



232 West 9th Street, Connersville, IN 47331
Phone: 765-825-8578

September 4, 2021

Dear School families,

We pray that this letter finds you well. We are writing you in light of the recent mask mandate adopted by the Fayette County School Board, as well as in light of updated mask recommendations issued by the Office of Catholic Schools at the Archdiocese and our local health department.

We ask that you sincerely consider sending your St. Gabriel student to school with a mask. While not required/mandated, both our local health department and the Archdiocesan Superintendent for Catholic Schools "strongly recommend" that all students wear masks at school when indoors.

Again, this is not a mandate for mask wearing. Per the policy issued at the beginning of the school year and approved by our local health officials, the mandating of masks would happen if our local health department and/or the Archdiocese require schools to do as much. Currently, both authorities agree that students *should* be wearing masks, and masks are therefore very strongly encouraged.

A primary concern of ours is to keep safe the students that you entrust to the care of St. Gabriel School. And we trust that our local health officials, who are the experts, continue to offer us sound guidance about how to keep all students and staff safe in this time of rising COVID cases in our local community so that we can keep the students in school. To that end and in keeping with our local experts, we ask that you sincerely consider sending your child to school with a mask to be worn throughout the school day when indoors.

For your convenience, we have provided on the back of this letter the summary of St. Gabriel School's protocol policy for the 2021-2022 academic year. Should there be any updates to this policy, school families will be notified in a timely manner.

Please note that if your student(s) utilize Fayette County school busses, they will be required to wear masks while on the bus. This is per the recent school board decision.

Finally, we offer you our sincere thanks for your continued patience, support, and flexibility as we strive together to raise up intelligent, disciplined, and compassionate disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Fr. Dustin Boehm
Pastor

Michelle Struewing
Principal

**St. Gabriel Catholic School
Covid-19 Plan 2021-2022**

PreK-6 Recommendations	Low to Moderate Case Numbers (*Less than 10% in Schools)	Substantial Case Numbers (*10% or Greater in Schools)
School Status	In-person learning; regular daily schedule	In-person learning (unless recommendation we move to online or hybrid learning models temporarily)
Health Screening	All staff/students self-screen prior to coming to school	All staff/students self-screen prior to coming to school and temperature monitoring at the door
Mask Status	Masks optional; masks will be available in school offices	Mask recommended unless mandated by the governor or the health department
Physical Distancing	Social distancing encouraged whenever possible	Social distancing encouraged whenever possible
Cafeteria	Lunch in cafeteria with normal spacing in lines and spaced seating	Lunch in cafeteria with reduced capacity; tables and physical distancing in lines
Hand Sanitizing/Washing	Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette is encouraged; hand sanitizer available around the building and students may have a bottle at their desks	Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette is recommended; hand sanitizer available around the building and students may have a bottle at their desks
Cleaning	Increased cleaning and focus on high-touch surfaces recommended throughout the day	Increased cleaning and focus on high-touch surfaces required throughout the day
Contact Tracing	School officials will notify parents of close contact exposure; parents/staff are to contact school office when a known exposure occurs; physical distancing following exposure for 10 days	School officials will notify parents of close contact exposure; parents/staff are to contact school office when a known exposure occurs; physical distancing following exposure for 10 days
Bus	Masks required; students will be physically distanced as much as possible on school buses	Masks required; students will be physically distanced as much as possible on school buses
Mass	Masks optional	Masks encouraged unless otherwise mandated

*Percentages are based on weekly data provided by the Local Health Department