



SHRINE CATHOLIC Schools

Faith • Family • Future

August, 2021

Dear Shrine Family,

One of the best parts of returning home to Michigan is the natural beauty of the four seasons. Fall marks the return to school and community life, something that we have come to cherish in new ways over the past year. At Shrine, we have been preparing our learning spaces and eagerly anticipating welcoming our new and returning faculty, staff, and students. As we prepare to begin our next academic season, I would like to share our current plans for a safe in person return to school.

Near the end of last school year the Archdiocese of Detroit Department of Catholic Schools, led by Assistant Superintendent Vic Michaels, met on a regular basis to write all COVID-19 Safety Plans for schools within the Archdiocese. Most recently rules and recommendations were updated which were shared on the DCS website at <https://www.detroitcatholicschools.org/news/prek-12-health-and-safety-guidance> (document attached). We certainly have come a long way since the early days when our schools first opened their doors last August during the fluctuating outbreak numbers.

With the clear guidance of the AOD and following recommendations made by the State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, I have worked with our school administration to establish a clear pathway forward for Shrine Catholic Schools which will lead us into the 2021-2022 school year.

Masks/Personal Protective Equipment:

Masks are strongly encouraged but not a requirement at this time. The prominence of the Delta variant and other strains calls us to be extra vigilant for the unvaccinated. Please note that the mask optional policy may change during the course of the year depending on the recommendation of state and local health departments.

On Cleaning/Sanitizing/Distancing:

Regular cleaning and disinfecting of all surfaces will continue. Hand sanitizer will be provided. Distancing of 3-6 feet will be maintained whenever possible, and 3 feet of distance when eating. Please look for specific guidelines regarding lunch in the upcoming school communications.

Joanne Swan Jones, Head of Schools

shrineschools.com

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Symptom/Positive Case Monitoring:

Parents are asked to monitor their students for illness before sending them to school. It is critical that students who are not feeling well do not come to school. All staff are required to self-monitor for illness.

On Vaccinations:

In alignment with the current guidance from Archdiocese of Detroit, while vaccinations are not required, they are "strongly encouraged for employees and eligible students, as 'an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common good.' No person will be asked if they are vaccinated except in the case of a close- contact exposure to COVID-19. In this case the vaccinated person would have a shorter quarantine period. Proof of vaccinations would only be required by the Oakland County Health Division and would not be stored at Shrine.

While you absorb these guidelines please know that our dedicated faculty and staff are steadfast in their commitment in providing a safe and healthy environment for all our students. As we receive updated guidance, we will continue to communicate any changes in health and safety protocols. I am sure you join me in the desire for a return to a school year where we can all come together as a community to share in God’s love and blessings for all our Shrine Knights.

God Bless,

Joanne Swan Jones
Head of Schools