



January 7, 2022

Dear Parents,

At the start of the school year, it was the fervent intention of the Office of Catholic Schools and Sacred Heart that we maintain in-person instruction if at all possible, with virtual being an absolute last resort. We know from research and personal experience that this is the best learning environment for children, and that virtual learning is highly inconvenient for you as parents. Our deciding factor in this decision was the number of teachers able to work and the availability of substitute teachers.

Thanks to a high vaccination rate and safety protocols, we have mostly been able to mitigate the spread of the Covid19 virus at Sacred Heart. However, the highly contagious omicron variant seems to be living up to its reputation. Our top priority has always been the safety and wellness of our faculty, staff, and students. While we are not yet seeing a significant outbreak among our students, we currently have approximately 20% of our K-12 faculty/staff affected by the virus. Without our teachers, and with a shortage of trained and qualified substitutes, we have no choice but to pivot to virtual instruction for K-12 for the coming week. We know this is an inconvenience and we wish we had another option. As always, we remain committed to providing quality education for your children during this virtual week.

We are sending home and posting to our website information for the coming week for elementary students; they will be bringing home chromebooks today. High school classes will take place at their normal scheduled time unless advised differently by the teacher; instructions are attached. For all students, attendance will be taken and students are expected to be present; if a student is not well enough to attend they should email their teacher. Teachers will be on campus to deliver their virtual classes unless they are quarantined or ill. Those who are quarantined for close contact will teach virtually from home; those who are sick will either teach from home if they feel well enough or they will notify students of alternate instructions.

We intend for virtual instruction to only last one week, but we will communicate with all families by noon Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup> with information for the week of January 18-21, 2022 (we are out of school Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day). The school office will be open and staff will be available to answer questions if you are unable to reach your child's teacher.

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In addition to considering how to provide education, we must also make difficult decisions regarding extra-curricular activities.

- By decision of our conference peewee representatives, all remaining peewee games have been cancelled.
- Tonight and next week we have high school basketball games. In evaluating how to move forward, we must follow the regulations set out by the Arkansas Activities Association and the 1A conference to which we belong. Last year, any game not played due to covid was considered a no contest game and did not affect team ranking; this year, the AAA rule states "...the placement of the teams who failed to play the required game(s) in the final order of standings shall be accomplished by two computations. First, the teams shall be placed in order on the basis of round-robin games actually played. Then each team shall be charged a loss of each game not played and the standings order adjusted accordingly." Considering that the reason we are moving to virtual classes is due to a shortage of teachers, we still intend to participate in games, unless we have students/coaches affected. We do not want to penalize our athletes if we can help it. We also consider basketball to be an optional sport and no student is mandated to play or attend.
- At this time the decision has been made for both junior and senior high Beta clubs to not attend the state convention Jan. 19-21. However, the convention may end up virtual. If needed, sponsors will deliver all make and take art to the convention

The decision to move to virtual instruction was not easily made and the most current guidelines from the Arkansas Department of Health are being followed at every level. New information was just released today regarding the required length of isolation and quarantine. The full set of guidelines are available on the Covid19 page of our website. These guidelines may shorten the isolation/quarantine requirements for individuals who were sent home prior to today.

We ask that our families have patience with us as we continue to navigate this ever-changing situation. We sincerely hope that this variant follows the expectations and subsides quickly and we look forward to being back on campus with your children asap. If your child(ren) tests positive or has to quarantine due to close contact while we are virtual, please email school nurse Amy Burgener ([aburgener1@sacredheartmorilton.org](mailto:aburgener1@sacredheartmorilton.org)).

Warmest Regards,



Mr. Buddy Greeson, Principal  
Sacred Heart Catholic School

## Elementary Student Expectations

### Virtual Days – January 10-14

**\*Devices will be sent home with all elementary students on Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. Please return devices when school resumes on January 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**These are actual school days, and grades will be taken. Assignments must be submitted by due date. Late work will be penalized. Please contact your child's teacher with any concerns.**

1. Take home all needed supplies on Friday, Jan. 7th.
2. Login to your Google Classroom using your school email/password.

Complete/submit all assignments by due date. Directions on submitting assignments will be included with the assignment.

**ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN GOOGLE CLASSROOM – NOT EMAILED OR TEXTED TO THE TEACHER**

3. Join Google Meets if possible. (See Schedule)
  - Students should be sitting at table/desk.
  - Students should be wearing school uniform.
  - To join live stream Google Meet: from the Classwork tab in Google Classroom, select Google Calendar. You should see the scheduled meet times for your class. Click the link to join.
  - Camera on.
  - Microphone muted unless asking/answering questions.
4. Check Google Classroom several times throughout the day because all assignments will not be posted at 8am each morning. Assignments are posted under CLASSWORK. Any announcements will be posted in the STREAM.

