

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 7/29/21

THE DIOCESE OF HOUMA-THIBODAU
RETURN TO SCHOOL TASK FORCE

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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 black ink that reads "+ Shelton J. Fabre". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

+ Most Rev. Shelton J. Fabre

Bishop of the Diocese Houma-Thibodaux

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux Catholic Schools Family,

The 2020-2021 school year in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux Catholic schools was, indeed, one like no other. The impact of COVID-19 was definitely evident, as our communities, state, country, and world felt the impact of a global pandemic like most have never experienced. Our Catholic school family was not exempt from the direct and indirect effects of the virus. However, the beauty of the deep faith and commitment to our Lord and Savior was just as evident. Through it all- the triumphs, the tragedies, the disappointments, and the celebrations- one thing remained true. God was, and IS, with us!

Through the diligent efforts of our dedicated Catholic schools community, the students we serve continued to thrive and grow spiritually, emotionally, and academically, despite the challenges before them! Students, parents, teacher-ministers, school leaders, staffs, clergy, and all who make up our Catholic schools community committed themselves to doing all they could to make our 2020-2021 school year all that it could be! Through the careful and intentional work of so many, our schools completed a full year of in-person instruction, affording the students we serve an outstanding academic education in a Christ-centered environment, culminating in beautiful graduations and end-of-year Eucharistic celebrations and closing programs.

The commitment of our students, teacher-ministers, parents, staffs, clergy, school and diocesan leaders, and all who worked tirelessly to provide safe and successful school environments is what allowed the 2020-2021 school year to be the success

that it was. Through creativity and commitment, our students flourished! Their resiliency, through all the many challenges that could have caused some to waiver, allowed the year to be one of formation, learning, growth, and wonderful memories that will always be with them.

Our school families did not allow the adjustments to physical school environments to pause their efforts to live the Church's social teaching. The beauty of the ongoing formation of our students and larger school communities was evident in so many actions and activities. Whether it was welcoming and assisting students and their families who had been displaced due to Hurricane Laura into our school communities, collecting and delivering gifts of thanks and prayer for the COVID-19 front line workers in area hospitals, donating money to the Missionary Childhood Association that is used to build schools, hospitals, provide medical care, food, and clothing in mission countries, volunteering at the Louis Children's Home for abused and neglected children, or walking alongside a fellow student, co-worker, or parent who experienced the illness or loss of a loved one, our school families continued to make the Mission possible through their call to action- through examples seen and, many times, unseen.

Our students have also continued to thrive in their many curricular and extracurricular school experiences, including winning the South Louisiana Quiz Bowl Championship, several state championships in Varsity athletics, hosting Right to Life school-wide assemblies, and earning more than \$10 million in college scholarships in addition to their TOPS academic awards by our graduating classes! Congratulations to our students and all those who make up their support systems, allowing them to set their goals and give it their all!

With a new school year upon us, we are excited to embrace all that is to come for our Catholic schools family with great hope for a new faith-filled and successful school year! In a time when many dioceses throughout the country are experiencing a decline in Catholic school enrollment, we are blessed to report an increase in our total enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year! What a blessing it is to have some many of our families entrust their children into our care and to afford us the opportunity to minister to them!

Today, the joy, wonder, and blessings of the 2021-2022 school year is at our doorstep. The Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, once again, is diligently preparing

for the safe return of our students and employees to our schools. Utilizing our Task Force comprised of school administrators, teachers, medical health professionals, parents, school board members, community leaders, and diocesan leadership, a carefully reviewed and revised Return to School Plan has been promulgated. The intent of the guidelines is to aid our schools in their individual plans for their safe operation so our employees, students, and families feel secure and confident as our new year commences. We remain committed to our priorities of safety, presence, and growth as we return to school:

- *SAFETY-* The diocese is committed to utilizing appropriate safety measures in the context of a return to work and schools.
- *PRESENCE-* The diocese is committed to keeping our schools open and do not want to burden parents with challenging schedules that would make it difficult to work.
- *GROWTH-* The diocese wants our children to continue their academic progress in a safe, secure, and Christ-centered environment in our schools as we work in the ministry of Catholic education to form the whole child.

Indeed, the impacts of COVID-19 remain a serious challenge to our schools and larger communities. Understanding the fluidity of the situation, the Return to School Plan is a living document that will be updated as needed as we respond to additional guidance received from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE), the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), and our local medical partners and leaders. Our schools will post their Return to School Plans on their school websites, updating as needed.

The Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux is grateful for the deep commitment of its school families to the ministry of Catholic education and looks forward to welcoming its students and staff back to school. With Jesus Christ at our side, we are full of hope and ready to embark on our 2021-2022 school year!

Blessings,



Suzanne Delaune Troxclair

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:

- If no symptoms develop during quarantining and they have a negative antigen or PCR/molecular test collected no earlier than day 5 after their last exposure: they may quarantine for 7 days from last contact with a COVID-19 case.
- If no symptoms develop during quarantine and no testing is done: they may quarantine for 10 days from last contact with a COVID-19 case.
- If quarantine is shortened, daily symptom monitoring and strict adherence to prevention measures including social distancing, hand washing, and especially wearing masks/face coverings should continue until the full 14 days from last contact with a COVID-10 case.
 - Close contacts who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 90 days and remain asymptomatic do not need to quarantine. Proof of a positive molecular/PCR or antigen test is required indicating the above.
 - Close contacts who are fully vaccinated (i.e., greater than or equal to 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or greater than or equal to one dose in a single-dose vaccine) at the time of exposure and remain asymptomatic do not need to quarantine. In these cases, proof of full vaccination is required.
- 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
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. Inside school facilities, masks are mandated for all employees and students age 5 and above, and all children enrolled in a kindergarten program (YK – 7th grade). Any child between the ages of 2 and 5 who is not enrolled in a kindergarten program is strongly encouraged to wear a face covering.
2. 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.
3. Face coverings do not have to be uniform; however, they cannot contain scary images, political slogans, inappropriate pictures or inappropriate sayings.
4. Classroom seating will be spaced as far apart from each other as possible.
5. Students will be able to attend auxiliary classes.
6. Each student will have his/her own supplies. Students will not be allowed to share supplies.
7. 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. Inside school facilities, masks are mandated for all employees and students age 5 and above, and all children enrolled in a kindergarten program (YK – 7th grade. Any child between the ages of 2 and 5 who is not enrolled in a kindergarten program is strongly encouraged to wear a face covering.
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. The safety of our staff and students is our primary concern.

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.