021-22 school year.

## MASKS

- In keeping with the guidance from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the CDC, masks are recommended, but not required, particularly for those who are not fully vaccinated.

## QUARANTINE

- Quarantine practices will continue in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the CDC guidelines.
- Fully vaccinated individuals, students and staff, or those who have had COVID-19 within the last 90 days will not be required to quarantine.

## REPORTING PROCEDURES

- Students and parents must report all pending and positive tests, close contact exposures, or COVID-19 symptoms to Courtney Gougler at [cgougler@bmchs.org](mailto:cgougler@bmchs.org) or 405-842-6638 ext. 225
- Contact tracing and COVID-19 reporting will continue in collaboration with the CDC and the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

## SAFEGUARDS AT SCHOOL

- Enhanced sanitization will continue, including high touch surfaces, desks, tables and restrooms. Electrostatic sprayer will continue to be used in classrooms and high traffic areas.
- Air purifying systems will remain in use in all classrooms. Additionally, school HVAC systems have been adjusted and improved to the highest extent possible to allow for additional air flow within the buildings.
- Social distancing is encouraged. Classroom desks and common areas are arranged to maximize distance between students, as space allows.

## VACCINATIONS

- In keeping with the guidance from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the CDC, vaccines are recommended for those eligible.
- The COVID-19 vaccine will not be required for enrollment.
- Proof of full COVID-19 vaccination will exempt individuals from quarantine. Students can show proof at orientation.

## VISITORS ON CAMPUS

- Parents and visitors are welcome on campus, within our safety guidelines.

## 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.

# SAFEGUARDS AT SCHOOL

## 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.

## 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

Non-vaccinated students are strongly encouraged to wear a mask when they are in the building. Face masks will not be required for our students, teachers, or staff when school begins. Students and faculty are asked to keep a mask with them at all times.

## HALLWAYS

Visual aids will be used when possible to illustrate traffic flow and appropriate spacing. One-way halls have been removed; however students should always keep to the right of the hallway and barriers will be provided where necessary.

## 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

Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association (OSSAA), which Bishop McGuinness is a member of, activities will proceed as normal. Coaches and student-athletes will follow guidelines outlined in this document as it pertains to vaccinations, mask-wearing and quarantine. Any questions concerning athletic activities should be directed to Mr. John Hamilton, athletic director. Regularly scheduled 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 be allowed. Approval is granted through Mr. Robert Epps, assistant principal of student affairs.

# SAFEGUARDS AT SCHOOL

## FAITH FORMATION

All School Mass will be held in the Petuskey Performing Arts Auditorium after the first six (6) weeks of school. 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 will be scheduled and organized by Ms. Kelly Allen, campus minister.

## LIBRARY

The library will be open to a limited number of students for printing and checking out materials. If a student needs more than 15 minutes in the library for projects and the quiet room, reservations should be made through Mrs. Natasha Seymour, librarian.

## LOCKERS

Lockers will not be allocated to 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 maintain four (4) lunch periods. Tables in the Commons will be limited to eight (8) students, with additional seating available in Brandt Park. 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 be allowed to have off-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. 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. Special schedules, including Late Start, Mass and Assembly schedules – will be in place after the first six (6) weeks of school.

## WATER FOUNTAINS

Water fountains will be available for student use. It is recommended students provide their own water bottle and use either the filling station in Senior Hall or across from the Petuskey Auditorium.

## 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.

# PROTOCOLS FOR EXPOSURE

In all situations concerning either a positive COVID-19 test or exposure to someone who has received a positive COVID-19 test, please contact Ms. Courtney Gougler, COVID-19 Communications.

## 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

# PROTOCOLS FOR EXPOSURE

- 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

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

- **OPTION A**
  - Students who have registered their vaccination with the school and have been primarily exposed are not required to quarantine but should monitor for symptoms. Vaccinations can be registered with Ms. Courtney Gougler, COVID-19 Communications.
- **OPTION B**
  - Quarantine can end after seven (7) days if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring and there is a negative PCR test on day five (5) after exposure.
  - Test must be collected on day five (5) or later, but cannot be released from quarantine earlier than day seven (7), despite test results.
  - Documentation of negative PCR or rapid antigen test must be shared with the school.
- **OPTION C**
  - Quarantine can end after day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring. Students can return to school on day 11, as long as no symptoms are present.

When shortened quarantine is in place, these steps should be followed 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. Whether it was the isolation of Distance Learning in the spring of 2020, or the impact of wearing a mask during the 2020-21 school year, we learned that some of our students were struggling with the loss of day-to-day personal contact with friends and teachers.

Counselors are poised to address the needs of our students. Existing protocols, and new initiatives, are in place to help students cope with the numerous changes brought on by COVID-19.

If your child is experiencing difficulty, please contact Ms. Sarai Cerano, Health + Wellness Counselor.

# ONLINE INSTRUCTION

## **VIRTUAL LEARNING**

In the event of in-person instruction being suspended due to inclement weather or COVID precautions, the school move into virtual learning under the direction of Mr. David Morton, Principal + President.

Virtual Learning will follow the regular seven (7) class schedule. Teachers will post instructional material to Google Classroom by 7:30 a.m. Students are required to complete their work as directed by their teachers. If there are any issues in accessing material, please contact Dr. Andrew Worthington, Assistant Principal for Curriculum + Testing.

## **DISTANCE LEARNING**

In the event a blanket order from the state shuts down school for two (2) weeks or more, students will move into Distance Learning. Distance Learning will follow an A-B block schedule with an option for synchronous instruction.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

## **GENERAL SCHOOL INQUIRIES**

advancement@bmchs.org

## **ACADEMIC INQUIRIES**

Andrew Worthington, Assistant Principal for Curriculum + Testing  
aworthington@bmchs.org

## **ATHLETICS INQUIRIES**

John Hamilton, Athletic Director  
jhamilton@bmchs.org

## **COVID-19 REPORTING**

Courtney Gougler, COVID-19 Communications  
cgougler@bmchs.org

## **FACILITY RENTALS**

Robert Epps, Assistant Principal for Student Affairs  
bepps@bmchs.org

## **FAITH FORMATION**

Kelly Allen, Campus Minister  
kallen@bmchs.org

## **LIBRARY RESERVATIONS**

Natasha Seymour, Librarian  
nseymour@bmchs.org

## **SOCIAL + EMOTIONAL CARE**

Sarai Cerano, Health + Wellness Counselor  
scerano@bmchs.org

## **VACCINATION SUBMISSIONS**

Courtney Gougler, COVID-19 Communications  
cgougler@bmchs.org