### **Before Monday, January 10th**

1. Login to Google Classroom to make sure you can get in.

## Google Meet Schedule

January 10-14

### K-2nd

8:15 – 9:15

10:00-11:00

1:00-2:00

### 3<sup>rd</sup>

8:15-9:45

10:00-11:00

1:00-2:30

### 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>

8:15-9:45

10:00-11:30

1:00-2:30

12:30-1:00 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Religion (Monday Only)

**\*Meets will be recorded and posted for students unable to join live.**

# Sacred Heart High School Student Expectations for Virtual Days

## (Grades 7-12)

Parents and Students,

During school-assigned virtual days, attendance will be taken for each class. Assignments must be submitted by the due date. Late work will be penalized. Please contact a teacher by email if you have any questions. These are actual school days. The following student expectations will be enforced.

### Student Expectations:

1. Login to your Google Classroom using your school email and password.
2. Complete and submit all assignments by the due date. Unless otherwise specified by a teacher, all assignments must be turned into Google Classroom under "Classwork." Please do not email your work to your teacher unless he or she has specifically asked you to do so.
3. **When joining a Google Meet for a class:**
  - a. Students should be sitting at a desk or table where there is a flat surface for writing. Students should **not** be in bed. Students should have materials present (books, notes, notebooks, etc.) for each class.
  - b. Students should be wearing a **school uniform** (Sacred Heart sweatshirts are acceptable). Like at school, no hats or hoods pulled up over your head.
  - c. To join a live stream Google Meet: From the Classwork tab in Google Classroom, select Google Calendar. You should see the scheduled Meet times for your classes. Click the link to join.
4. **Attendance:** Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class when the teacher signs on to the Google Meet.
  - a. You will be marked tardy if you are not present within a few minutes.
  - b. You are dismissed when the teacher dismisses class. If you leave early, you may be counted absent for that class.
5. **Cameras:** Your camera must be on your entire face during the entire class. Students are expected to participate in the instruction.
  - a. Your camera must be functional.
  - b. Student behavior should be just like in the classroom at school. Laughing, causing distractions, etc. will not be tolerated. If your camera is turned off at any

time before class is over, or if a student is not behaving appropriately, that student may be counted absent for that class. Students and parents will be notified of inappropriate behavior.

- c. No backgrounds are allowed. They are a distraction.
  - d. No eating during a Google Meet (just like at school). You may drink as long as it is not overt or distracting.
- 6. Microphones:** When joining the Meet, please mute yourself. Leave yourself muted until attendance is taken or the teacher asks a question. Everyone does not need to hear everyone's background noise during the Meet.
- a. Your microphone must also be functional. If either your microphone or camera are not working, use a family member's computer or, at the very least, join the Meet from your cell phone.
  - b. During class, you must ask questions orally just like in class. Teachers can not check the chat and answer when they are teaching. Simply unmute yourself, address your teacher, and ask your question.
- 7. Enable notifications on your phone:** This will allow you to be notified if something is added to Google Classroom.
- 8. Teachers will answer questions by email during the regular school day 8:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Monday through Friday.**

#### **Quizzes and Tests:**

1. Log on to Google Meet and Google Classroom.
2. WAIT for your teacher to tell you when to begin. Everyone MUST begin at the same time.
3. When time is called by the teacher, the quiz/test MUST be submitted at that moment.
4. Your camera should be on your entire face throughout the duration of the quiz/test.
5. You MUST submit your quiz or test BEFORE you log off of Google Meet and Google Classroom.
6. Failure to do any of the above steps may result in a failing grade for that quiz/test and disciplinary action.

