

*St. Genevieve Catholic School*  
*2021-2022 Return to School Plan*



*Safety, Presence, and Growth*

*in a*

*Christ-Centered Environment*

***St. Genevieve Catholic School (Pre-K-7), an educational ministry of St. Genevieve Parish, exists to further the teaching mission of the Roman Catholic Church. We strive to nurture our children in all developmental areas – spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally. Living and teaching Gospel values, we work to build God’s Kingdom.***

***Revised on 1/4/21***

**THE DIOCESE OF HOUMA-THIBODAU  
RETURN TO SCHOOL TASK FORCE**

*Established by:*  
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## MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

My dear people of God in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux,

The month of August always brings about excitement and new school year jitters for many as our schools begin to open their doors and welcome thousands of our children back into the classrooms.

When I was in elementary school I attended Catholic of Pointe Coupee, and the excitement I would have the days and nights before our school opened was always nerve-racking. I knew I would meet new teachers, make new friends and learn new things in the upcoming days. My mom and dad would be sure our uniforms were ready, school bags were packed and we knew which bus to get on each day. As we enter this new school year, I will be praying for all of the families, students, administrators, faculty and staff of our schools as they return to routines, or enter upon new routines, and deal with excitement and expectations.

I want to state that I am incredibly proud of our teachers, administrators and our parish youth formation leaders and volunteers who have gone above and beyond this past year during such challenging times. Even throughout this summer, our teachers and parish coordinators of youth formation were busy training and learning new strategies for the classrooms ensuring our children receive their best.

This past summer our Office of Parish Support hosted our diocesan Youth Summit where our parish coordinators of youth formation gathered for three days to pray together and learn best strategies for our youth as we enter a new catechetical year in our parish schools of religion.

In addition, behind the scenes, the teachers and staff of our Catholic schools attended a multitude of professional development sessions, learning about new technology advancements and

strategies to best educate our children. I greatly appreciate their willingness and desire to ensure the best for the children in our parish schools of religion and Catholic schools.

We look forward to opening our classrooms again this school year, as well as reengaging in our parishes' schools of religion. The mission of the church is to form disciples, and our Catholic schools and parish schools of religion are the most impactful way for us to live out our mission. In fact, our Catholic schools are by far one of the largest ministries in our diocese, serving almost 5,000 students across our 11 Catholic schools. The faith formation of our youth is at the top of our priorities here in our diocese. I want to personally wish our administrators, staff, volunteers, families and children a wonderful, fruitful school year. I pray that Christ will be in your hearts and your minds today and always. May God bless the 2021 – 2022 school year!

Please know of my continued prayers for you.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "+ Shelton J. Fabre". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name below it.

+ Most Rev. Shelton J. Fabre

Bishop of the Diocese Houma-Thibodaux

# **MEDICAL PARTNERSHIP**

## **THIBODAUX REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM DIOCESAN PARTNERSHIP**

### **LEVEL ONE SERVICES PROVIDED TO EACH SCHOOL:**

- Training of new workplace staff
- Nurse call line for initial assessment of questionable symptoms at screening
- Expedited virtual or in-person appointment scheduling
- Workplace signage (hand hygiene, social distancing, etc.)
- Online access to education resources
- Parent-focused communication
- Monthly follow-up and re-evaluation

## **CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION/CATHOLIC IDENTITY**

### **Curriculum/Instruction**

Our goal is to secure curriculum driven instruction while protecting the students' educational opportunities within a Christ-centered environment. The curriculum should be based on the religious and educational mission of the school.

#### **Traditional/Non -Traditional School Setting**

Our students will be returning to a "brick and mortar" school environment with in-class instruction.

If ever governmental and diocesan authorities deem a return to school as inadvisable, schools will have to continue with a comprehensive distance learning program. If this is the case, the logistics and planning considerations that need to be made include technology support, developing and delivering high quality online instruction, supporting Catholic Identity, and maintaining community. Each school must ensure that their faculty is prepared to implement the distance learning program if ever needed.

