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# Where Faith and Learning Come Together

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To: Parents of Holy Family School Students

From: Sister Christina Marie Luczynski, CSSF

Date: August 27, 2021

Re: Happenings at Holy Family School

Dear Parents,

The years I have spent at Holy Family have been filled with some truly great memories and that is because of our students, parents and staff. We continue to learn so much from each other and my hope is that this partnership continues and grows this year. Holy Family School has great traditions and we are always looking for ways to instill new ideas and create even better traditions that encompass what Holy Family is all about. If you have any ideas, I would love to hear about them! Many of you know my passion for the Holy Family School community. While we may not be a large school, we possess the greatest drive and support that I have ever seen in a school community. Almost every prospective family that visits our school recognizes the unique family atmosphere and dedication to excellence that is Holy Family. This is one of the many reasons why I love the Holy Family community!

We appreciate the support, trust, and cooperation of our students and families to operate schools safely during the pandemic. I certainly recognize that we have all given up a lot this past year, but as you read this reopening plan hopefully you will see that school activities are looking something closer to normal.

There are a few important safety precautions that we will need to take such as wearing a mask when inside the school building, washing our hands, practicing respiratory etiquette, and staying home when you are sick or have symptoms. The safety precautions outlined in this reopening plan were created by reviewing recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Blessings,

Sr. Christina Marie Luczynski, CSSF

**First Day - September 8, 2021**

First day for Holy Family School is Wednesday, September 8, 2021 and is a **FULL DAY**. Therefore, if your school district is not West Genesee, please check to see when your district begins. You may need to make arrangements for arrival and dismissal on Wednesday, September 8, 2021. After lunch, the students and faculty will enjoy a refreshing treat and each other’s company as we get-to-know new friends and renew old friendships outside on the side lawn (weather permitting).

**Note to School Pads**

Each family will receive “A Note To School Pad”. Please use this pad when noting a change in dismissal for your child or any other information concerning your child.

**School Lunches**

School Lunches are provided for Holy Family School through the West Genesee School District. The price for lunch typically is $2.70 with milk. Milk without a lunch is $.75. Lunches will be delivered to the PreK classrooms. Students and teachers will eat lunch together. The lunch menu will be sent in a separate email when we receive it from West Genesee School District. **Again this year, school lunches will be free for all students based on recent news from the United States Department of Agriculture. Milk without lunch must be purchased for $.75**



**Re-opening Plan**

Classes of more than 15 students will be divided into smaller groups, will be teamed taught as last year and will remain 6ft. distanced. Lunch will be eaten in the classrooms again this year.

All sanitizing methods will be followed as last year. All our protocols worked very well last year and I am confident it will be the same for this year. I thank God for wrapping His arms around Holy Family School each day.

**Staying Home When Sick and Getting Tested**

In accordance with CDC guidance, students, teachers and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness (influenza or COVID-19), should stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for evaluation care and testing. Individuals who are absent from school will need to provide either a medical note or proof of a negative COVID-19 test.

Students or staff members who develop symptoms during the school day will be sent home immediately. Parents of students will be contacted immediately to come and pick up their child. Parents, guardians, or caregivers contact their healthcare provider for evaluation and a possible COVID-19 test.

The Onondaga County Health Department is working on the accessibility of symptomatic COVID testing at local schools with parental consent. When this testing is made available, parents will be provided with additional information on the process for testing symptomatic students.

I will send out reminders on a routine basis on the importance of staying home when sick and on the symptoms of COVID 19 which, in [accordance with CDC guidance](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html), include:

* Fever or chills
* Cough
* Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
* Fatigue
* Muscle or body aches
* Headache
* New loss of taste or smell
* Sore throat
* Congestion or runny nose
* Nausea or vomiting
* Diarrhea

We will not be asking students and staff to fill out a daily health questionnaire. The CDC noted the limited effectiveness in symptom screening and “does not currently recommend routine (such as daily) school-based COVID-19 symptom screening of all students.” It should be noted that students should not attend school when they are sick.

**Face Masks**

Cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in the case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms.

All students and staff at Holy Family School are required to wear a face covering and maintain appropriate social distancing when in the school building and grounds. Mask breaks will be given to students during the school day as instructed by the classroom teacher. When students are at their desks working, face masks may be relaxed. Our classrooms will remain at 6 feet distancing as last year.

Acceptable face coverings include but are not limited to cloth-based face covering, (e.g. homemade sewn, quick cuts, bandana) and disposable surgical mask that cover **both the mouth and nose.** Students and parents/legal guardians are responsible to supply and maintain face coverings. Holy Family School does have a supply of disposable face masks for students if they forget their own or soil their mask during the school day.

**School Based Testing**

Holy Family School will partner with Onondaga County to provide voluntary COVID screening testing for staff and students. Onondaga County is the recipient of a grant from the New York State Department of Health related to conducting routine surveillance testing in our school. The current plan for testing as described by Onondaga County Health Commissioner Dr. Indu Gupta is to conduct randomized saliva pool testing in school buildings. When saliva pool testing is conducted, groups of 10-12 saliva samples are collected from students and staff to

detect the presence of COVID. The testing sample will be performed by an appropriately trained individual and the sample will be obtained by rubbing a swab inside of the mouth on the inside of each cheek and under the tongue. Testing samples will be pooled together to help expedite processing time. Onondaga County is hoping to have results returned within 24 hours. In the event that a pool test yields a positive result, all individuals in that pool would be required to isolate until the specific sample that tested positive is identified. COVID screening testing will be conducted on a voluntary basis when made available by Onondaga County.