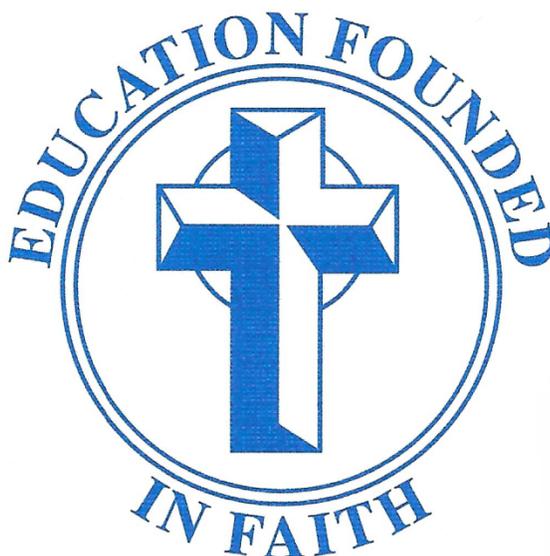


ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS



ST. GABRIEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

CONNERSVILLE, INDIANA

COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY RE-ENTRY PLAN

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

St. Gabriel School is committed to “Education founded in Faith” for preschool through sixth grade. Our Roman Catholic faith is taught, practiced, and celebrated. We are committed to meeting and exceeding archdiocesan standards, which include the Indiana Academic Standards, for academic excellence. Our purpose is to emphasize the spiritual dimension of development and high academic achievement within the context of a loving Catholic community.

“Everything has suddenly changed. What we previously took for granted seems to be uncertain: the way we relate with others at work, how we manage our emotions, study, recreation, prayer, even the possibility of attending Mass.....”

-Pope Francis
Strong in the Face of Tribulations:
A Sure Support in Time of Trial



Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis believe:

- in fostering positive relationships that exemplify the love of God;
- that Catholic school communities are enriched by the unique image and likeness of God that is present in each individual;
- that formation best occurs within faith-filled cultures of learning that are inclusive;
 - that parents are the primary educators of each young person and that it is the responsibility of Catholic schools to support the domestic church;
- that Catholic schools are part of the evangelizing mission of the Church, forming disciples through the intentional integration of faith, culture, and life; and
- that “excellence” is defined by and achieved through the growth and holistic development – spiritual, intellectual/academic, social, emotional, and physical – of the individual within the context of community.

ST. GABRIEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL will take every precaution possible to protect students and adults. Heightened protocols related to cleaning and sanitization are in place. Expectations of proper handwashing, physical distancing to the extent possible, and minimal sharing of resources to the extent possible will be enforced. Guidance from IDOE, CDC, and local authorities will be employed as best fits our Catholic school community as determined by administration. A more comprehensive plan follows.

Archdiocese of Indianapolis 2020 -2021

2020-2021 St. Gabriel Catholic School

July 15, 2020

Implementation of this Catholic School Re-Entry Plan is subject to change at the direction of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis in collaboration with the Indiana Department of Health. It is based on the best available information and conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic at the time of publication. This plan will evolve and be adjusted when information becomes available as the status of the COVID-19 pandemic changes. ST. GABRIEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL will continue to engage with the Office of Catholic Schools and other education partners as part of this important process.

This plan is founded with the safety of students, teachers, and staff as priority. A committee of educators, commission members, parents, medical personnel, etc. was formed to address and create protocols for the return of students in the fall. Guidance from the Office of Catholic Schools, the Indiana Department of Education, Indiana State Health Department, and Center for Disease Control was used to create a plan that speaks to the local subsidiary of ST. GABRIEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL. At all times ST. GABRIEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL leadership will make decisions based on the safety of all while continuing to ensure student learning is taking place. The school leadership, while in consultation with the Office of Catholic Schools, has the flexibility to do what is best for the ST. GABRIEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL community.

St. Gabriel School Re-Opening Plan 2020-21

We take great pride and joy in welcoming you to the 2020-2021 school year! It will be so good to have your children back within our school walls! We have been diligently working with guidance of the Office of Catholic School, the Fayette County Health Dept and the CDC in developing St. Gabriel's Re-entry Plan.

Masks

Masks will be required by all students and staff in the hallways, to and from the restrooms, in the office, to the lunchroom and whenever social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. Masks will be required while entering and leaving the building. Students should be sent to school with a mask (labeled with their name) daily. Parents may decide and notify the teacher if their child is to wear a mask in the classroom at all times. Masks may be any color and have characters on them but language or symbols that are vulgar, violent, sexual, drug/alcohol related in any way offensive or disruptive to anyone at school is not acceptable.

Hand Washing

Hand washing will be emphasized throughout the day. Hand sanitizing stations will be placed throughout the building and in classrooms. Students will be permitted to have their own sanitizer at their desk.

Attendance

Attendance recognitions and awards will not occur during the 2020-2021 school year.

Classroom

Seating will be assigned and arranged so that all students face the same direction and will be spaced as far apart as possible.

All students will have their own technology device and their own classroom supplies which will not be shared.

Recess

Preschool – Sixth grade will continue to have recess times made available. Recess will be staggered as much as possible to allow for social distancing. All recess equipment will be sanitized after use. Masks will not be worn at recess. Students will wash hands upon returning to the building.

