



Opening of School 2021-22

I hope that your family had a restful and relaxing summer vacation. There has been a lot of activity here at Holy Trinity Catholic School during the past two months. Seton Hall including the Early Childhood Area have been completely redone to meet the current needs of the school. The faculty room has been remodeled to include a kitchen area. I invite you to visit these areas when you come to Open House on Sunday.

At the end of last school year, the danger of the spread of COVID had diminished as more people were vaccinated. However, it has remained a real threat to unvaccinated individuals and the Delta variant has caused a rise in the number of cases. As a precaution to protect ourselves and the more vulnerable members of our community, we will continue to follow many of the protocols that kept us safe during the 2020-21 school year. As circumstances change and we learn more about COVID, our protocols will also change. Thank you for trusting us with your children.

Decisions regarding these protocols were made based on recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in consultation with Fr. Milton, the Catholic Schools Office, other school leaders, faculty, families, and after much prayer.

The following health guidelines will be followed as we begin the 2021-22 school year:

Health and Hygiene Measures

- Masks will be worn by all individuals inside the school building.
- Depending on the activity, masks may be removed when outside.
- Students will change classrooms when age appropriate. They will wipe the area they will occupy when they enter the room.
- Preschool and kindergarten students will use tables.
- 1st through 8th grades will use desks.
- Teachers will be able to offer small group instruction with students three feet apart.
- Students will have individual supplies.
- Middle school students will not change clothes for PE.
- Musical instruments will be disinfected between use. Band instruments that require air to be blown will have the bell covered.
- Students will sing wearing masks.
- Teachers and staff will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms daily before coming onto campus.

- Students will be prescreened on the first day of school and at the start of every week of instruction for COVID-19 symptoms that they or others living in their home may experience. A questionnaire will be emailed to families every Sunday until further notice so families can prescreen. Students will not be permitted to leave their cars until after the school receives the screening.
- Students will use hand sanitizer upon entering the building and hand wash frequently throughout the day. Younger students will engage in supervised handwashing for at least 20 seconds multiple times each day, including before and after eating and after using the restroom.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in the building
- The building will be thoroughly cleaned daily.
- A window will be open in all classrooms and bipolar-ionization units have been installed in the classrooms. Air quality will be monitored using a carbon dioxide monitor.

Facilities, Cafeteria, Recess, Extended Day Academy, Mass

- Water bottle dispensers are available on water fountains. Those without dispensers will be closed.
- All students are encouraged to bring their own clearly labeled water bottle to school. It is highly recommended that students be able to open and close their own water bottles independently.
- The cafeteria food service will be open.
- As with the water bottles, it is highly recommended that students be able to open and close food containers independently.
- Preschool students will eat lunch in their classrooms.
- Each class will have its own set of playground equipment.
- High touch surfaces will be disinfected frequently.
- Extended Day Academy will be in the Assembly Room for second through eighth grades and the PreK3 room for preschool through first grade.
- All students in kindergarten through eighth grades will attend Mass on the last day of the school week. Students will sit four to a pew.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures—Arrival and dismissal will move faster and have less congestion if students have their belongings with them in the car when they are dropped off and keep them with them when they get in the car during pickup.

- Drop off will begin at 7:30 AM. Cars will enter the second entrance to the Holy Trinity campus from Gilbert
 - Students are to wait in their cars until a teacher opens the door and invites them to exit. Students will proceed directly to their homerooms when they enter the building.
- There will be two dismissal points from 3:30 PM until 3:45 PM. Students will stay in their classrooms until they are called to carline.

- Cars will use enter the second entrance to the Holy Trinity campus from Gilbert, and follow the signs for pick-up.
- Families with students in both age groups will use the Seton Center doors for all their children.
- Students will not be released to persons other than a custodial parent/guardian unless notification is received either in writing or by telephone from the parent/guardian prior to dismissal. Identification is required of the person picking up the student.
- Families will plainly display their issued number card on their windshield.
- Students will enter the car from the passenger side.
- Drivers and occupants will stay in their cars and wait for their children to exit the school.
- Parents who walk, take the bus, or bicycle to school will go to the main entrance of the school and wait for their student to come to them.
- Parents will not enter the building.
- If a child is to leave during the day, the parent will email the Office Manager stating the reason the child is leaving, the time, and who will be picking up the child. The Office Manager will walk the child to the door and release them to the parent. When the child returns, the child will give the Office Manager a note. The information will be documented in FACTS SIS.

In accordance with state law, Holy Trinity Catholic School does not permit drivers to use cell phones in school zones or in the car-pool lines. Please adhere to the law; it is for the safety of the students.

Positive Cases of Teachers, Staff, or Students Showing COVID-19 Symptoms.

Confirmed or Suspected

Any individuals who either are lab-confirmed, or experience symptoms of COVID-19 must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

- In the case of an individual who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
 - At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery)(resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications:
 - The individual has improvement in symptoms (cough, shortness of breath) and
 - At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.

- If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or receive two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID via acute infection tests at an approved testing location.

Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus

- The school will immediately separate any student who shows symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- The school will clean the areas used by the individual who shows symptoms while at school as soon as is feasible.
- Students who report feeling feverish should be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID.

Response to a Lab confirmed Case

Required Actions if Individuals with Lab Confirmed Cases Have Been in a School

- The school will notify the local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the ADA and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.
- The school will close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 3 days have already passed since the person was on campus.
- Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate on any on campus activities.