

SAINT BERNADETTE SCHOOL



Small school...BIG HEART

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are preparing to return to school in August five days per week! We know this has been a concern for many families and are anxious to establish all the necessary details and procedures for this return. Our plan so far includes moving kindergarten and first grade classrooms so that the students can be properly distanced. Our youngest students will not be wearing masks all day long, and cannot be grouped at tables, so more space for them is needed. We are looking at all of the classrooms, spacing within them, and establishing the necessary protocols to keep children and staff as safe as possible.

I am meeting with all available faculty next week and continue to meet with our task force on a weekly basis. These two groups, along with the information you have provided on surveys, is informing our decisions as we plan to re-open.

The governor's broadcast yesterday confirmed what scientists, pediatricians, and educators have been advising: It is vital that we continue to remain vigilant in our efforts against COVID-19, and also critical that we get students back in the classroom, learning from teachers in person, and creating community.

We definitely we will start school five days per week, but the trade-off is that other things will need to change. The way we move about the building, or where we eat lunch, or requiring masks for coming to the office, or staggering recess times, and other practices will be different...not bad, but definitely different so that we can



provide education within the model of best practices during a pandemic.

I am genuinely excited at the prospect of seeing your child Monday through Friday this year. Making that happen is somewhat daunting, but the help of our task force and the support of parents and teachers will make it possible, positive and productive.

We will send you details as they become available. In the meantime, please practice taking your child out in public wearing a mask from time to time, continue to stress good hygiene habits, and keep those of us wrangling the details for the fall in your prayers. We appreciate your patience and are counting on your support as we move forward.

The governor's Five Guidelines for schools this fall:

1. Vigilantly assess for symptoms (including temperature checks)
2. Wash & sanitize hands
3. Clean & sanitize shared surfaces at schools
4. Practice social distancing
5. Face coverings policy (required for staff, recommended for kids 3rd grade and up)

Preschools

These operate under the guidelines for child care centers. Our preschool staff has been meeting and planning for a regular opening of preschool, using all of the required guidelines.

Task Force next steps:

- Contacting those few families who did not respond to the survey
- Launching the technology survey next week
- Considering policy and procedure changes in conjunction with faculty input.

Calendar:

Our start date is still in flux. We would like to start the week of August 17, but will need to take preparing the school building in mind. Thank you for your patience on this matter. I hope to have a firm start date for you in the next two weeks.

Please continue to communicate whenever you have a question or concern. If you need to contact me privately, leave your name in a text message to my cell: 513-226-3301, or email me with a time and number to call you. The names of the people serving on the Task Force and their emails are in the green box, below. You are welcome to contact us with your concerns or thoughts.

In Christ,

~Mrs. Ingram

COVID TASK FORCE for RE-ENTRY to SCHOOL

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