



FALL 2020

# BACK TO SCHOOL

Re-Opening Campus Policies and Procedures  
*for Parents and Students of*  
**Divine Mercy Catholic School**





*introduction*

# WELCOME BACK!

Divine Mercy Catholic School leadership, staff, and parents worked throughout the summer to develop a Pandemic Preparedness and Response Plan (PPRP) that addresses the health and safety of our school this fall. This plan relies on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) protocols for implementation of mitigation strategies in the re-opening of schools. This booklet is a summary of the PPRP document.

We have planned for three scenarios this school year and will be responsive to changing circumstances. As a school community, we will need to be prepared to follow the guidelines and work through any new information or State mandates. Divine Mercy will rely on guidance from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis as we address the 2020-2021 school year and be prepared to adjust our protocols as needed.

## Planning for all scenarios: Opening with Scenario 1

**1****SCENARIO 1: IN-PERSON WITH SOME RESTRICTIONS**

Students report to school daily-following health and safety precautions  
(students with health-related concerns supported virtually)

**2****SCENARIO 2: IN-PERSON AND ONLINE HYBRID**

Homeroom #1 reports Monday and Tuesday, Homeroom #2 reports Thursday and Friday. Mass on Wednesday (online or in-person), staff meetings, students meet with teachers online throughout the day.

**3****SCENARIO 3: DISTANCE LEARNING**

Students learn at home with a revised and expanded distance learning platform.



## PREPARING FOR FLEXIBILITY

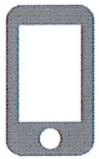
The staff at Divine Mercy Catholic School has planned for all scenarios. We are committed to working with our families to provide a high quality education to our students this year. We will be responsive to the ever-changing landscape and work to be transparent and flexible. Please contact the office with specific needs/considerations.



*the school day*

## AT-A-GLANCE

Divine Mercy Catholic School is pleased to provide an in-person school experience this fall. We will provide an environment that utilizes multiple mitigation strategies to decrease risks associated with the COVID-19 virus. Online learning options will also be available for students who become ill or for families who desire them.



### HOW WE WILL COMMUNICATE WITH YOU

Parents can continue to rely on our weekly Thursday newsletters for information. We will also utilize email and text messages for emerging issues. It is important that each family verify their information is correct in their PowerSchool account. We have created a page on our website for COVID-19 information.



### HOW TO ACCESS YOUR VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

A webpage devoted to online learning will go live prior to the start of school. This can be accessed from our dmcs.cc website address under the current families tab.



## 8.31.20

*first day of school  
grades 1-5*

## 9.2.20

*first day of school  
grades PreK-K*

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## 7:40-8:00AM

*arrival time*

## 3:00 PM

*dismissal time*





*our shared commitment*

# HEALTH AND SAFETY

Divine Mercy Catholic School is dedicated to the health and safety of its students and faculty. Through frequent cleaning, sanitizing, and health screenings we will work to mitigate risks of exposure to COVID-19. Teachers will educate students on respiratory etiquette, proper hand washing techniques, and physical distancing procedures, then monitor that these practices occur in their classroom family pods.

## OUR COMMITMENT:



### HEALTH SCREENINGS

*Home Screening completed daily for staff and students. Visitors will be screened for symptoms.*



### HAND WASHING

*Staff and students will be expected to wash hands more frequently.*



### RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

*Correct etiquette will be taught and encouraged.*



### FREQUENT SANITATION

*Cleaning protocols have been revised to provide more frequent sanitation.*



### NURSING STAFF

*Protocols are in place to appropriately handle students and staff exhibiting symptoms.*

## YOUR COMMITMENT:



### FOLLOW HEALTH + SAFETY PLAN

*Read and follow all protocols in place at school.*



### STUDENTS WITH SYMPTOMS

*Screen your child each day and keep them at home if you see symptoms. Notify school of exposure.*



### PRAYER

*Pray for the health and safety of our Divine Mercy community as well as all those who are sick.*



### RESPECT AND CHARITY

*Respect others by assuming the best intentions and honor their right to a different opinion.*



*putting policies into practice*

# DAILY LIFE AT DIVINE MERCY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

We believe that the best education occurs when students and teachers are face to face; where they can interact and learn while building strong relationships. At Divine Mercy Catholic School we are committed to maintaining as authentic a classroom experience as possible while utilizing multiple strategies to mitigate the risk of transferring the virus.



Classrooms will function as small family pods. Room arrangements will allow for physical distancing as much as possible.



Students will still attend Phy-Ed and have recess and lunch outside of their classroom. Outdoor activity will be utilized as much as possible.



Under current state mandate, masks are required. However, students will be allowed mask breaks when physically active or eating.



K-5 students will enter and exit the building through doors 2 and 3. Preschool students will enter and exit through class specific doorways.



Hand sanitizing stations will be posted at the doorways and in the lunchroom to provide easy access.



Our lunchroom staff will be providing pre-plated hot lunch each day. Students are welcome to bring a cold lunch if they wish.



Staff and students will attend weekly Mass. All protocols followed at Sunday Masses will remain in effect.



Students will attend lunch and daily recess within their classroom family pod. They will be required to wash hands immediately after.



Sports programs are sponsored by Bethlehem Academy and will follow their guidelines.



