

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Gaylord, inspired by the life of Jesus Christ and rooted in the Catholic faith, foster Christian discipleship, academic excellence, self-responsibility and service to others.

**A Message from the Diocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools**

Today brings us within just a few days of opening our schools and bringing students back to our buildings for the beginning of the school year. Though this is a different beginning of the school year than we have experienced in the past, our goals are the same in being able to provide a rigorous academic education to your children in an environment that welcomes and celebrates the rich Catholic faith centered on the promises and teachings of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

In this edition of our Parent Connection newsletter, we share some common Questions and Answers that parents have been asking in regards to how schools are preparing for the start of the school year. Perhaps you will find these relevant in regards to considerations that you may have been thinking about, as well.

Join us in praying for the welfare of our children as they return to school,

“God, Our Father, We pray that through the intercession of St. Nicholas you will protect our children. Keep them safe from harm and help them grow and become worthy in Your sight. Give them strength to keep alive their joy in Your creation. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.”

Respectfully,



Frank Sander  
Superintendent

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Excerpted from:

[Diocese of Gaylord Catholic Schools COVID-19 Preparedness Plan](#)

**HEALTH AND SAFETY FAQs****Q: What does “reopening our schools” really mean?**

A: Gathering as a school community is an integral part of Catholic education. Our plan is to reopen our school buildings to students this fall. This means that all students are welcome to return to classes for face-to-face instruction. We have developed an in-depth plan that addresses numerous aspects of the reopening process, and how schools will function once reopened.

**Q: Who decides when a school has met the requirements to reopen? When will this happen?**

A: Our plan includes specific requirements that schools must meet in order to reopen. Schools must complete a plan and submit it to the diocese for review. In completing this plan, the schools must take into account both opening for school with face-to-face instruction and/or returning to a remote learning platform, if necessary.

**Q: Should I take my child’s temperature every day before school?**

A: Yes. A high fever is a key symptom of COVID-19. Parents should take their child’s temperature every day before their child is taken to school. If your child has a temperature of over 100.4°F, your child needs to be kept home from school. You should contact your child’s doctor and the school’s main office. Similarly, you should ask your child if he/she has any of the other [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, such as a sore throat, coughing, or nausea. If your child complains of these symptoms, you should keep him/her home and contact your doctor and the school office.

**Q: What does the plan say about safety and cleanliness requirements for school buildings?**

A: Our plan includes very specific requirements for the ongoing cleaning and sanitizing of our school buildings. Generally speaking, buildings will be cleaned very frequently, with a particular focus on high-traffic areas and common surfaces. Windows and/or vents should be opened to maximize air flow. Barriers will be installed in main office areas.

**Q: Can I still volunteer at school?**

A: We have asked schools to minimize the number of volunteers this year in an effort to mitigate risk.

**INFECTION PROTOCOLS FAQs****Q: What should I do if my child has symptoms of COVID-19?**

A: If your child shows [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, you contact your doctor. Your doctor may ask that your child participate in a COVID-19 test. You should alert your school’s main office and not send your child to school.

If the symptoms occur during the school day, your child will be immediately sent to the office and you will be contacted to pick your child up from school.

**Q: My child had COVID-19-like symptoms, but tested negative for COVID-19. When can he/she return to school?**

A: If your child does not have COVID-19, but has another illness, you must keep your child home until the illness symptoms disappear.

**Q: What should I do if my child tests positive for COVID-19?**

A: Immediately contact your doctor for additional instructions. Also contact your school’s main office. Do not send your child to school.

**Q: What happens if my child’s teacher tests positive for COVID-19?**

A: Should any employee have COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19, we will follow the same protocols used for students (see above). If your child’s teacher becomes sick and is unable to work, your school will provide a substitute teacher.

**Q: What happens if another student in my child’s class tests positive for COVID-19?**

A: Your school will make all parents aware that a student has tested positive for COVID-19. All students in the cohort will be monitored closely for COVID-19 symptoms. If more than one student tests positive for COVID-19, it is likely that the entire cohort will be sent home for at least 14 days. Students will be allowed to complete work virtually while the cohort is away from school.

**Q: Could my child’s school building be closed down due to COVID-19 this year?**

A: We will do our best to ensure a safe and healthy environment in the coming year. However, if numerous cases appear in a single school, resulting in the isolation of multiple classes/cohorts, we may need to close the school building and transition all students to virtual learning for a time. Parents will be updated regularly should that need arise.

**TUITION AND FEES FAQs****Q: Will schools still collect tuition this year?**

A: Yes. While this school year may look different, our schools will continue to provide a rigorous academic experience while supporting the moral and spiritual development of each student. Our Catholic schools depend upon tuition revenue to pay our employees who do this work and support other school-related expenses.

**Q: I am having difficulty paying tuition, as my own workplace has been impacted by COVID-19. What do I do?**

A: We know that some families may have difficulties paying tuition due to the loss of pay during workplace closures and are ready to support those in need of assistance. If this is happening to you, please contact your school’s principal. We understand your situation and will do our very best to work with you.

For the complete preparedness plan, click on:

[Diocese of Gaylord Catholic Schools COVID-19 Preparedness Plan](#)