



August 5, 2020

St. Mary's Community:

Our Diocese superintendent, in consultation with Bishop Callahan, has given us further directives in relation to reopening of schools, including wearing of masks. Our superintendent notes that the governor's order on July 30th to wear masks does not change our desire for all Catholic Schools in the Diocese of La Crosse to reopen on-time with face-to-face instruction, five full days a week. Our Catholic Schools will follow Governor Evers's mask mandate as our students and staff are required to follow Governor Evers's order to wear masks.

Simplistically, a governor's executive order is equivalent to a law. Unless a documented medical note from a licensed medical practitioner is submitted, all employees and students five years old and older are required to wear masks (Face shields are okay for teachers when students need to read their lips). People may remove their masks to eat and drink and when outside. 4-year-old students have the option of wearing masks to school. As long as the executive order is in effect, any student who does not wear masks means that the student cannot enter a Catholic School building in the Diocese of La Crosse. If a child comes to school without a mask and refuses to put on a mask that has been offered, the child's parents will be contacted to come and get the child to bring him or her home. As of August 5th, 2020, those are the directives from both the state and Diocese that we will be following.

The executive order is currently in place until September 28th. The mask policy would then be in place for the August 25th back to school day which is also school picture day. You can sign up for a time slot for taking pictures in either Sycamore or by contacting the school. In contacting Lifetouch, the photographer will ask if your child(ren) would like to take off their mask, the picture will be taken and then the mask will go back on. Children are not required to take off their masks for the pictures when asked. The current reopening plan, with main points already shared with you in previous letters and with additional details shared with you by the end of next week (I'm waiting for anticipated changes and announcements), is largely the same as the original one completed in June with revisions when warranted due to several changes that have occurred.

If filling out an alternate site form for busing, Fischer Transportation has told us to notify parents that due to Covid and the limited number of children on a route, the alternate site has to be every day at the same place and they can no longer honor only certain days to one place and certain days to another. Furthermore, there will be no bus passes this school year. This is due to the limited number of children on a bus. They hope at a future date to bring bus passes back. When we get more specifics on busing, we will relay it to you.

Please note the following from Miss Larsen:

Dec 1, 1976, Sr. Gladys Hughes escorted me to a third-floor classroom to begin my career at St. Mary's. She left me with the words, "Be firm and determined and exceedingly kind." I tried to live up to those words. It has been my privilege and honor to teach at such an exceptional school where our Catholic identity shows through and through. But now it is time to say good-bye. As students begin this challenging year, I will be undergoing surgery at the University of Minnesota. It's a surgery with the expectation of a long but complete recovery at my farm in Hudson.

I have been able to experience students' successes long after they aced their forensics pieces and completed their term papers. I tried to build on the foundation provided by faculty members with whom I have worked and the staff members who supported us all.

Continued

I leave you with one final assignment. Who remembers the being verbs (am, is, are...)? I challenge you to make them action verbs....

Be faithful.

Be responsible.

Be fair.

Be generous.

Be kind. Be there for others.

Be sure to mix these all together with some fun!

Remember me in your prayers as I will you.

God bless,

Deb Larsen

St. Mary's was a big part of Miss Larsen's life and with her 44 years teaching here, she has made a large impact on St. Mary's. We wish her well in retirement. We have another teacher in mind but am giving her time to notify the people she needs to notify. She will be teaching middle school language arts and social studies, Miss Baeseman will move to fourth grade and Miss Globensky to sixth grade.

Listed below are the faculty members for the 2020 – 2021 school year:

Four-Year Old Kindergarten (5K +1 Phy. Ed./1,2,5 Computer)	Mrs. Drexler
Five-Year Old Kindergarten	Mrs. Novak
First Grade	Mrs. Kind
Second Grade	Mrs. Mader
Third Grade	Mrs. Lenard
Fourth Grade	Miss Baeseman
Fifth Grade Homeroom (4K + 2 Phy. Ed./ 4K +5K Computer)	Mrs. McMeeken
Sixth Grade Homeroom (5 th and 7 th English)	Miss Globensky
7 th /8 th Grade Homeroom (5 th ,7 th , 8 th Math, 3rd - 8 th Computer)	Mrs. Borchardt
7 th /8 th Grade Homeroom (Phy. Ed. 3 rd – 8 th , Spelling. Math 6-8)	Miss Wirkus
7 th /8 th Grade (5 – 8 Science,7/8 Health, 7 Religion and Spelling)	Mrs. Tousignant
7 th /8 th Grade English, Literature Arts, 6 th -8 th Social Studies	TBA
4K – 6 th Grade Music/7 th & 8 th Grade Choir/Band	Mrs. Langenhahn
Educational Interventionist	Mrs. Hahn
Teacher's Aide	Mrs. Eckardt

St. Mary's School is fortunate to have an excellent staff committed to Catholic schools, sharing their gifts and talents with the students in the upcoming 2020 – 2021 school year.

Sincerely,

Mr. Koch
Principal

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