**Note: Teachers know what to expect, and students know the expectations. Even in a virtual format, we are still having school and instructional time. The same rules apply virtually. Your teachers are working hard to make sure that your educational needs are being met. We value your education, and we expect for you to value it as well. We will get through these uncertain times together!**



Updated Guidance for Schools based on Revised CDC Guidelines  
January 6, 2022

# RESPONSE LEVELS FOR ON-SITE LEARNING

Helping school districts determine health risks in  
relation to community spread of COVID-19

**ARKANSAS**

READY **FOR** LEARNING



DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY  
& SECONDARY EDUCATION



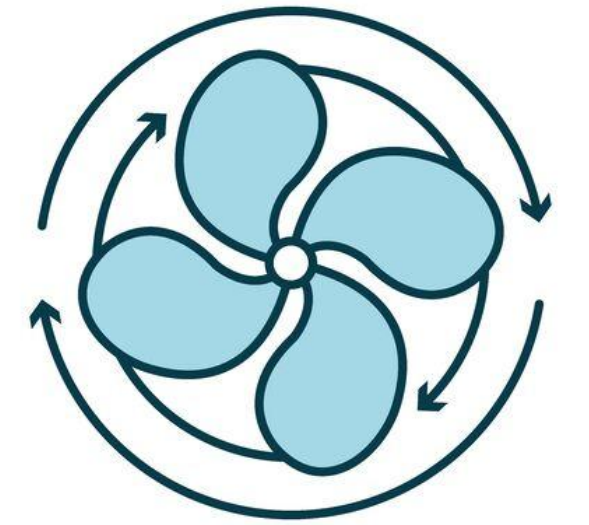
# CONTINUED SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



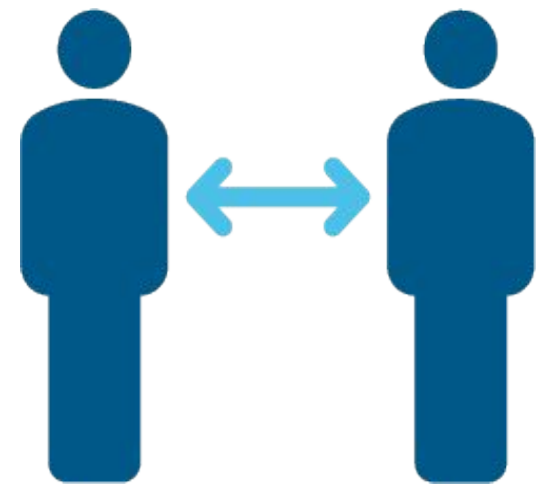
**Vaccinations**



**Disinfecting**



**Ventilation**



**Physical  
Distancing**



**Face  
Covering**



**Good Hand  
Hygiene**





# ISOLATION

Isolation is required for someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status. This person is required to:

- Stay home for at least 5 days
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house (return to school).
- Continue to wear a mask around others through the 10th day of isolation.

*If you have fever, continue to stay home for 24 hours after fever has resolved.*



## **PROBABLE CLOSE CONTACT/QUARANTINE**

**An individual who has likely been within 3 feet (6 feet, if childcare) for 15 cumulative minutes or longer within a 24-hour period during the infectious period of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.**



## WHAT TO DO FOR QUARANTINE

- Stay home and away from other people for at least 5 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.
- Wear a well-fitting mask through the 10th day after contact with a person who has COVID-19.
  - If you are unable to wear a mask, continue to quarantine for 10 days.
- Monitor for symptoms, and if symptoms occur self-isolate and get tested.





## WHO SHOULD QUARANTINE

If you are considered a close contact with someone with COVID-19, you should quarantine if you are in one of the following groups:

- You are ages 18 or older and completed the primary series of recommended vaccine, but have not received a recommended booster shot when eligible.
- You are age 18 or older and received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine (completing the primary series) over 2 months ago and have not received the recommended booster dose
- You are not vaccinated or have not completed a primary vaccine series.





## WHO DOES NOT NEED TO QUARANTINE

If you came into close contact with someone with COVID-19 and you are in one of the following groups, you do not need to quarantine:

- You are ages 18 and older and have received all recommended vaccine doses, including booster and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people
- You are ages 5-17 years and completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.
- You had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (PCR or Antigen Test)

# OTHER EXCEPTIONS TO QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS

1. Individuals exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 will not need to quarantine if the exposed individual has no symptoms and both the infected and exposed individual consistently and correctly were wearing a mask.
2. If at least 70% of staff and students are fully vaccinated in a school, individuals in the school (not district) are not required to quarantine.

# ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

**An individual who has completed at least 5 full days of at-home isolation or quarantine may participate in activities provided they are able to properly mask during that activity for the remainder of the 10 day isolation or quarantine period.**

*\*\*Interscholastic athletic activities may be subject to additional health and safety protocols adopted by the Arkansas Activities Association.*

# MASKING

**If you are unable to wear a mask for any reason, you should complete a full 10-day quarantine/isolation.**



# IMPORTANT LINKS

[Arkansas Department of Health Guidance](#)

[DESE Resources for Schools](#)

[CDC Guidance](#)