For now, large group assemblies will be hosted virtually.



DMCS students transported by bus will follow the guidelines provided by Faribault Transportation.



Visitors will be limited and will not be allowed outside of the front vestibule. We request appointments so that staff is prepared.



*planning for the year*

# KEY AREAS OF PREPAREDNESS

Divine Mercy Catholic School is committed to addressing all the areas prescribed by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis in establishing our Pandemic Preparedness Response Plan (PPRP). These areas are outlined below.

1

## MAINTAINING HEALTHY FACILITIES

Routine cleaning and disinfecting of classroom surfaces, restrooms, lunchrooms, meeting rooms and drop-off and pickup locations.

2

## MAINTAINING HEALTHY OPERATIONS

Families, students and employees have been informed of symptoms and are encouraged to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 through regular health checks.

3

## COMMUNICATING, TRAINING AND EDUCATING

Parents, staff, teachers and all others in the school community have been educated on health and safety procedures for shared involvement and responsibility.



**ADD THESE  
ITEMS TO YOUR  
SHOPPING LIST:**



THERMOMETER



PERSONAL  
WATER BOTTLE



MASK OR  
FACE COVERING



*final notes*

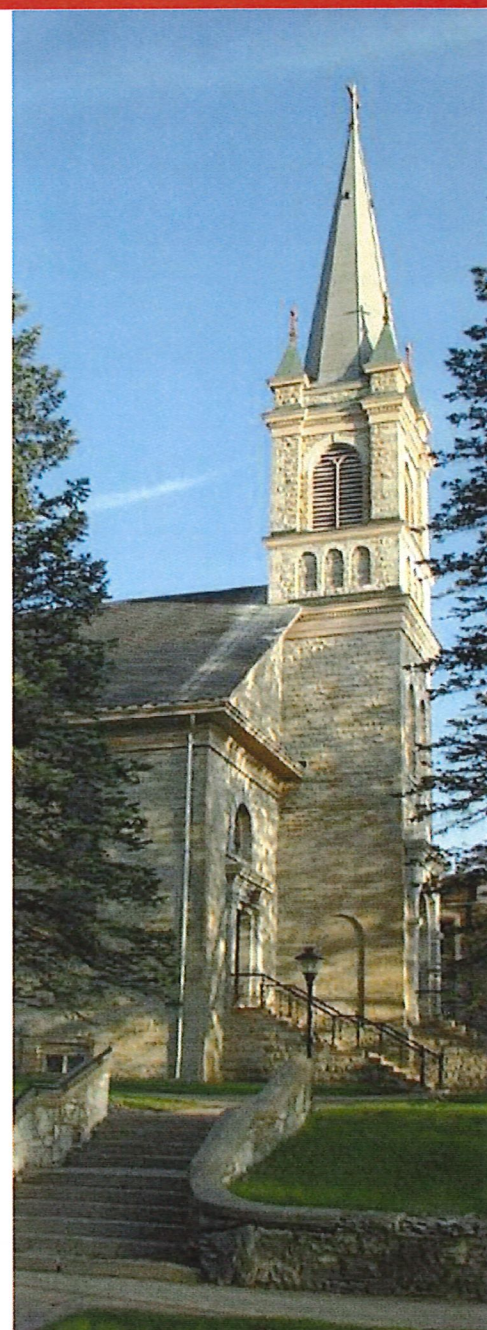
# A VISION OF HOPE

Divine Mercy Catholic School: *A community grounded in faith, dedicated to the development of the whole child; mind, body, and soul.*

Every child is a vision of hope. This is our theme for the 2020-2021 school year. We believe that each of our students represents the future of our world and our church. For over 150 years, the Catholic Church in Faribault has fulfilled its mission of educating students in this faith. Divine Mercy Catholic School continues that mission today. We believe in our mission and will work through any challenge to accomplish it.

Educating young people in the light of Christ is foundational to the mission of the Catholic Church. While the church has carried out this work of education in the midst of social, health and political crises, the current global COVID-19 pandemic has prompted the unprecedented reflection on education and the central role of the physical school community in promoting the academic, spiritual, and emotional growth of the child.

In preparing for the start of the 2020-21 school year, our local Church and the wider educational community throughout the state and country are required to make morally responsible decisions for how to educate the future citizens and leaders of our society during a pandemic, with special consideration for those children who are the most vulnerable among us. With the information that is currently available, we affirm that the most prudent decision for Catholic schools is to plan for the safe reopening of its school buildings at the start of the 2020-21 school year.



## OUR RE-OPENING LEADERS:

Fr. Cory Rohlfing  
Angela Timm  
Sarah Duchene  
Mary Herzog  
Steve Zabel  
Ginger VanHecke

Anna Washburn  
Katie Opsal  
Elodie Metro  
Phillip Parrish  
Patty Miller  
Gina Ashley



## GET THE LATEST INFORMATION

Watch the following for more information:  
Thursday ENEWS  
COVID page on our website  
Facebook





# DIVINE MERCY

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

15 3rd Ave SW  
Faribault, MN 55021

faithful   
beginnings  
at Divine Mercy  
Catholic School

WWW.DMCS.CC | 507-334-7706

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Divine Mercy Catholic School: A community grounded in faith dedicated to the development of the whole child; mind, body, and soul.