

## **St. Martha Catholic School Fall 2020-2021 Plan**

St. Martha Catholic School has developed our preliminary 2020-2021 Back-To-School Plan based on the collective guidance from the Catholic Schools Office, the Texas Education Agency, local and state government officials and parent feedback. Though our days may look different from our traditional school day, rest assured that we have been working hard to ensure that we continue to provide each child with an excellent Catholic education by developing mind, heart, and spirit even in the challenging times we are experiencing.

In consideration of the fact that each family has different needs and concerns regarding the current crisis that faces our country, St. Martha Catholic School has developed a plan that will offer parents a choice on how to educate their child during this time. For the upcoming school year families may choose between on campus instruction or distance learning.

We know you recognize that this is an unprecedented time in history that is constantly evolving and because of this we may need to adapt and change some of the plans as we obtain new information.

### **General Plans**

- Safety, including physical and mental wellness of students and staff, will be at the forefront of every decision.
- Our school calendar will remain the same as it was initially presented.
- Students in all grade levels will be eligible for either on campus or distant learning.
- Families may change their learning format (due to COVID-19 related concerns) by contacting the teacher and developing a transition plan with the Dean of Students and Counselor to help the child adjust to the change.
- All students will be assessed at the beginning of the year to determine present levels of educational performance so that we can adequately challenge students.
- Students will still be expected to be present either online or in class for 90% of the academic year.
- Grading policies and expectations will be the same for all students, whether in class or online.
- Technology needs are being updated to accommodate for a one to one chromebook initiative in grades 3-8.

### **On Campus Learning**

- Will maintain our typical school day hours
- May require periodic “stay at home” periods due to state or local increases in cases and will utilize the distance learning platforms during those times
- Will require health screenings for students and staff to minimize risk

- Will incorporate frequent hand washing and sanitization as well as coaching and gentle reminders for students and staff on safe hygiene practices and will call attention to safe social distance practices with signage and floor markings
- Will require the use of a (school appropriate) mask for all staff and for students in grades 1-8, masks will be optional for preschool and kindergarten students
- Will allow for an individual set of supplies for each student, sharing of supplies and textbooks will not be permitted
- Will involve a variety of changes in scheduling to minimize time spent in hallways and common areas
- Will strive to social distance at the recommended 6 feet as much as possible in class, acknowledging that available floor space in the classroom may not allow for a full 6 feet of distance during instructional times
- Will be supported with daily sanitization by the custodial staff as well as cleaning of high touch areas during the school day in addition to hand washing and hand sanitization stations
- Will require a minimum 14 day quarantine for students who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, have symptoms of COVID-19 or any other communicable illness or have been in close contact with an individual who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is a presumed positive case
- Will allow for seamless transition to the distance learning program if it becomes necessary for a student to quarantine
- Will implement contact tracing for any COVID-19 cases in the school community and contacts will be notified per CDC guidelines

### **Distance Learning**

- Will require students to be engaged in learning each day and will need each student to show progress daily and submit assignments to be marked present
- Will utilize varied platforms based on the grade level but will be similar to the platforms used last year including Seesaw and Google Classroom
- Will count grades the same as if students were participating in the physical classroom (assignments graded for content mastery, instead of participation)
- Will allow students to be instructed by their assigned classroom teacher
- Will provide asynchronous learning with allowance for access to direct teacher instruction and tutoring as needed, however, much like a traditional classroom may require some flexibility based on teacher availability
- Will receive instruction from ancillary teachers in their respective classes
- May require designated times to log in and take tests proctored by a staff member
- Will require a laptop and/or a tablet and internet access
  - School will support student technology needs, as required

## **Other FAQs**

### ***Will there be a change in arrival and dismissal procedures?***

Yes. Carline drop-off and pickup will be the only option for students in grades K-8. Park and Walk will be the only option for students in PK. Daily screeners and temperature checks will be conducted upon arrival.

Dismissal for the carline will begin earlier at 2:15pm (and run through 3:30pm) during the first week of school to account for all students being dismissed from their homeroom classes and going through the carline in grades K-8. Preschool Park & Walk dismissal will begin at 2:00pm.

### ***Will there be a difference in tuition?***

Both programs will remain at the current tuition rates. The majority of tuition pays teacher salaries. During this time we are asking our staff to go above and beyond their typical classroom duties to ensure that all of our students receive the best education possible. In order to maintain a highly qualified staff both during this time and in the future, it is important that we continue to pay their salaries at their contracted rate. If you have a personal concern about this policy or require financial assistance, we encourage you to contact us so that we can work with you.

### ***Will distance learning students be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities?***

We do not have an update on sports and extracurricular activities at this time, but are working to see what we can offer that will be safe and enjoyable for students. Students who participate in distance learning will be allowed to fully participate in all programming that is offered.

### ***Will students in the older grades be changing classes for their varying subjects?***

Students will remain in their homeroom classes for all subjects, except for middle school math & science. Teachers will change classrooms to minimize hallway interactions; subjects will still be taught by the teacher who is a specialist in the subject area. All ancillary teachers will also visit homerooms to provide instruction.

### ***Will visitors be allowed on campus?***

In an effort to reduce risk, only essential visitors will be allowed past the entryway at this time. Recognizing that the transition process back to school is challenging for young children in preschool, we are working on a plan to allow one parent to walk their child to class during the first day of school with staggered arrival times based on last name.

***Will students attend weekly mass on campus?***

Students will have the opportunity to participate in mass. Our finalized plans will depend on the number of students present and our ability to appropriately social distance. It will likely include limits on outside visitors. Access to mass will also be available and encouraged for distance learning students as long as they are not a risk to others per our COVID-19 school screening requirements.

***Will BASP be available?***

At this time, BASP will only be available to the children of essential employees. This will minimize the risk of contagions across grade levels. We ask that if you are not an essential employee, you pick up your children promptly at the end of the school day.

*We thank you for placing your trust in us as we work together to educate our students.*

God bless,

Fr. T.J.  
Pastor, St. Martha Catholic Church

Mrs. Munscher  
Principal, St. Martha Catholic School