

# FAITHFULLY FORWARD

SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL 2021-22



# FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL'S DESK

Dear Bishop McGuinness Students, Families and Staff -

Last Friday, I shared the CSO's Faithfully Forward brochure for the opening of the school year. The protocols developed in consultation with principals, parents, health-care officials, and other stakeholders representing the 19 schools in the Diocese provide both a safe school environment for our students and prioritize as normal a learning environment as possible. I want to reiterate that we will continue to monitor and update the current plans if needed as we make plans to return to school on August 18.

As we know from the released protocol, the current plan is to allow students, faculty, staff, and visitors to campus the option of wearing masks. We expect that all community members will be respectful of other's decisions to mask or not mask. If individuals choose to mask on a regular basis, we ask that they bring their own masks from home. We will continue to have a supply of masks available at Bishop for use on an as-needed basis.

Hand sanitizing stations will remain on campus for frequent use when moving throughout the building. Water fountain stations will remain off with the exception of the dispensers used to fill individual water bottles. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle from home to fill up at the stations over the course of the day. Our athletic teams will abide by the NCHSAA protocols in place at the time of their scheduled competition against other schools, and we will work with other schools in coordinating protocols for games and other interscholastic competitions held at Bishop McGuinness.

Our academic leadership team will meet during next week's professional days to discuss our process for supporting students who will quarantine as a result of a confirmed, positive Covid test. We will communicate with families during the first week of school regarding the specific procedures for staying in touch with teachers, receiving and sending work, and continuing the learning process while away from campus.

I encourage you to read through the additional information provided here regarding processes for managing a positive Covid case on campus, contact tracing, and more. We will also be adding all relevant content pertaining to this year's Covid response on our website ([www.bmhs.us](http://www.bmhs.us)). Kelli Houseknecht, Nurse and Alain Tourret, Dean of Students will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Please be assured that we will continue to keep reviewing updated and new data on the Delta variant. We will thoughtfully monitor our school environments and react accordingly to minimize risk to our student populations while also living out our holistic mission centered on the formation of our students in light of the teaching of Christ and the living out of the Gospel message.

Dr. Jared M. Rashford  
Head of School  
Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School



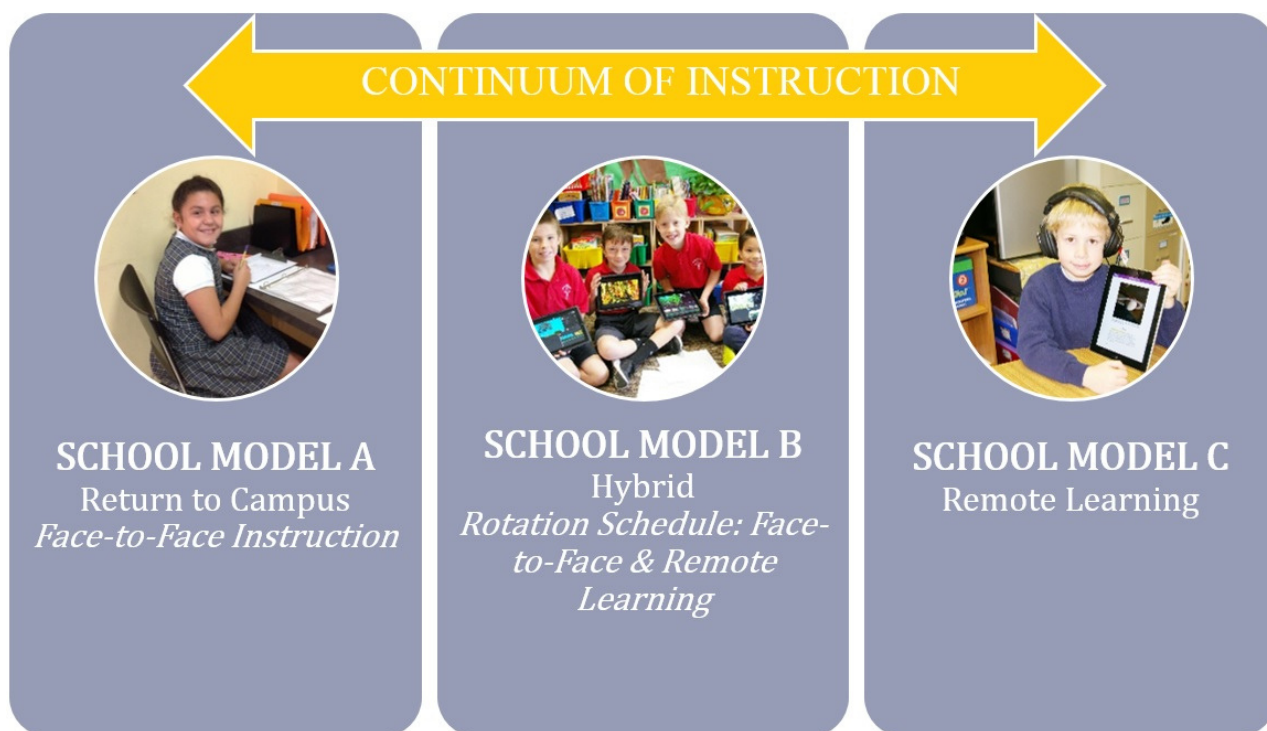
## FAITHFULLY FORWARD COVID 2021-22 PROTOCOLS

