



KENNEDY CATHOLIC FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

Saint John Paul II Elementary School • Kennedy Catholic Middle / High School

August 19, 2021

Dear Kennedy Catholic Parents and Guardians,

“Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9)

The beginning of the school year is fast approaching and we know the thought on most of your minds is, “What will the Covid-19 protocols be in the school?”. The Covid Safety Planning Committee has been working on a plan that best supports and protects all members of our school community, from our youngest preschoolers to our high school seniors and our faculty and staff. With guidance from the Diocese of Erie, as well as recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control, Pennsylvania Department of Education and Department of Health, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, we have formulated the following requirements, with the understanding that the nature of the virus and transmission may necessitate changes.

- We will be open for in-person instruction five days a week. Students are expected to be present for in-person instruction.
- Social distancing will be maintained in the school buildings. Desks will be spaced three feet apart. Lunch tables will be spaced apart with limited seating at each table.
- At this time, all students, faculty, staff, and visitors will be required to wear a mask at all times indoors (except at lunch), regardless of vaccination status. We are utilizing the Covid Data Tracker on the CDC website to track community transmission in the counties represented in our school system. These counties include: Mercer (PA), Lawrence (PA), Crawford (PA), Trumbull (OH), and Mahoning (OH). When any of these counties are rated as HIGH or SUBSTANTIAL for community transmission, masking will be universal. The Planning Committee will monitor the data and any changes to the masking policy will be communicated by email.
 - Masks will not be required for outdoor gym classes or recess. If gym class will be indoors, and appropriate spacing can be maintained, masks may be removed at the discretion of the gym teacher.
 - Masks will be required on all busses (for school and athletic transportation).
 - Universal masking on busses is a mandate and will not be affected by the community transmission rates.
 - Athletics will follow the same guidelines as the school. Masks will be worn on the sidelines, benches and in the locker rooms. Student-athletes in competition may remove their mask.
 - All after-school and extra-curricular activities will follow the same guidelines as the school.
- All individuals entering the school buildings will continue to have their temperature monitored by the devices located at all entrances. Any individual with a temperature of 100.4°F or higher will not be admitted.
 - Parents/guardians should monitor their students for Covid-19 symptoms daily. Any student exhibiting symptoms should not report to school and the parent/guardian must call the school office.

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p) 724.346.5531 | f) 724.346.3011 | w) kennedycatholicschools.org



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- Frequent and thorough hand washing or sanitization will be encouraged.
- High-touch surfaces will be cleaned frequently. Classrooms will be sanitized periodically throughout the day with cleaning misters. Thorough nightly cleaning of school buildings will be completed.
- Water fountains will remain closed. Students will bring water bottles from home; bottled water will be provided if necessary.
- Good ventilation in classrooms will be maintained - windows will be open as long as weather permits and fans will be utilized.
- Quarantining may be necessary for some students, faculty, and staff. If a student exhibits Covid-19 symptoms for three days, is awaiting Covid-19 test results, or has been documented as a close contact of a person with Covid-19, the parent/guardian will need to contact the building principal for permission for the student to have remote access to classes. A remote academic contract will be created for the student defining requirements and expectations.
 - Anyone who tests positive for Covid-19 will be required to isolate for a minimum of ten (10) days.
 - Remote access will not be available on a day-to-day basis for student absences or vacations.

Again, the situation is a fluid one and changes to the Covid-19 Safety Plan are possible at any time and will be communicated by email. The health and safety of all of our students and families is our top priority. We ask for the cooperation and patience of all students, families, faculty and staff members in helping us maintain a safe learning environment.

Sincerely,
The KCFS Covid Safety Planning Committee

Melissa Joseph - President
Bill Blum - Director of Finance and Operations
Kathryn Tiefenthal - St. John Paul II Principal
Nicole Perry - Director of Enrollment Management
Linda Perrico - School Nurse
Janet Taylor - Director of Athletics
John Niemi - Director of Facilities and IT
Jessica Sorg - St. John Paul II Facilities Manager

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