## **Instruction Design**

As a Catholic school, in any school setting, religion continues to be the focus subject and the core of the curriculum.

Teachers should maintain data on standards covered.

Administrators should monitor standards taught through teacher lesson plans.

Teachers should develop curriculum maps and utilize diocesan curriculum maps for the entire year with consideration of mastery of standards.

Programs that may later be used for distance learning (example: Google Classroom) should also be used in the traditional classroom settings to assure a better understanding of the program in case the school has to revert to distance learning.

Since many students suffered from limited social interaction last year, it is important to incorporate cooperative learning. This strategy is rooted in the theory that learning can be maximized through intentional social interaction with others.

- Our students are not one-size-fits-all; therefore, our curriculum cannot be. Differentiated instruction must be considered to help all students.
- Formative assessment should be frequent. This gives the teacher an opportunity to check for understanding of each concept.
- Assessments do not have to be tests alone. Projects, journal entries, essays, etc. are great ways to diversely assess.

## **Catholic Identity**

Catholic schools have a two-fold purpose: providing an education that is academically excellent and one that is deeply rooted in Catholic identity. The spiritual mission of Jesus Christ is the intention of Catholic Schools. Spiritual and academic experiences in Catholic Schools enable students to strengthen their relationship with Jesus and apply their faith to daily life with service to others.

1. St. Genevieve Catholic School will continue to have school masses.
2. Students will receive instruction in religion daily.
3. Students have the opportunity to pray several times a day (morning, before classes, before lunch, at the end of the day, etc.).
4. Students recite a decade of the rosary one week in October and before first Friday masses.
5. Students recite the Divine Mercy Novena beginning nine days before the Easter holidays.
6. Our curriculum will provide our students with knowledge and skills about racism so they can begin to work toward building a more equitable society for all. Our Catholic social teachings will include racism.
7. St. Genevieve Catholic School will strengthen the relationship between the church and school, encourage students to make a difference in their community through service, and assure that all faculty and staff working with students complete the Catechetical Institute

of Franciscan University tracts suggested to support school personnel in their faith journey.

## MONITORING/SCREENING

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the potential risk of exposure to our students and staff members, we have implemented the following procedures.

1. It is important to keep your child home when he/she is sick. The award for perfect attendance will not be given out this year to ensure that students are not encouraged to come to school sick.
2. Parents will be asked to confirm that the child has not taken fever-reducing medication in the last 24 hours and does not have symptoms of COVID-19 (such as shortness of breath, sore throat, cough, active vomiting or diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell, or unexplained rash).
3. Parents are encouraged to make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness, particularly shortness of breath or coughing. If a child registers a temperature of 99.4 degrees or higher, his/her temperature should be taken a second time 5 to 10 minutes later.
4. All students with at least two of the following symptoms (fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, and unexplained rash) will be isolated in the conference room and provided with the proper adult supervision until the student is able to return home.
5. It will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to promptly pick up the student from school.
6. In the case of a student who tests positive for COVID-19, parents are encouraged to notify the school principal of the student's health issues.
7. What are the steps when a student is school tests positive for COVID-19?
  - Adhere to the following guidelines for allowing a student or staff member to return to school.
    - Close contact of a case is a person who was within six feet of someone who has tested positive for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, regardless of whether or not either party was wearing a mask. All individuals meeting the close contact definition should be encouraged to seek testing immediately following notification and five to seven days following last contact if the initial test was negative.
    - Close contacts will be asked to stay home and monitor symptoms.
    - Not every student/faculty member in a school will need to **stay home for 14 days, just those who are identified as close contact to a case.**
    - Options to shorten the duration of quarantine if contacts remain asymptomatic include:
      - See quarantine/isolation chart at the bottom of the plan.
      - All COVID-19 cases should be reported to the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) via LDH's electronic reporting system, in accordance with the School Reporting and Data Sharing Order #2020-COVID19-001.

