



The following is an opening plan for the Nativity of Our Lord School during the 2021-22 school year. This plan was created with guidance and recommendations from the Diocese of Buffalo, The New York State Department of Education, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Erie County Department of Health.

The success of the continuation of the five-day, all-day, in-person instruction we provided to our students last year and that will continue this year is predicated on the implementation of guidelines for safety and health. This document is subject to periodic review and update as requirements from the Diocese and Health Agencies change.

“We believe that it is our Christian obligation to be concerned for the care and well-being of others and to do our part to end this pandemic, something Bishop Fisher has emphasized repeatedly over the past several months.” Dr. Timothy Uhl, Superintendent of Education, Diocese of Buffalo

At Nativity, each of us: Faculty, Staff, Students, and Parents, must be ready and willing to create a culture of cooperation and responsibility and make a daily commitment to protecting the health of all who are learning, teaching, and working in the school.

I. DAILY SCHEDULE

Nativity of our Lord School will be offering in-person learning to students Monday through Friday. The daily schedule will be consistent

with start times, classroom times, lunch times, and dismissal times from past years. Like last year, the following guidelines with minor changes will be followed:

*Masks are worn indoors by all staff, students, and visitors regardless of vaccination status. (Breaks will be given at the teacher's discretion, and social distancing must be adhered to during those times.)

*The social distancing policy and spacing of greater than three feet will be practiced by all persons in the building.

*Proper hand washing and sanitizing will be used throughout the day.

*Shields will be utilized in the cafeteria but not in K-8 classrooms.

II. Arrival

a. Before arrival, each family is to review the daily health screen questionnaire at home. Daily review of a health screen is now a requirement by the ECDOH. Students displaying any symptoms should be kept home and taken to their health care provider for evaluation or obtain a covid test. If a student is sent home with symptoms or kept home with symptoms, one of the following three criteria is necessary for reentry into school:

1. A negative Covid test, preferably a PCR,

2. A medical provider's note that expresses an alternative diagnosis or

3. Ten days since the onset of COVID-19 symptoms. As per ECDOH, results from an at-home Covid test are not permitted for reentry after an illness.

b. Arrival into the building will continue to be handled at one location: the school doors by the church parking lot. As students arrive at the facility, they will be required to have a mask on and will have their temperatures taken. Students arriving at the school between 7:30-8:00 am will be asked to wait in the cafeteria. Students coming between 8:00-8:20 am will be asked to report to their homeroom. Students arriving at school after 8:20 am will be asked to report to the Main Office to have their temperature taken. In the event of a fever, any student or faculty member will be sent to the Health Office for further evaluation.

c. All students will be dismissed from the cafeteria and move to their classrooms using the stairwell closest to the church.

III. Dismissal

a. Students who take the bus home will be dismissed through the arrival doors as in prior years. That dismissal begins at 2:25 p.m.

b. New procedures will be implemented to ensure the safety of the students picked up by parents. Parent Pick up dismissal occurs between 2:30-2:40 p.m. Separate instructions will follow and be explained before the beginning of the school year but include a safe zone for students crossing adjacent to the building where community members may not congregate or drive their cars. Students will be dismissed by class with their homeroom teacher. Parents will remain in their cars or standing by their vehicles until their children safely reach them. Drivers will exit the parking lot on the far side of the lot, away from the building and near the trees. The administration will provide more specific information in separate instructions regarding Parent Pick Up Procedures.

IV. Classrooms

a. Desks will be arranged to allow greater than three feet of separated space whenever physically possible.

b. Mask breaks will be given periodically at the discretion of the teacher when the students are seated and not moving throughout the room.

V. Moving throughout the Building

Except for dismissal from the cafeteria in the morning when all students will use the stairwell closest to the church and bus dismissal when all students will use the central stairs:

a. Students in the K-2 grouping will use the stairwell closest to the church and stay to the right when moving to lunch and specials.

b. Students in the 3-5 grouping will use the stairwell in the middle of the building and stay to the right when moving to lunch and specials.

- c. Students in the Junior high grouping will use the front stairwell and will stay to the right. When changing classes, the students will travel in a single file line staying to the right in the junior high wing of the building.
- d. All students will be encouraged to keep right and maintain social distancing throughout the building.

VI. School Masses

- a. Liturgy attendance will be in person with adherence to safety protocol until further notice.

VII. Cafeteria

- a. Students will be seated using three feet spacing or more while sitting at the round lunch tables.
- b. Plastic shields will be on lunchroom tables.
- c. All Classes will rotate through a recess schedule with the help of volunteers.
- d. Lunch rules stated in the school handbook are to be followed.

VIII. Visitors

- a. Visitors to the building are limited to the volunteers needed to promote or oversee the safe activities approved by the administration.
- b. All visitors must wear masks and sign in the main office.
- c. Visitors are not permitted to enter classrooms during the school day unless arranged in advance with the classroom teacher.
- d. If a visitor needs to drop off belongings to a student, that drop-off must occur at the main office.

IX. Transportation

- a. The surrounding districts will handle bus transportation as in previous years.
- b. Parent Pick up will occur at the parking lot near the school and gym.

X. Plan for Continuation of Program Under Shutdown

- a. Nativity of Our Lord School will continue instruction via online resources if an entire classroom or school is shut down.
- b. Continuation of instruction for individual students who may quarantine will occur through assignments arranged between students and their teachers. Nativity offers in-person instruction at this time and virtual education when entire classes or the school is quarantined.

This document will be evaluated and updated as needed.

**Updated 8/26/21*