

Frequently Asked Questions

Deciding the schedule/Plan B

- What was the decision making process?
Even though we are not a public school, we are still under the health requirements of the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) because of the public health concerns, and we are part of the Diocese of Raleigh Catholic Schools system:
 - The Governor's statements on public schools don't require the Catholic Schools Office to act in the same manner; they have autonomy.
 - However, they do inform of the situation with COVID-19 in the state.
 - The Governor last week allowed for Plans B or C for public schools, and the Catholic Schools Office followed suit.

- How was the schedule determined, and why did 7th/8th grade only get split schedule and everyone else full schedule?

We had plans in place and we adjusted those plans to the masking and social distancing requirements of the Diocese and expanded our footprint by utilizing Parish spaces. Even though we expanded space, we did not have enough rooms and personnel for all grades to fully return. We decided to split 7/8th grades and put them on a schedule of alternating days for several reasons:

- They are the most mature and technically adept students on campus.
 - They are old enough to remain at home alone if necessary.
 - While they may still require some parental assistance, they are more independent than younger students.
 - Still, the number of students who choose distance learning may affect this schedule.
- If Covid conditions drastically improve would you reevaluate this plan in 2021? Or is this set for the entire year? How long is this plan in place? What is the frequency of reevaluation?

The status of the school to remain on Plan B, move to a more "regular schedule" under Plan A, or move to a fully online schedule on Plan C will all be decided based upon public health conditions and the decision of the Catholic Schools Office in consideration of the Governor's decisions.

Daily Schedule

- Will K thru 6 have full days on campus? Or half day? They will have a full day on campus on an adjusted schedule (Not the typical schedule as in the past). They will be in school for approximately the same hours during the day though. (~7:30~3:00)
- Will they be confined to their classroom? What will recess look like for younger grades? They will remain in their cohorts even when at recess and need to remain separated from other cohorts. We will devise spaced areas on the blacktop, the field, in the labyrinth, and on the playground
- Are specials still going to be taught? Yes. All teachers will rotate into the classrooms to teach directly or occasionally online to two classes at once or to include at home students. This includes specials, with PE being the exception with students attending PE in person in the gym or outside. At home students do not get PE instruction.
- Are we going to do any staggered entry in the morning? Yes, more details will follow.
- Will the kids be eating lunch in their classroom? Yes, and we will continue to offer the hot lunch program, with lunches being delivered to the classrooms
- Will all of 7th grade have recess outdoors at the same time? Yes, but they will remain in their cohorts even when at recess and need to remain separated from other cohorts.
- Can students chat with other friends from other classrooms at a distance when outside for recess or will they be confined to hanging out with their classroom only? They will remain in their cohorts even when at recess and need to remain separated from other cohorts. They will be able to talk to others at the “borders” of the separate spaces as long as they are 6 feet apart.
- Are you able to create a quick mock schedule for an elementary and middle school student? Yes, please see attached.

Online Learning

- Will families be able to switch between remote and in person at any time - either direction? No, please see the form sent today. Once a family has selected distance learning for the trimester, they will not be able to opt for in person learning during the trimester. However, if a student who has chosen in person learning needs to quarantine for whatever reason, they will be allowed to join the distance learning program (and return to in person learning when the quarantine period is over).
 - Why? We are basing our on campus spaces and classes on the selections parents make now and will not be able to accommodate changes on campus during the trimester.

- When students are doing virtual learning will it be via zoom to the live classroom or will it be independent work? **It will be live via zoom. Those sessions will be recorded and uploaded and available as well.**
- Would we commit for the year? Semester? **For the trimester**
- If you elect to go virtual now, can you come back in class in January? **At the trimester breaks there will be options to switch.**
- Is online live instruction or recorded videos like in the spring? **It will be live via zoom. Those sessions will be recorded and uploaded and available as well.**
- Are there plans to do all remote learning for everyone between Thanksgiving and Christmas to minimize risk given people will more likely travel over Thanksgiving? **No. Throughout this entire Plan B process we are asking our families to continue their normal level of concern for others by remaining in AT HOME if they have any concerns of if it would be wise to self-quarantine for travel, exposure or any other concern.**
- If you are saying we have room for all children coming back why do we have to be locked in for a trimester for the online option? **Because we are basing the number of classes and the cohorts based upon the number of students who select on campus learning, we cannot alter that mid-way through the semester. The schedule we implement will be based on those who choose the online option to make the day easier to navigate for the faculty and the students on campus, as well as to be able to allow for more planning time for teachers.**
- What if a student starts with in school learning and then decides he/she feels more comfortable with online learning? Are we allowed to change our minds to all online learning at that time? **Yes, but only in that direction. It is much easier to plan for a student moving TO online learning than to make space for the student to come back INTO the buildings.**
- Would we be allowed to try the 1st trimester in person and then go online for 2nd trimester? **YES**