## **SUPPLIES AND WATER SYSTEMS**

1. Water fountains will not be used to limit the risk of Legionnaires disease and other diseases associated with water.
2. The children are encouraged to bring clear water bottles to school. Label the water bottle with your child's first and last name. Metal bottles are acceptable. Please avoid bringing glass bottles to school.
3. Please put extra water bottles in a lunch box. This will help to prevent water from leaking in the school bags.
4. The school will support healthy hygiene behavior by utilizing adequate supplies such as soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, tissue, disinfectant spray, disposable gloves, and no-touch trash cans.
5. Two water bottles refilling stations have been installed for students to use.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Parents and employees are strongly encouraged to access the most up-to-date information about the re-opening of school and school operations through:

1. School Email/Text
2. St. Genevieve Catholic School's website: [www.stgenevieveschool.org](http://www.stgenevieveschool.org)
3. St. Genevieve Catholic School Facebook page
4. PlusPortals
5. Google Classroom
6. Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux's website and Facebook page

## **TRANSPORTATION**

1. Bus Service:  
Buses are allowed to operate at 100% capacity and as required by Presidential Executive Order No. 13998 on Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel, all passengers on the school bus must wear a facial covering while using transportation. Windows should be kept open when it does not create a safety or health hazard. Seating charts should be created and consistently enforced.
2. Car Line:  
**Morning Car Line**  
\*Morning car line will follow the same procedure.  
\*All students must arrive in a car or bus. No walkers.  
**Afternoon Car Line**  
\*In attempt to social distance our students, we will have two pick up areas for car line.

\*The car line will follow the same procedure until entering the church parking lot.

**Siblings and Carpools:**

\*Students that are picked up with siblings or in car pool will follow the normal route by taking a left after entering the church parking lot. Exit the parking lot by turning right on the shoulder of Barbier Avenue and proceed to the school parking lot. Turn right into the school parking lot. The students will proceed to the car after all cars have stopped.

**Single Car Riders**

\*Students that are being picked up alone will be waiting on the parking lot side of church. The car line for single riders will follow the route until the car enters the church parking lot. The car will proceed straight. The line will turn left when it nears the side of the church and students will enter the car after all cars in the line have stopped moving. Cars will exit the parking lot onto Barbier Avenue.

## **COUNSELING SERVICES/HOLISTIC SUPPORT**

Mrs. Jill Talbot, our school counselor, will be available twice a week to address the social-emotional needs of our students and families.

- Curriculum and instruction are enhanced by the social-emotional well-being of students. School counseling services and other support will be provided to enhance the overall mental health and well-being of our students.
- It is an important tool for parents to set the positive tone at home for the return to school.
- We will be prepared to encounter a wide range of social-emotional needs of students when school reopens, including establishing a sense of physical and psychological safety.
- Our school counselor and administration will have an open line of communication for identified needs of the school and attend to general and individual needs of the students.
- An area of focus will be given to students entering St. Genevieve Catholic School for the first time. An emphasis will be placed on taking care of their transitional needs.

## **SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES**

Social distancing is an effective way to prevent potential infection. All students and faculty members at St. Genevieve Catholic School should practice maintaining 3 feet (or to the maximum extent possible) and eliminating physical contact with others.

1. While outdoors, all fully vaccinated and unvaccinated adults and students do not need to mask if they adhere to physical distancing measures. It is strongly encouraged that

unvaccinated individuals wear masks in crowded outdoor setting or during activities that involve sustained close contact with people who are not fully vaccinated.

2. Face coverings do not have to be uniform; however, they cannot contain scary images, political slogans, inappropriate pictures or inappropriate sayings.
3. Classroom seating will be spaced as far apart from each other as possible.
4. Students will be able to attend auxiliary classes.
5. Each student will have his/her own supplies. Students will not be allowed to share supplies.
6. Ad-hoc interactions or gathers-non-essential or informal meetups and visiting should be avoided.

