



2021-2022

K-8

Parent & Guardian Information Guide (COVID-19)

Holy Redeemer School
501 S Whitney
Marshall, MN
507-532-6642

AS DISCIPLES OF THE LORD

WE STRIVE TO STRENGTHEN OUR CATHOLIC FAITH BY DEEPENING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST THROUGH LOVE, PRAYER, AND SERVICE.

At Holy Redeemer School, we strive to live as Jesus would want us to live by providing a Christian atmosphere where all learn and grow academically and spiritually.

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Holy Redeemer School Safety Measures

Illness

We are asking parents to be honest and vigilant about their children's health and are depending on them to help make common sense decisions regarding their children's health. Students and employees are expected to remain at home when they are sick. HRS will promptly send children and employees home when they display symptoms of COVID-19 illness. Parents are expected to monitor health concerns at home.

In determining when students may return to school after an illness, HRS will follow the standard illness exclusion policy (e.g. fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication) unless a student has a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19.

Students with lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 are allowed to return to school when all of the following are true (Minnesota Department of Health, 2021):

- They feel better. Their cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms have substantially improved;
- It has been at least 10 days since they first felt sick or tested positive;
- They have had no fever for at least 24 hours, without using medicine that lowers fevers.

Employees will follow a similar policy.

Quarantines

The Minnesota Department of Health no longer requires school leaders to quarantine individuals, entire classrooms, or groups of students on account of potential exposure to COVID19. If at any time the Minnesota Department of Health or local public health officials require a quarantine, we will follow their guidance. For those who have tested positive, we will follow that stated in the illness section.

Contact Tracing

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It is still mandatory to report confirmed COVID cases per MN Rule 4605.7070, “any person in charge of any institution, school, child care facility, or camp to report cases of COVID-19 to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).” The responsibility for contact tracing lies with trained professionals at the Minnesota Department of Health. HRS will assist MDH by providing relevant information when requested.

Physical Distancing

Physical distancing of 3 feet is recommended by the CDC when and where possible. Small group interaction, classroom structures, and classroom layouts are an important part of the educational and social experience of our students. HRS will promote public health recommendations for physical distancing provided they do not: 1) disproportionately impact child development or the educational goals of the schools or 2) limit the school’s ability to offer in-person learning to all of its students.

Facility Cleanliness

HRS will be disinfecting the school daily, and in some situations mid-day depending on the activity level and traffic volume.

Hand Washing & Sanitizer

Hand sanitizer stations will be available at all entrances at HRS, while students will be further encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water. Students will be instructed in the practices of good hygiene.

Masks

The State’s legal mandate requiring face coverings in public and nonpublic schools expired at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. The Diocese of New Ulm does not require Catholic school students or employees to wear face coverings. Parents and guardians are well-positioned

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to determine if their child should wear a face covering while outside of the home and out in the community. No student will be prevented from wearing a face covering. HRS will work to reduce any stigmatization associated with the decision to wear or not wear a face covering. We will continue to foster communities of respect and kindness, whether masked or unmasked.

Masking is still required on all school buses. This is a federal requirement as school buses (both public and private) are considered public transportation.

Drinking Fountains

Students are always encouraged to bring a water bottle to use throughout the school day. Drinking fountains will be opened and available for student use.

Communication

HRS will continue to regularly communicate with families. Please take the time to read all paper and email communications that are shared. When students are potentially exposed to any infectious disease (including but not limited to COVID-19) at school, HRS will notify parents of a potential exposure. Policy and procedure changes may happen quickly and this will be the best way for you to stay up-to-date.

School Closure Due to Absenteeism

We will monitor daily attendance and reasons for absences. We will work closely with our school nurse and local health department if several absences are identified as being related to COVID-19.

In case of a widespread illness in the state, county, or community, our school could close for an extended time period out of concern for the health of students, staff and community. During a time of closure we will implement our distance learning plan.

We must have the permission of the Diocese of New Ulm, our Pastor, and our Principal to close any individual classroom, section or whole school. If the situation requires, and we have the

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proper permissions, we may decide it is prudent to close Holy Redeemer School even if other area schools remain open.

In the event that Holy Redeemer School must re-evaluate our plan or we are no longer able to do full time in-school learning, students will be offered a hybrid schedule or an improved distance learning schedule. Determination of the alternative schedule will be based on current MDH, local health officials, and Diocese of New Ulm guidelines.

Visitors

We recognize the important role families and volunteers play in our school communities. The buildings will be open for visitors, and volunteers are encouraged to participate. All visitors and vendors will need to self-screen upon entry.

Transportation

Holy Redeemer School is encouraging/asking families to find alternative ways of transportation to get their students to school other than the bus. If students have no other way to get to school, students may ride the bus.

Arrival and Dismissal of Students

Holy Redeemer School will return to pre-covid practices in regards to arrival and dismissal. In the mornings we will go back to a middle school area straight out from the flagpole and elementary section on the playground closest to the Holy Redeemer sign.

Food Service

The cafeteria layout and structure will be back to pre-covid. Students will sit up to 16 at a table with their homerooms. We will no longer utilize shields and will promote a family-like atmosphere.

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Students will sanitize or wash their hands before eating breakfast and/or lunch and when finished.

Students will not be offered the salad bar at this time. Holy Redeemer school is allowing students to bring their lunch from home.

Academics

The focus of Holy Redeemer School has always been, and continues to be, excellence in every area. We will therefore continue in-person instruction and return to practices that include classroom collaboration among students and teachers.

Liturgical Celebrations

It is of the utmost importance that our Catholic Identity remains alive and well in our various liturgical celebrations. Schools will follow the most current protocols outlined by the Diocese of New Ulm regarding liturgy.

To date they include:

- Families and guests are encouraged to be a part of liturgical celebrations.
- There are no capacity limits in church buildings.
- Communion will be distributed under one form.
- Holy water may be used.
- The offertory procession is as usual.
- The Sign of Peace may be used at the pastor's discretion.
- Servers are allowed.
- Singing is encouraged.

Specials

Students will travel in and out of specialist classrooms for instruction.

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Hybrid/ Virtual Education (If Necessary)

It is our goal to offer in-person instruction on all regularly scheduled school days during the 2021-2022 school year.

If we have no other choice but to go to a distance learning plan, the following items are in place for every student:

- Class materials will be shared with K-8th grade students via Google Classroom
- Students in grades K-2 will be provided Samsung tablets
- Students in grades 3-8 will be provided Google Chrome Books
- Students will continue regularly scheduled instruction with the teacher they would have had in-person for all subjects.
- Teachers will continue to utilize a variety of methods to present lessons including Google Classroom, SeeSaw, Zoom, Google Meets, recorded tutorials, websites, YouTube videos, and online lessons.
- Emphasis will be put on live sessions and participation rather than assignments.

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