Online learning is being scheduled as a trimester commitment through the attached form. We are asking people to commit to a trimester so we can plan our on-campus spaces accordingly. It is possible that a significant number of online selections will allow us to plan better for all on-campus student spaces and schedules. With online learning, there are the following caveats:

- Once online is chosen, you may not be able to move back into school if you change your mind. It depends on available space.

- You would be able to move from in-school to online as that doesn't affect our in-school scheduling, but you may not be able to move back in again.
- Learning is synchronous (live) on a regular schedule. All classes will still be recorded and available for review later.
- We will ask for commitments to in-house or online each trimester to allow us to plan.
- There will be attendance and participation requirements for the online option.
- There is NOT a reduction in tuition for the online option.

If you do have to remain home TEMPORARILY (2 weeks or less or evaluated on an individual basis) for any reason, the online classes will be available for you to use from home without losing your spot in class when you can return.

Classroom/Curriculum

- What will the maximum class size be for k-6? Depends on the room they are in. We have decided which rooms are allocated for each grade and how many students those rooms can hold. The class capacity is dependent upon the physical space available in those rooms.
- How will electives be handled for 7th grade if the students will remain in one classroom? All teachers will rotate into the classrooms to teach directly. Teachers will also occasionally teach to the class and to the online at-home students simultaneously. This includes specials, with PE being the exception with students attending PE in person in the gym or outside. At home students do not get PE instruction.
- Will students have a dedicated cohort and teacher? They will have a dedicated cohort but teachers will rotate through the room.
- When will we learn our teacher assignment? Next week information will be provided as to what each grade's teachers will need and who will be teaching each grade. There may not be a specific teacher named because all teachers will rotate into the classrooms to teach directly or occasionally online to two classes at once or to include at home students.
- Will there still be middle school electives? Yes, but we are only offering music, art, and drama at this time.
- Are there middle school kids going to be required to do a science project with all of the virtual learning? The specifics of the curriculum and any changes will be decided when we move closer to the start of school, but we will probably change HW and other requirements. Specific curriculum assignments, such as science fair, will be evaluated as part of the overall ability to provide a great experience for all. Additionally, we may not even be able to hold large events as we traditionally have in the past.

- Will kids be able to interact within their cohort? Or will they stay 6 feet apart the whole day? **Students will be in their classrooms with the same cohort of students for most of the day and for each day at school. This allows for better social distancing and lowers risk. They will eat lunch in the classrooms but be allowed to go outside for recess, but must remain socially distant unless masked.**
- Will kids be organized into classrooms by math level? **Yes, in Middle School**
- Are you considering pass-fail for grading? **No. The grading will be as it always has been (numerical grades and letter grades) to better assess understanding and mastery.**
- Will IXL assignments be coordinated with class work? **Yes**

After School Events (Bridges, sports, etc.)

- Are you still evaluating providing Bridges?
- Any information on the likelihood of fall sports?
- STEM or Drama options? Both during school hours or after school?

Gathering in mixed groups after school may not be possible to maintain our social distancing protocols. I would assume right now that afterschool care and sports will NOT take place.