## **CLEANING/DISINFECTING EFFORTS**

The safety of our students and staff members are our first priority. Our school will be completely cleaned and disinfected, and we will continue to adhere to all necessary safety precautions. In addition to the deep clean of the office and school before students and staff members return, the steps below will routinely serve to protect everyone and reduce the risk of spread of infection.

1. Hand sanitizer will be provided by the school for each classroom and the main entrances of campus.
2. Students will sanitize their hands periodically throughout the day.
3. At the end of each school day, any and all “touched items” in each classroom will be sanitized. This includes the desks, tables, chairs, countertops, door knobs, and light switches.
4. Common areas that are frequently touched such as toilets, urinals, faucets, etc. will be sanitized periodically throughout the day.

## **FOOD SERVICES**

1. Students will be served individual plated lunches. Disposable utensils will be used.
2. Seating in the cafeteria will be spaced as far apart from each other as possible.
3. There will be no visitors for lunch until restriction guidelines change.
4. Breakfast will be served.
5. Just a reminder, if a child plans to bring his/her own lunch, that student must bring his/her lunch daily and eating a cafeteria lunch is not allowed.
6. Lunches brought from home must be nutritious and well-balanced. The only acceptable beverages are 100% fruit juice, water, or milk. Candy and meals from fast-food restaurants are not allowed. Lunches should not include nuts, or foods manufactured in plants that process nuts.

## **BEFORE/AFTER CARE**

1. Before and after bell services will be provided.

2. Weather permitting, groups will be able to go outside on the playground yard in separate areas.
3. Parents will pick-up and drop off at the cafeteria entrance; they will not be admitted into the space. If students are outside, parents will drive up to the playground gate to pick-up their children.
4. Students attending before and after bell will be allowed to bring one toy per day in a sealed plastic bag (gallon is the largest) labeled with their names. The bags should remain in their schoolbags during the day. Students are encouraged to bring a toy that they can play with alone. No electronics will be allowed.

## **PROTECTING YOURSELF AND OTHERS**

1. Practice Social Distancing – In public, keep at least six feet distance from others. Avoid unnecessary appointments.
2. Wash Your Hands and Cover Your Cough – Cover your cough and sneezes. Use your elbow or a tissue. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
3. 4. Take Caution with Others who are at Risk-Take special caution to avoid exposing the elderly and people with underlying health conditions. Avoid visiting those most at risk, please call instead.

## **VISITORS**

1. Visitation will be limited while COVID-19 risk persists as determined by the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux.
2. Require all visitors to wear a face mask that covers the mouth and nose and maintain a physical distance of 6 feet from others.
3. The safety of our staff and students is our primary concern.

## **Athletics, Band, and Vocal Music**

- Athletic activities are allowed to resume with the recommendations put forth in the [Louisiana High School Athletic Association's Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities](#).
- Outdoor and indoor spectator capacity for LHSAA-sanctioned athletics shall be set in accordance with the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's guidelines developed in conjunction with the Office of the Governor and the Louisiana Department of Health at [opensafely.la.gov](https://opensafely.la.gov).
- Band and vocal music should follow the updated outlined guidance below.

<b>Band, Vocal, Music</b>		
<b>Phase 1</b>	<b>Phase 2</b>	<b>Phase 3</b>
<p><b>Limitations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No indoor activity that involves playing wind instruments (to include all woodwind and brass instruments as well as recorders or any other instrument where sound is produced by blowing into the instrument)</li> <li>• No vocal singing indoors</li> <li>• Outdoor activity should have appropriate physical distancing measures taken</li> </ul>	<p><b>Limitations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No indoor activity that involves playing wind instruments (to include all woodwind and brass instruments as well as recorders or any other instrument where sound is produced by blowing into the instrument)</li> <li>• No vocal singing indoors</li> <li>• Outdoor activity should have appropriate physical distancing measures taken</li> </ul>	<p><b>Limitations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Band or vocal activities may occur indoors or outdoors. When band and vocal music classes are unable to practice outdoors during Phase 3, class can be held indoors in accordance with <a href="#">National Federation of State and High School Associations and the National Association for Music Education Guidance</a> which has physical distancing, masking and instrument covering provisions.</li> </ul>

