

Our Lady of the Prairie



Catholic Church and School
Belle Plaine, MN

First Phase - Reopening Plan for the 2020-2021 Academic Year



**Mark Your Calendars ...
Opening Day of the 2020-
2021 School year is
September 8th!**

We have worked hard to create a current and comprehensive plan to offer both an in-person and a distance learning experience. This document is provided to you as an overview.



Drop-off & Pick-up Protocols

- School starts at 8:15 a.m. Don't be late! 🙋
- Students may be dropped off starting at 8:00 a.m. and will enter the school building through doors # 11, 6, or 7 and all will proceed to the office.
- Bus riders will enter the school building through door #11 and proceed to the office.
- Students will be dismissed at 3:05 p.m.
- Bus riders will exit the building through door # 11.
- Children being picked up will exit the building through door # 7.

(Door 11 is located in front by church. Doors 6 & 7 are in back of building by parking lot.)



Classroom Protocols

- Students will practice social distancing at Our Lady of the Prairie School.
- Classroom seating will allow for extra space between desks at all grade levels.
- Kindergarten – 6th grade classes will be in learning cohorts (classroom groups). Specialist teachers will come into the classrooms or meet students in an accommodating area for art, music, and technology. PE and recess will be as usual.
- Students in kindergarten – 6th grade will have their own school supplies and math manipulative kits to avoid needing to constantly disinfect.
- All Chromebooks and iPads will be disinfected between student use in kindergarten- 6th grade.
- Off campus field trips will be restricted in the fall.



Health Protocols

The health and well-being of our students, staff, and parents is our highest priority.

- Parents are asked to take their children's temperature at home daily and review the wellness checklist. (Checklist will be sent home before school starts.)
- Upon entering the school, all students and staff will have their temperature taken, using a non-contact thermometer, – those with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will need to go home.
- There will be increased hand washing throughout the day including: start of the day, before and after lunch, after recess and after using the restroom.
- Teachers will review respiratory etiquette with students: cough and sneeze into elbow then wash hands.
- Signs will be placed throughout the school promoting healthy practices.
- A hand sanitizing station will be set up inside the school office for those entering the school.
- Water fountains will be shut off.
- Each child is asked to bring his or her own water bottle daily. These will be filled throughout the day as needed.
- Hand sanitizer will be placed in every room in the school.
- Students who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 will be cared for in an area separate from the main school office until they are picked up.



Cleaning Protocols

Cleaning and disinfecting key areas of the building will help limit the spread of germs.

- Established schedule for increased routine cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces and shared equipment throughout the day.
- Kindergarten - 6th grade desks/tables will be disinfected as needed throughout the day.
- All classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected before each school day begins.
- Playground equipment will be disinfected.
- Additional cleaning and disinfecting will take place as needed.



Guests, Volunteers and Parents will be limited on campus during this First Phase of our School Reopening plan

- Limiting the number of visitors in the school building each day is a recommendation of the CDC to minimize the potential spread of the virus.
- We continue to look for creative ways for our parents to share their time and talents with us as we receive new guidelines regarding risk factors from the CDC.
- Parents picking up students during the school day will meet their child at door #7. (This is the door closest to the school office).



Face Coverings

Key ways to limit the spread of the virus include wearing face coverings and social distancing.

- Everyone entering and exiting school will wear a face covering.
- Students in grades kindergarten-6 will be required to wear a face covering while in their classrooms and in common areas.
- Students do not need to wear a face covering while at lunch, at recess or during physical education class.
- “Mask Breaks” will be provided for students throughout the school day.
- Faculty and Staff will wear a variety of face coverings including face shields and/or masks to protect against the potential spread of germs.

(As we gain more guidance from the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis and Governor Walz, mask protocols may change.)



The Distance Learning Experience

- Two digital platforms will support students in distance learning as we start the year or if we have to move to distance learning for an extended period of time during the school year: Seesaw for K-3 and Google Classroom for grades 4-6.
- Other digital tools may be introduced in the classrooms in the fall that can be used if we move to distance learning throughout the year.
- When possible, we will utilize a system to support instruction and the use of recorded real-time lessons for those learning from home.



Lunch

The lunch experience will be modified for health reasons.

- The lunchroom will have seating for 33% capacity to allow for social distancing.
- Students will eat in the parish hall with their learning cohort.
- Due to restrictions on volunteers in the school, hot lunch may be suspended; however, there will be a lunch option available for purchase.
- No microwaves will be available for student use.



Recess

Active play is an important part of the development of children of all ages. Recess reinforces positive social interaction and physical development – but it must, and will, be done safely.

- The playground will be painted with new games which encourage social distancing.
- All students will wash their hands before and after recess.
- Face coverings will be optional on the playground.



Living our Faith

Helping our children grow in their faith continues to be the central pillar of Our Lady of the Prairie School.

- Students in kindergarten- 6th grade will participate in All School Mass once a week. Social distancing will be practiced.
- Daily prayer in each classroom will help us begin and end each day mindful of our need for gratitude as well as prayers of petition for all those impacted by COVID-19.



Communication

We know that our parents need and appreciate ongoing communication.

- We have created a designated space on the school website for updates related to COVID -19.
- An update will be sent each week specific to our procedures and protocols related to COVID- 19.
- We will use an alert communication system to text/call parents if we need to implement a school shut down quickly.



Social/Emotional Health

The mental health of our students, parents and staff is a priority as we face the year ahead.

- In-person learning with new guidelines, as well as distance learning, will have some level of impact on the emotional wellbeing of everyone as we get used to this modified learning experience.
- We will continue to build in creative ways for socialization, team building, and engagement with classmates while remaining socially distant.
- OLP will proactively support our students, parents and staff whether learning in class or at home.



What has NOT YET been determined...

- The complete list of COVID-19 symptoms that would require a student or staff member to stay home from school and for how long. Decision trees formed by the CDC and MDH will help guide this decision . This will form the basis of the wellness checklist to be used each day at home.
- If a student or staff member tests positive what can be shared with the community while following health privacy laws.
- Exact criteria for shifting from in-person learning to short or longer term distance learning (waiting for CDC guidance).



Shopping List

Please add the following to your child's school supply list:

- Thermometer for taking temperature at home each day.
- Personal water bottle
- Mask or neck gaiter/face covering