Masks/Safety

- What are the requirements for face masks in terms of look? Are there required colors? Do they have to be solid color? **There are not required colors but they must be just colors; designs must be appropriate. Any mask can be worn, but must not be a distraction, as determined by the classroom teacher.**
- Can kids wear face shields? Or only masks? **Cloth face coverings are required by the Diocese and the State. This can be as a cloth mask, neck gaiter, or other cloth face covering. Face shields, at this time, must be accompanied by mask use as well.**
- What about UV filters in the classrooms? **Assuming this is meant for HVAC. The literature suggests that they are not cost effective.**
- Is there going to be a more in depth classroom cleaning schedule and if so, what does that look like? **All classrooms will be cleaned thoroughly each evening and the 7/8th shared classrooms will be deeply cleaned on the evening before transition days. We do have foggers and other equipment approved for cleaning schools during COVID-19 risk.**
- What was the reasoning for students not having to wear a mask in their classroom? **They will wear masks whenever within 6 feet of other students or teachers.**

- What about the foggers that restaurants are using to treat surfaces? **We do have foggers and other equipment approved for cleaning schools during COVID-19 risk.**
- Masks all day - all the time except for eating? **For the most part except for times when we can offer breaks from the masks for the students on an age-appropriate basis.**
- Can students have the cloth face shields? similar to scarf , or does it have to be looped behind the ear mask? **Cloth face coverings are required by the Diocese and the State. This can be as a cloth mask, neck gaiter, or other cloth face covering.**

COVID Testing

- Is there a plan if a student tests covid positive? Does the whole class have to quarantine? Whole school? **Yes we have plans, and the specifics depend on the situation and will follow CDC, NCDHHS and other guidelines.**
- If there is a confirmed positive test? How will this be handled? Will the class be quarantined? **All of the protocols and safety are outlined in the Strong Schools Document provided by the State and we will follow those protocols and the guidance of the NCDHHS. <https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/Strong-Schools-NC-Public-Health-Toolkit.pdf>**

What will be the process of communicating this? **We will communicate this as best as we can to all students /families involved and in general to the community. Being cautious of privacy concerns as appropriate. (We are committed to open communication. We will not be able to provide specific names, but will notify families as appropriate.)**

- Are you taking mid day temps? **No. Temperatures will be taken at carpool and students with temps higher than 100 will not be allowed into school. Temperatures will be taken using touchless thermometer by staff.**
- Will you need parent volunteers to get trained to help take temperatures? **No, we are limiting the volunteers on campus.**
- Will you be requesting students who are returning in person to school to quarantine 14 days prior to school start? **No, unless they fall under the guidelines for quarantining (see CDC requirements)**
- What happens if someone in the household is sick but not the child? Will child need to be quarantined? **Yes, if the household member is exhibiting COVID related symptoms**
- What if someone in the student's family is sick, but not the student? Would you recommend that the student stay home while someone in the family is sick? **Yes, if the house hold member is exhibiting COVID related symptoms.**

- Does travel in the household (parent) affect student participation in person? **Not unless health officials request quarantine.**
- If a student or teacher feels the need to take a covid test, will the class be quarantined while you wait for results which can take up to a week? OR only if a test actually comes back as positive?
Not unless health officials request the test and quarantine. As always, throughout this entire Plan B process we are asking our families and faculty to continue their normal level of care and concern for others by remaining in AT HOME if they have any concerns of if it would be wise to self-quarantine for travel, exposure or any other concern. All of the protocols and safety are outlined in the Strong Schools Document provided by the State and we will follow those protocols and the guidance of the NCDHHS.

