



Return to School Plan 2020

Students: Getting ready and going to school safely...

Symptoms Assessment: Before I come to school, my parent or guardian will check my temperature and assess my symptoms; if I have a fever of 100.4 or higher, a cough, shortness of breath, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell, or have been in direct contact with someone who has COVID-19, I will stay home and my parent or guardian will contact my medical provider and the school.

Busing: When waiting for the bus, I will practice social distancing, wear my face covering, and participate in any additional health check required by the transportation department (e.g. temperature checks, etc.).

Parent Drop-offs: If I ride in a car to school, my parent or guardian can drop me off in the church/school parking lot or the front doors or walk me to the designated entry point with my face covering on. Parents/guardians will not be able to enter the school for drop off or pick up.

Walking/Riding Bicycles to School: If I walk or ride a bicycle to school, I will enter the school through the parking lot or front door entry points with my face covering on.

Students: Safety at School...

Arrival at school: When I arrive at school, I will wear my face covering and report to my classroom.

Breakfast on Campus: If I am enrolled in the breakfast program, I will be served the breakfast option in my classroom and will eat my breakfast there socially distanced from other students.

Drinking Fountains: I will bring a water bottle to school that can be refilled using the school drinking fountains. Drinking fountains will not be used for anything but for filling water bottles. Water bottles will also be able to be refilled during the lunch period.

Face Coverings and Social Distancing: As a Kindergarten through 7th grade student, I will wear my face covering and practice social distancing throughout the day when I am in the building. Families are expected to provide face coverings for their children. Marquette has procured basic disposable masks that can be temporarily provided as students and families reestablish ownership of their own masks. The school has also received an allotment of cloth and disposable child and adult size masks to disburse as needed and has purchased a supply of child and adult size face shields for use in the classrooms. PreK students are exempt from the face covering mandate. However, we remind parents to be sure mask when coming into the school for any reason for their kids in grades PreK-7.

Cohorts: I will stay with my cohort during the instructional school day including lunch and recess. Cohorts will primarily be my classmates in my same grade throughout the day but may include additional grades of students during lunch, choir, and/or band.

Handwashing: I will wash my hands frequently or use hand sanitizer throughout the day. I can bring my own personal hand sanitizer to use during the day. Marquette will also provide hand sanitizer stations in the hallways and classrooms and will designate scheduled hand washing/sanitizing times.

Hallways: When I am traveling through the hallway and/or using the restroom, I will wear my face covering and practice social distancing.

Music Classes: Students will be socially distanced in music classes and be able to take their masks off when singing or playing band instruments that would conflict with mask-wearing.

Lunch: When eating lunch, I can bring my own cold lunch or have the option to purchase hot lunch from the school. I will travel to the social hall for lunch with my cohort and be seating with my cohort in a spaced designated seating area. Before eating my food, I will wash my hands and practice good hygiene. I will stay with my cohort as we are excused for dispensing our lunch trays and exiting the social hall as a group.

Limiting Building Access: Daily access to the school will be limited to students, staff members, and administrator-approved volunteer support. Volunteers will be allowed to enter the building following the same protocols as staff/faculty.

Parents and Students: Safety Procedures for Everyone...

Face Coverings: All adults entering the school will use face coverings in accordance with the plan. All students will use face coverings as outlined in the “Students: Safety at School” section.

Field Trips: Field trips may be limited based on the pandemic’s challenges and transportation. Social distancing parameters of 3-6 feet and face covering parameters must be met for students within a cohort for students to utilize bus transportation. Parents may opt out of participation in a school-selected field trip or may transport students by themselves. Policies and procedures from the host of the field trip will be reviewed in advance by Marquette Catholic School and allow us to fulfill our policies and procedures as delineated in this plan.

Mass and Other School Events: Mass is an important part of our week. Students will have mass every week which includes Children’s Mass on Tuesdays for grades K-3 and Daily Mass on Thursdays for grades 4-7. Morning prayers and announcements will be completed over the PA system and/or within classrooms/cohorts while this plan is in place. Outdoor prayer may occur when social distancing parameters are maintained. Other school-wide events will be delivered virtually or through outdoor gathering of small groups/cohorts provided social distancing and face covering, as required, can be maintained.

Cohorts: Students in grades PreK-7 will remain with their cohorts all day. These cohorts will be established so students within the same cohort would use the same hallway space, bathrooms, and classrooms.

