



Date: July 24, 2020

Subject: Siena Catholic Schools: 2020-21 Update

Hello Siena families,

We wanted to provide you with an update on our back-to-school planning and the steps we are taking to ensure that our community remains as safe as possible.

While we do not have all details worked out, it is our highest priority for the upcoming school year to open safely for on-site, in-person student instruction and learning, five days-per-week if at all possible. We also are committed to providing a virtual option for families who have concerns about returning in-person. With significant professional development and planning on the part of principals and teachers, as well as a commitment to ensuring that all students have a device for learning, we are preparing to educate our students whether in a classroom or at home.

Our Return to School Team is composed of five sub-committees: operations, facilities, teaching & learning, human resources, and communications. We continue to meet frequently in an effort to anticipate the needs of our students, families, faculty, and staff. From transportation to facility cleaning, teaching expectations to policies, we are working as quickly as possible to answer questions and prepare for a great (but different) school year.

One common question we are asked is, "What will your face mask policy be?" Siena plans to introduce a temporary update to our dress code regarding the wearing of face masks. In accordance with current health department and CDC guidance, students and staff will be required to wear masks at certain times when physical distancing is not possible. Exceptions will be made for our youngest learners and those with special medical needs. More information will be shared as our plans regarding masks continue to develop.

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee announced that there will be no fall athletics for grade/middle school. We understand that this will be disappointing for many and yet a relief for some. We are still waiting for information from the WIAA on high school athletics.

We want to share our [survey results](#) with you. These results continue to shape our planning for 2020-21; thank you for taking the time to weigh in.

We will continue to provide additional information as decisions are made and plans are firmed up, knowing that flexibility will be key as the pandemic continues to change. As always, I encourage you to share any feedback with your principals and me.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers,

Brenda White
President