## **RESOURCES**

Quarantining for exposure: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

*Revisions to the guidance set forth in this document will be made as deemed necessary by changes in local, state, and federal guidelines and recommendations. Revisions will be communicated by schools to necessary parties.*

## Return to School Protocols updated 1/19/2022

### Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 and:

- Boosted, **OR**
- Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna Vaccine within the last 6 months, **OR**
- Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months

### Then,

- **Option 1:**
  - Show proof of vaccination status and wear a mask around others for 10 days.
  - If symptoms develop, remain home and follow protocols for “Symptoms”
- **Option 2:**
  - Remain in quarantine for 10 full days

### Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 and:

- **Not Boosted or Unvaccinated, OR**
- Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine **over 6 months ago, OR**
- Completed the primary series of J&J **over 2 months ago.**

### Then,

- **Option 1: (Recommended)**
  - Stay home in quarantine for 5 days.
  - Receive a negative test result on or after day 5
  - Return to school on Day 6 while continuing to wear a mask for additional 5 days
  - If symptoms develop, remain home and follow protocol for “Symptoms”
- **Option 2: (When Testing is not available)**
  - Stay home in quarantine for 5 days
  - Get Evaluated by healthcare provider on or after Day 5.
  - Return to school with documentation from a healthcare provider that the healthcare provider determines a COVID-19 test is not indicated
  - Return to school on Day 6 while continuing to wear a mask for additional 5 days
  - If symptoms develop, remain home and follow protocol for “Symptoms”
- **Option 3:**
  - Stay home for 10 full days following exposure
  - If Asymptomatic, return to school on Day 11
  - If symptoms develop, remain home and follow protocol for “Symptoms”
- **Option 4:**

- **Test to Stay Option for Students who are not fully vaccinated & staff who are not up-to-date**
- Schools may follow CDC's quarantine guidance above (safest option) or may implement a test to stay strategy for students and staff who are not fully vaccinated so they may remain in school. In this option, students and staff do not need to quarantine at home if:
  - They remain asymptomatic AND
  - They mask through Day 10 following their last point of close contact with a positive case AND
  - They test negative for COVID-19 twice during Days 0-5 following their last point of close contact. Tests should be administered on non-consecutive days (e.g., specimen collection on Day 2 and Day 4). If a student tests positive, see isolation guidance above.

### Exposed to someone with COVID-19 and:

- **Had confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90 days**
  - You do **not** need to quarantine unless you develop symptoms. If symptoms develop, follow protocol for "symptoms"
  - Wear a mask for 10 full days following exposure

### Symptomatic for COVID-19:

- **Option 1:**
  - Stay home in isolation for 5 days from day following onset of symptoms
  - Test on Day 5 or later (If test is positive follow protocols for "Positive Test"
  - Return to school on Day 6 with a negative test and symptoms are resolving
- **Option 2:**
  - Get Evaluated by healthcare provider
  - Return to school with documentation from a healthcare provider of alternate diagnosis (do not disclose diagnosis) **AND** that the healthcare provider determines a COVID-19 test is not indicated
  - If healthcare provider determines COVID-19 testing and the test is positive follow protocols for "Positive Test"
  - Return to school upon approved date by healthcare provider

### Positive Test for COVID-19: (Regardless of Vaccination Status)

- **Option 1:**
  - Stay home in isolation for 5 days
  - Provide school with positive test results
  - May return to school on Day 6 if symptoms are resolving including asymptomatic cases
  - Wear a mask around others for 5 additional days
- **Option 2:**
  - Isolate for 10 full days

\*\*At this time, home COVID tests are not accepted for return to school.