



Hello Siena families,

Welcome to 2022! The new year has certainly started with a flurry of activity. There are a number of questions that continue to arise with COVID-19 and the new variant, omicron. As we navigate the next weeks and months, we will continue to monitor the number of positive cases at our schools as well as seek updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention, the City of Racine Public Health Department (CRPHD), and the Central Racine County Health Department (CRCHD).

There are a few items we'd like to clarify for all families and employees:

- Masks will continue to be mandatory for all people over the age of five at all Siena Catholic Schools, including St. Rita Catholic School in Caledonia. As numbers continue to rise, minimizing the transmission of COVID in our buildings will be an important part of keeping schools open.
- The CDC is now recommending a five-day quarantine period for those who test positive for COVID or come in close contact with someone who is confirmed positive. We are working with state and local health officials in regards to quarantine recommendations for schools and will continue to use the 10-day quarantine period at this time. Any changes will be communicated to you as soon as possible.
- Laboratory tests (not at-home tests) are required to determine if someone is negative.
- A friendly reminder that if your student or someone in your household is awaiting viral COVID test results, your student must not come to school until you have the results of those tests. The school secretary or principal must see an image of the test result in myChart or other official patient documentation.
- The winter months typically bring colds and the flu. Please, if your student is sick, keep them at home for the health and safety of the entire school community.
- Decisions about the closing of a school or multiple schools/buildings due to high COVID numbers will be made by Siena Catholic Schools of Racine in consultation with the City of Racine Public Health Department and Central Racine County Health Department. Quarantine and closure decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

A number of safety measures were put into place at the beginning of the pandemic, and again when we began in-person learning. These include social distancing, frequent handwashing, assigned classroom and cafeteria seating, and cohorting. We continually look to identify other ways to keep our schools safe. At the same time, we know how important it is to give our students access to activities, service learning, and educational experiences in safe ways.

Thank you for your continued support and patience as we work on behalf of our students and educators. We appreciate your prayers.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Gardner  
Chief Advancement Officer

