
ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Dear St. Patrick Students and Families:

I hope this email finds you and your family well - we hope our Fighting Irish are enjoying the summer!

We want to take an opportunity to update you on many of our plans for the start of the 2020-21 school year. St. Patrick Catholic High School remains committed to the health and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff. We continue to take the steps needed to keep our school community safe through proactive and precautionary measures while providing an exceptional Catholic, college preparatory education.

May we continue to lift those in prayer who have been affected by the Coronavirus. John 1:5 says: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." There are many beacons of light in darkness. Jesus' love is one. The healthcare and frontline workers are another. And you, our St. Patrick students, families, and friends are yet another. In the midst of everything happening around us, may we remember that there is a light in the darkness; that the darkness will not overcome us. May we serve as leaders and examples for others and keep the joy in our hearts. Please continue with your prayers, your love, and your random acts of kindness in a world that is in much need of all of those.

Our administration and staff are continuing to work hard each day throughout the summer in preparation for the 2020-21 school year. During the month of July, our office is open from 8am to 3pm each Monday through Friday. Please call, email, or stop by if there is anything you need.

We look forward to a wonderful 2020-21 school year - another year of great success in scholarship, discipleship, and championship. **We will continue to update everyone as information is available and decided.** We remain in close contact with the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi and our partner elementary schools. We will also continue to review information daily from Governor Reeves, the Mississippi Department of Health, the Mississippi Department of Education, and the Mississippi High School Activities Association. **Thank you for your understanding of the fluidity of the situation, and know that we will update all families as information is available and decisions are made.**

As previously announced, **we plan to return to campus on Thursday, August 6, with in-person classes in as traditional a setting as possible.** We will be implementing social distancing guidelines and daily sanitation requirements.

Below are details of some of our plans as of now:

Sanitation Protocols - Throughout the summer, all campus facilities, classrooms, offices, buses, athletic facilities, etc. are being thoroughly cleaned and sanitized. Daily sanitation protocols will continue on an ongoing basis throughout the school year. We are installing hand sanitizer dispensers in all classrooms and in all areas of campus for students, faculty, and staff. All classroom desks will be sanitized after each class period, and all buses will be sanitized after each bus route.

Mass - The fundamental core of our mission at St. Patrick is spirituality, discipleship, and service to others. We will continue to celebrate our school-wide Mass each week. For now, each of our priests will celebrate Mass in our school chapel located in the heart of campus, and Mass will be live-streamed to each classroom. Students and faculty will participate in Mass from their second period classroom, and Holy Communion will be distributed to each classroom during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. We will also provide the opportunity for parents, guests, and alumni to join us for Mass

and Spiritual Communion virtually each week.

Bus Service - We will continue to provide bus transportation to and from each of our partner elementary schools each morning and afternoon; however, we will be adding additional bus routes this year so we can maintain limited capacity on each bus. Face masks will be required on buses, and temperature checks will be conducted each morning. In the coming weeks, we will be asking parents who are interested in the bus service to register their child(ren) for one of our bus routes. This will assist us in building the most efficient bus routes. We remain grateful to the Foundation of St. Patrick for assisting us in funding our bus transportation service.

Face Masks - We will make the decision as to whether face masks will be required to be worn during the school day in the classrooms and hallways at least one week before the first day of class. If face masks are required to be worn during the school day, we will provide everyone with face masks.

Arrival/Departure - Upon arrival on campus each morning, students will be required to report directly to their first period class. We are unable to have large groups in the courtyards and cafeteria before school at this time. Breakfast will be available for purchase in the cafeteria each morning - students will be able purchase their breakfast in the cafeteria and take it with them to their first period classroom.

Temperature Checks - We are equipped and have preparations in order to check everyone's temperature upon arriving on campus each morning. We will make the decision as to whether this will be required at least one week before the first day of class. Students, faculty, and staff with a temperature above 100.4 will not be permitted to attend school until fever-free for at least 72 hours. For students who are not permitted to attend classes, video lessons and course assignments will be delivered via Canvas.

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities - Our athletic teams and extracurricular activities will operate under the same social distancing and sanitation protocols as our classrooms. We await guidance from the Mississippi High School Activities Association regarding games. Attendance at athletic contests may be limited, and social distancing guidelines will be enforced. More details will be disseminated prior to our first athletic contest.

Food Service - We will be adding additional lunch periods to our bell schedule. We are still working on the details for lunch, but it may be anywhere between students social distancing in the cafeteria during their scheduled lunch period to students having lunch delivered to their fourth period classroom. We will make the decision regarding lunches at least one week before the first day of school.

Distance Learning - In the event we are required to temporarily close school again in the future, we are fully equipped to provide an exceptional Catholic education virtually. Our faculty continue to work exceptionally with the Canvas learning management system, and we are equipped to provide the highest quality of virtual instruction, if necessary. As mentioned before, our plan is to return to as traditional a setting as possible. For parents who wish for their child(ren) to receive a distance learning environment instead of a traditional learning environment, we are fully equipped to accommodate both - we will, though, ask parents to commit to a specified time period (possibly one semester) of distance learning. Full tuition will be required for distance learning. For parents who are interested in distance learning, we will reach out in the coming weeks to provide more information.

Course Schedules - We are seeing major increases in enrollment again this year, and at St. Patrick, we strive to maintain small class sizes and seek to provide the most personalized learning opportunity possible. Students' course schedules will be released later than usual this year as we work to balance the master schedule, provide the smallest class sizes possible, and accommodate students' course requests as much as possible. Students will receive their course schedules by July 31.

I sincerely appreciate your support of our school. It is because of the tireless efforts of our students, faculty, and staff - combined with the support of our parents, families, and stakeholders - that we remain the premier secondary educational institution along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The vitality of our school is stronger than ever. Know of our continued love and prayers for your family. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please reach out to us anytime - my cell number is 228-217-6288 if you need to reach me outside

of regular school hours.

We look forward to seeing everyone very soon.

Go Irish!!



Dr. Matt Buckley
Principal



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
228.702.0500 | www.stpatrickhighschool.net

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