



## 2020-21

### K-8 Parent & Guardian Health Information

During the 2020-21 School Year, we will continue to address the Spiritual, Physical and Mental/Emotional Health of our students. The protocols in this guide will look very similar to what we already have in place. We know that some of the “new protocols” will take some getting used to for everyone. All of these steps are taken to help keep everyone not only physically healthy, but emotionally and spiritually as well. Ultimately, we can’t wait to begin teaching your child in person. Please contact us with any questions that you may have, 715-672-5617 or by email [assumptionprinc@nelson-tel.net](mailto:assumptionprinc@nelson-tel.net)

#### Spiritual

- **Mass** - Students will attend Mass once a week observing Mass protocol set by the Diocese of La Crosse. Because we will be increasing physical distancing during Mass, and each parish is limited to the certain number of people attending, each parish and school will be communicating their procedures for the attendance of parents and parish community at school Masses.
- **Prayers** - We will take time to pray together with rote prayers, spontaneous prayer and silent prayers throughout the school day. As in the past, our students and staff will continue to pray for each other and those in need.
- **Bibles** - We will limit sharing reading materials and books; each child has their own Bible, to be used to strengthen students' relationship with Jesus Christ.

#### Physical

**Screening** - We will not be taking temperatures unless a child is sent to the care room, which has always been our protocol. We trust parents will monitor their child for before sending them to school, and will keep them home if they are experiencing any of the following:

- Fever over 100.4
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sore Throat
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or Vomiting
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Body Aches
- Congestion or Runny Nose
- New loss of taste and/or smell or loss in appetite

We also remind everyone of the importance **to not attend school or school event if:**

- You are experiencing any of the above symptoms
- You have been tested for COVID-19
- You have tested positive for COVID-19
- You have been identified as someone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- You have been asked to quarantine due to COVID-19 concerns.

Lastly, travel outside of the community increases risk for COVID-19 exposure. Please take into consideration when planning any type of travel and the activities in which you participate.

**Bus vs. Parent Drop Off?** - This is a personal decision. If you choose to transport your child, it would help in reducing your child's contact with others. School staff is on duty beginning at 7:45am at each campus location.

**Illnesses** - All of our existing rules and policies, as they relate to a sick child, still apply. If your child has a fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, along with any of the symptoms listed above, they must remain at home until they are **symptom free without the use of medication for 24 hours**. If your child becomes ill at school, they will be brought to the "care" room and you will be called to pick them up as soon as possible (within the hour) – please make sure we have updated emergency contact information.

**Face Coverings** – In accordance with the Governor's mandate, all staff and students will wear a face covering when unable to maintain physical distancing. Face coverings will be required on buses and in hallways. Staff have been instructed to find several times throughout the day when students can go without face coverings—socially distanced, getting outside, into larger spaces, etc. Students will receive two face masks from the school and we ask parents to provide an additional three to allow each student to come to school with a clean mask each day. All masks must reflect Catholic values. If there is a verifiable medical condition, disability, mental health condition, or other sensory sensitivities that prevent them from wearing a mask, please let us know as soon as possible and we will work with you to make accommodations.

### **Classrooms**

Assumption staff will be cleaning/disinfecting areas as much as possible, classrooms and high traffic areas throughout the day. Special attention will be given to commonly touched surfaces. The following key points are highlighted below:

- We will discuss with students the ideal of personal space, or each person's circle of grace.
- Desks will be as far apart as possible to practice social distancing.
- Seating charts will be created and used throughout the day.
- Student manipulative/supplies will be assigned to individuals to limit sharing of materials.
- Students will be discouraged from bringing non-essential items from home to school, i.e. toys stuffed animals, trinkets, and etc.
- K-5 Students will leave their classroom for art, music, computers, physical education and recess. Middle school students will leave for the above mentioned classes and also for some of their core subjects.
- Students work areas will be cleaned before leaving the classroom, before another group of students arrive.

**Hand-washing Hygiene** - Each teacher will have their classroom routinely wash their hands multiple times each day. This will become a regular part of the daily schedule. We will also demonstrate, practice, and apply appropriate ways to sneeze or cough as appropriate for each age level.

**Visitor Policy** - At this time, visitors will be limited inside the school office or building. Please call either school office or email the staff member if you need assistance. If you need to pick up your child(ren) for an appointment during the school day, please call the school office when you arrive at the school and a staff member will bring the child(ren) to the front door, along with a sign out sheet that will need to be completed. Exceptions may be made for parents who need to pick up a sick child.

**Recess and Physical Education** – We will continue to hold recess and Physical Education. Masks will not be required during recess time and activities will be offered for students to promote social distancing. Various grade levels will share recess time.

**Water Bottles** - Please bring a clean one every day to school. We hope to have water bottle fillers installed before school starts, regardless, we will make accommodations for filling their water bottles, but drinking fountains will not be shared.

**Food Service** – Lunch will be offered in the cafeteria at each campus. Students will be socially distanced in line and will be served the food. Students are still welcome to bring lunch from home. Students will sit with one chair in between the next student and not across from another student (zig-zag). We will not use any shared salt and pepper shakers, water pitchers, condiments, etc. All dishes, utensils, etc. will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized after each use. Outside guests will not be allowed to join us for lunch at this time.

#### Emotional/Mental

- *Teachers will* – **Listen:** we will get a sense of what students say, what are their stressors, and what they have experienced
- *Teachers will* - **Protect:** we will talk to students, help them feel better and show that we care
- *Teachers will* - **Connect:** we will check in with students regularly, and stay in connected to parents
- *Teachers will* - **Model:** we will model calm and mutual care
- *Teachers will* - **Teach:** positive coping skills, problem solving and ensure students have small successes at school
- We will provide a safe, caring environment.
- Our Virtue program will strengthen our students Hope and Faith in our Lord. We will also serve each other, our church, school and larger community to fulfill the command to Love our neighbors.
- Students will learn to trust in God and not dwell in fear.

#### Questions:

#### What if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at my child's school?

- Our local health department has assured us it wants schools to continue to remain open as much as possible. Therefore, if needed, quarantine would be implemented for a short time, with students and staff returning to in-person instruction as soon as possible. We will notify parents/guardians immediately of our local health department's recommendation as it relates to protocol and how we conduct future education.
- Parents/guardians it is essential that you contact the school office immediately if you or your child(ren) may have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Students or employees who are diagnosed with COVID-19 should receive documented permission from a medical professional (doctor, nurse practitioner, PA, etc.) to return to school.
- Our administration and faculty will make adjustments to work with students and employees who are unable to come to the school building.
- If a classroom(s) is impacted by a student or employee diagnosed with COVID-19, the room will remain unused for three (3) calendar days and be deep-cleaned before it will be used again.
- A student or employee who is directly exposed to a person who is carrying COVID-19 should quarantine for ten (10) calendar days (or as recommended by our local health department).

#### What about co-curricular activities and athletics?

- The guidelines regarding co-curricular activities and athletics are still unfolding. We will continue to update our families at the school level as recommendations are shared.

All policies, procedures and information outlined in this guide are subject to change based on the advice of our local health department and /or the Diocese of La Crosse. Your cooperation and support is much appreciated.

**Stay in touch = find us on the web:** <https://www.catholictriparish.org/catholic-school.html>