Picking Up a Child: Parents who will be picking up a child for early dismissal due to illness or a medical appointment will be expected to call the front office when they arrive at the school and give permission to the office staff to sign their child out. The office staff member will escort the student to the door to visually identify the parent/guardian for transfer of care. There is no dismissal within 15 minutes of the regular end of the school day, and only parents, guardians, or other individuals identified on the student's contact list with appropriate identification will be allowed to leave with the student.

School Nurse: The school nurse will utilize a designated isolation area if a student comes to school and presents COVID-19 symptoms. Parents will be contacted to pick up sick students immediately so both the family and school can follow proper protocol developed by the local health department to evaluate symptoms, assist the school in necessary communication with school families, and determine if temporary cohort or school closures are necessary. The family and school will follow the MDH Decision Tree for People with COVID-19 Symptoms in Youth, Student and Child Care Programs to guide decisions on quarantine time and returning to school.

Closures: If closures are necessary for a class/cohort or the school, students and teachers will transition temporarily to remote learning during the self-quarantine period. The family and school will follow the MDH COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs to guide decisions on quarantine time and returning to school.

Cleaning: All buildings and workspaces will be cleaned regularly throughout the day. Through an educational approach with students, teachers and students will wipe down high-touch surfaces used with the day in the classroom such as learning surfaces, desks, doorknobs, and handrails. Marquette's maintenance staff will enhance their daily cleaning efforts to disinfect areas of the building in mid-morning and after lunch used by students such as bathrooms, floors, doorknobs, light switches, walls near bathrooms, and corners. Classrooms are also wiped down and fogged daily in the afterhours when students are not around.

Parents and Students: Other Important Information...

Transportation: As of the publishing of this plan, Virginia Public Schools are planning on running their buses as usual, and Marquette students will be able to access morning bus transportation via the VPS school route. If VPS would decide to close school or move to a distance learning model, Marquette families will have to self-transport their kids before school. If possible, we encourage families to utilize their own transportation to further limit exposure to illness during the pandemic. As a reminder, Marquette families must provide after-school transportation per our move to the 4-day school week.

Uniforms: Student in grades K-7 are still required to wear uniforms while in school except for Wednesdays when they will be allowed to wear Marquette spirit wear and jeans.

Morning and After Care: Students may be dropped off anytime between 7:30 and 7:50 (the start of the school day) and once they have checked in at the school entrance, are to keep their masks on and walk directly to their classrooms. After Care will only be available Monday through Thursday. On After Care days, students who are not getting picked up immediately after school will remain in their classrooms until all other students are dismissed. Teachers will walk them to the social hall where students will be socially distanced from other students and seated at tables in cohort groups for After Care. Students may be picked up from After Care anytime between 3:35 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. After Care will be provided at no-charge from 3:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will be charging a flat fee for any kids remaining after 4:00 through 5:30 and will have a \$10 cap in place per family per day. If this poses financial hardship for any families, please contact the school. At any regard, we encourage parents/guardians to pick up their children immediately after school as they are able and as soon as possible thereafter to help limit student numbers and exposure.

Food Service: MCS will continue to participate in the same INAC Food Service program. INAC is an independent business (separate from the public schools) and will continue to serve meals at Marquette even if other local school districts were to fully move to distance learning. As part of the USDA Summer Food Service Program, breakfasts and lunches will be served free of charge to all students regardless of income status. Students are to let their teachers know each morning if they want to order hot lunch for that day and/or breakfast for the following school day.

Fall Open House: Large group gatherings are suspended to start the school year but may be implemented as the year goes on and situations may change. This includes our typical fall Open House gathering. In lieu of a large gathering, we are providing the option for families to have individualized zoom meetings with their student's teacher.

State Mandates: Marquette Catholic School is currently in alignment with Governor Walz's executive order requiring face coverings of all people over the age of 5. We will work collaboratively with our local school districts as best as we can and follow suggestions and/or recommendations when we believe they best support our students and staff. While MCS can usually make decisions independent of the recommendations or decisions made for public schools, Marquette may be issued orders or directives by local, regional, or state agencies in which the school may have no choice but to abide.

Childcare and Essential Workers: If Marquette Catholic School must close due to COVID-19 exposure, the school will not have onsite care available. If Marquette must close due to a wider community shut down, it would reconnect with the local school districts to see if they would continue to serve MCS families with parents who are essential workers.

Plans and Procedures Updates: Marquette Catholic School will notify families via email and/or Parent Alert when plans and procedures are updated. The most current version of the plan will be updated and accessible on our school website at marquettecatholicschool.com.

