

Holy Rosary Catholic School

Celebrating 100 years of Faith, Service, and Academics



August 2021 Opening Plan

As we begin our 100th year at Holy Rosary School, it is good to reflect on our core beliefs. We believe it is our moral and social responsibility to provide a safe learning environment for all students and staff. We believe this should be done in collaboration with our community. This includes input from our teachers, parents, and our local public health officials, with everything ultimately being approved by our pastor. This collaboration helps ensure that our decisions are based on science and research. We also believe that it is in the best interest of our students to keep our schools open and provide in-person instruction. Based on what the science has shown since last year, we believe that this new Opening Plan for the 2021-2022 school year provides appropriate precautions to protect the health and safety of staff and students. This plan will provide two phases of response that is in concert with the Bonneville County community:

Green Phase: Minimal to Low (Less than 15/10,000) community transmission rate. Normal operations with additional safety measures and encouraged prevention strategies. Recommendation that face coverings should be worn at school, especially by those who are not vaccinated.

Red Phase: Substantial to High (15/10,000 or higher) community transmission rate. Required restrictions and prevention strategies including mandatory face coverings. Face coverings will be required for all staff and students with appropriate accommodations for qualifying medical needs.

New from Last Year

Masks: During the Red Phase, we will try to limit the time students will be required to wear a mask during the day, but there will be times everyday where students will be required to wear a mask. Masks will be required inside when students or staff are not able to physically distance themselves, like when moving through the food service line to get lunch. Students will be allowed to wear masks from home. All masks should be appropriate for school.

Recess: Students will not have to wear a mask when outside.

Cohorts: Students will be in larger cohorts for more socialization opportunities. There will be three cohorts: All preschool and pre-kindergarten students, K-2nd, and 3rd through 6th grades.

Lunch: Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria instead of their classroom. They will be physically distanced. This will give them more opportunity for socialization.

Morning/Aftercare: Students will have assigned seats for morning or afternoon care with the students in their cohorts or family group.

Distance Learning: This will only be available to students who have tested positive for covid or are identified as a close contact, because we believe students learn best in person.

Snack: Instead of having parents buy snacks for the classrooms, we will be offering a healthy breakfast option to every student every morning around 9am. Breakfast and lunch are free to everyone this year.

Mass: All students K-6th will go to Mass on Wednesday at 8:15am. Students will all wear masks for mass. K-2 will sit on the left side facing the altar; 3-6th will sit on the right side facing the altar.

Backpacks/Tote Bags: Students will be allowed to use a backpack or tote bag to carry things like papers and books to and from home.

Water Bottles: These can be brought from home. We will provide them to students who need them.

School Events: These will be assessed from month to month.

Prevention Strategies

Strict Illness Policy: Staff and students should not come to school if they have any COVID-19 symptoms. Ill students or staff will be sent home immediately to avoid spread of infection. Students or Staff who exhibit one or more of the following symptoms should stay home: Fever or chills, headache, persistent coughing, new loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, fatigue, congestion or runny nose, muscle or body aches, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea. You know your child best, if you think your child is sick, please keep them at home.

Self Report: Staff and families are expected to self-report to the school if they or their student have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days.

Volunteers: Will be limited to essential visitors. They will be required to wear a mask when unable to physically distance themselves.

Physical Distancing: Furniture throughout the school will be arranged to provide physical distancing.

Hygiene Stations: We will establish and maintain hand hygiene stations in key locations in school buildings. Including every classroom door.

Cleaning: We will clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces throughout the day, including bathrooms.

Ventilation: We will ensure ventilation systems operate are cleaned regularly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible. Thanks to Sylvia Medina, each classroom has their own air purifier.

Deep Cleaning: We will schedule extra deep cleanings during the days, weekends and school holidays/breaks.

Academic Planning

Teacher Planning/Collaboration: On Friday, the school day will end at 1pm to provide an extra hour of deep cleaning, teacher collaboration and planning time. Aftercare is available on this day for free until 3pm.

Finally, I want to share my sincere gratitude with everyone involved in creating this Opening Plan. Because of your hard work we are able to keep our doors open to provide our students a rigorous, high-quality, safe Catholic education in Idaho Falls.

Sincerely,

Carina VanPelt, Principal

Holy Rosary Catholic School