**Students in School:** We look forward to welcoming our students back to the hallways of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School. We continue to prioritize in-person learning knowing this is the optimal environment for our students' holistic development. Should a student be exempted from in-person instruction, every effort will be made to make certain that their learning experience will be as fruitful during the exemption as it would be in person. Teachers will work directly with the students to ensure that they are up to date on classroom instruction, lessons, activities, assignments, and assessments. It is the responsibility of the teacher and the student to be in communication about classroom happenings and to stay current on lessons and assignments. Communication is key.

**School Environment:** When students return to their classrooms, they will feel a sense of safety and excitement. They will no longer see barriers or signage limiting their movement and interactions. The hallways and bulletin boards will be illuminated with art and work samples as they learn and grow in faith and academics.

As we move through this upcoming school year, we must continue to monitor the pandemic and respond to the individual needs of our school community. Our learning continuum will remain in place for the 2021-2022 school year. A decision to move from one model of instruction to another will be made in consultation with school administration and the CSO.

### LEARNING CONTINUUM





# FAITHFULLY FORWARD COVID 2021-22 PROTOCOLS

## Gatherings



### Mass, Large Gatherings, Field Trips, Sports

As a school community we finished the 2020-2021 school year united in Faith. We were able to celebrate Mass and carry out many of our end-of-year traditions (**including field trips, field days, graduations, etc.**). We look forward to starting this year strong with many of our normal back-to-school events already lined-up (**including our back-to-school picnic, welcome back coffee, and all-school Mass**).



## Cleaning

In the spring of 2021 our school community returned to normal routines for cleaning and disinfecting measures. Our classrooms and hallways are prepared to welcome students back. We will continue with standard cleaning and disinfecting protocols in place.

## Transportation



Transportation is available for the 2021-2022 school year. Buses will run at normal capacity with increased cleaning measures in place. Buses will have assigned seating with siblings paired together. Face coverings or masks are optional for bus riders and drivers.

## Volunteers



We are thankful to have such strong supporters who impact our everyday operations. We look forward to partner with our volunteers again this year as we work together to support the various offices and operations of our community.

## Stay Home



One of the main reasons we were successful in sustaining in-person instruction last school year was the partnership with our families. If your child is not feeling well, please keep them at home. We have a strong leadership team who is working closely to maintain proper documentation and health standards. If you do have any health updates please communicate with our nurse, Kelli Houseknecht, [khouseknecht@bmhs.us](mailto:khouseknecht@bmhs.us) as soon as possible. We want to remain vigilant in our response time to ensure we keep students in school.



## Face Coverings

Face coverings are optional for students, staff and visitors on our school campus. Please be respectful of others' decisions whether or not to wear a face covering.

## Health & Handwashing Training



Prioritizing health trainings with our staff and handwashing with our families contributed to the success of our 2020-2021 school year. Routine and proper handwashing can significantly reduce the spread of germs. We will train our students in proper handwashing techniques and build in opportunities for them to wash throughout the day. Please reinforce handwashing practices at home.

## WHAT WILL THE RESPONSE BE FOR A POSITIVE COVID CASE WITHIN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY?

If your child or a family member tests positive for COVID, please contact **Mr. Alain Turret or Kelli Houseknecht** immediately. If contact tracing is necessary, the **administration/nurse** will communicate with the appropriate individuals, including the local health department. COVID cases will not be reported community wide to protect the privacy of those affected. We do not communicate any other illness or health concern to our wider school community.



## WHAT IS THE PROTOCOL FOR CONTACT TRACING ON CAMPUS?

In the spring of 2021 we decreased our social distancing and contact tracing measures to 3 feet. Data collected diocesan wide during the implementation of this change has shown that no additional spread resulted in our schools. Our protocol for contact tracing for the 2021-2022 school year will include siblings, carpool members and those identified as a direct contact (within 3 feet for 15 minutes or longer) with a positive case.