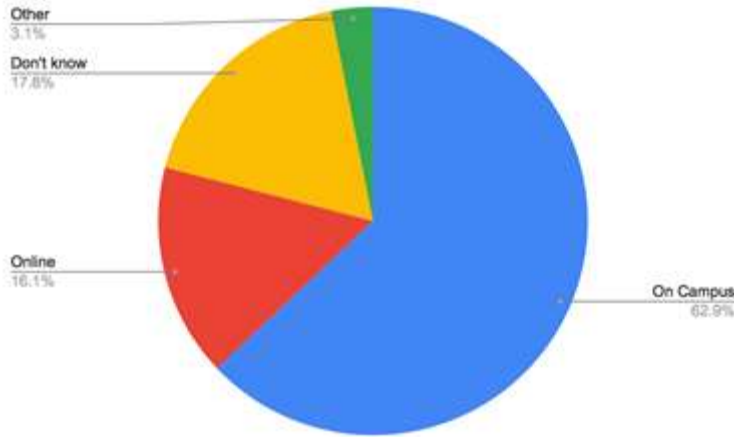
Misc/General

- Elementary meet the teacher night via Zoom? How can we support the teachers and staff? **Most of our normal "beginning of school" gatherings will be via zoom, and we will let you know what support teachers may need beyond the supply lists. Thank you!**
- Will the cafeteria be open for students? **Only for students who are assigned to a cohort in that space. We will, however, still be providing hot lunch options, but student will eat in their classrooms and the lunches will be brought to them.**
- Will kids use their own supplies and not share? **Yes**
- Will there be hot lunch? **Yes**
- Is there an expectation that students are essentially staying home outside of school? **We ask our families to use appropriate precautions knowing that their actions impact many others, and follow are recommendations regarding safety and social distancing**
- Will the reopening committee stay involved throughout the year? **As long as they are needed and as their schedule allows.**
- Will personal items such as backpacks and jackets be spaced out in classrooms as well? **They will remain with the student at their desks.**

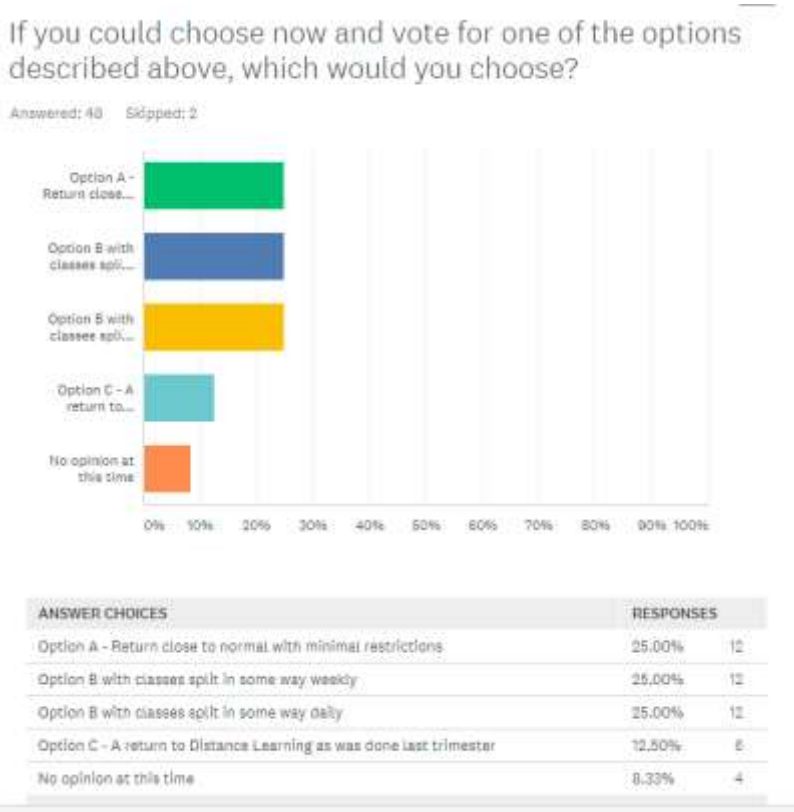
Enrollment

- Do all currently registered students have a spot? **Yes**
- Are any currently registered students on the waitlist? **No**

- What % of our families indicated they want to come back in person and what % of teachers want to come back to school in person? For families, about 63% said they wanted to come back to school every day if possible, 16% online and ~18% didn't know.



For teachers, a different survey was done than the above, and this question is the one that best answers your question:



About 75% wanted to return under the minimally distanced or Plan B hybrid plans and 12:5% preferred 100% online.

- Will you be sending a survey to confirm what option parents will be taking to help facilitate your planning? **Yes, we will be asking parents to commit to distance learning or in person learning for the first trimester by July 27th.**
- What happens if more families respond back that they will return than there is capacity in the class? **That won't happen because we have planned as if all students will be back in class.**
- What is the deadline for choosing online learning for the first trimester? **July 27th**