Water Bottles

Students are required to have a filled water bottle with leak proof lid and a spout (no straws). All water fountains will be closed.

Before& After School Care

All students will report to their classrooms upon entering the building after 7:45. Students arriving before 7:45 will be social distancing in the main hallway until 7:45.

There will be no After School Care at this time. We will review later in the year.

Switching classes

Grades 4, 5 & 6 will not be switching classes as in the past years. Grades 5 and 6 will switch teachers for Math and Language Arts. Students will remain in their classrooms.

Mass

One half of the school will go on Tuesday and the other half will go on Thursday. Students in the classroom will watch via YouTube. Students at Mass will be practicing social distancing guidelines. Masks will not be worn at Mass. Parents/Grandparents may attend these Masses. There will be no singing at the Mass.

Bus Transportation

We will follow Fayette County School Corporation decisions about bus transportation.

Other..

Students will follow their teacher and always be on the right side of the hallway to promote social distancing in the halls. Students will also practice social distancing in their own lines.

Students will be taught best practice on how to clean their desks and will be instructed to do so when leaving class.

A restroom schedule will be followed by all grades.

Lunch

Extra tables are being set up in the cafeteria and we will use the computer lab so that we can sit as far apart as possible. We will have 3 lunch periods.

Preschool Eat in classroom

K, 1&2 11:15 – 11:50

3 & 4 12:00 – 12:35

5&6 12:40 – 1:10

Student's lunches will be prepackaged in a Styrofoam clam shell. Lunch personnel will serve the children after going to their assigned seats. Tables will be sanitized following each of the three lunches. No outside restaurant food may be brought in.

Sick students

Parents need to be attentive to the daily health of their children and will be required by the Archdiocese to sign a student Health and Safety Plan indicating their commitment to ensure their child is symptom free and safe to attend school each day. This includes being fever free for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medication. School staff will also be receiving professional development on how to recognize potential COVID-19 symptoms. Administration will report all positive cases to the Fayette County Health Dept and the Archdiocese of Indianapolis-Office of Catholic Schools. St. Gabriel School will follow the guidance and expectations of the Fayette County Health Dept.

Health Protocols:

It is essential for the St. Gabriel School and community to work together to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in the school environment while still providing a quality education program. The Fayette County Health Department has the authority to exclude students from school and may order students and others to isolate or quarantine (IC 16-41-9-1.6). St. Gabriel Catholic School will work closely with the local health department when making these decisions. Symptoms Impacting Consideration for Exclusion from School All school employees will receive training to recognize COVID-19-related symptoms:

- A fever of 100.4° F or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting

Students and employees will be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19. The local health department will be offering guidance on the length of the exclusion from school.

Return to School After Exclusion

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the following guidelines recommended by the CDC:

Untested

Persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of COVID-19 but experience symptoms may return if the following three conditions are met:

- They have not had a fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); and

- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
- At least 10 calendar days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

Tested Positive- Symptomatic

Persons who experienced symptoms and have been tested for COVID-19 may return to school if the following conditions are met:

- The individual no longer has a fever (without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); and
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
- At least 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared; or
- The individual has received two negative tests at least 24 hours apart.

Tested Positive- Asymptomatic

Persons who have not had symptoms but test positive for COVID-19 may return when they have gone 10 calendar days past their test without symptoms and have been released by a healthcare provider.

Screening

St. Gabriel School will rely on self-screening of all students and employees for COVID-19 symptoms and history of exposure. Please check for symptoms and take your child's temperature before leaving for school each morning. Any student or employee exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent home immediately. Even without symptoms, if a student or employee has recently had contact with a person with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, has someone in their home being tested for COVID-19, or has recently traveled from somewhere considered to be a "hot spot" by the CDC, the district/school may exclude the student or employee from the school building and recommend that they self-quarantine for 14 calendar days.

Clinical Space COVID -19 Symptomatic

St. Gabriel School will have a room or space in the office where students or employees who are feeling ill are evaluated or are waiting to be picked up.

Parents and Visitors

Unfortunately, we must restrict all school parent/visitors to promote health, safety and social distancing. We will be using some parents for lunch duty. These parents will have their temp checked and asked screening questions every day before they can do lunch duty. All visitors will wear a mask.

If you are picking your child up early, you must call the office and we will walk the child out to you or enter the first doors to the school building and use the intercom and wait there. The child will come out to you.

What can a parent do to help their child transition back to school?

Encourage your child to ask questions and answer them to the best of your ability.

Have your child practice wearing a mask for short periods of time.

Follow recommended guidelines regarding masks and social distancing this summer.

Help your child get back to normal bedtime/wake-up schedule at least a week before school begins,

Stay positive and excited about the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year!

The staff at St. Gabriel has high expectations for all of our students. We even have higher expectations of ourselves. This year, St. Gabriel will continue to dedicate our focus on improving student learning for all students. We will continue to work diligently through collaboration to discuss teaching strategies to meet the needs of our students. We will improve student learning through improved instruction focusing on aligned curriculum, data collection and assessment. We are committed to finding each student's skill level and taking them forward in their learning.