

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR PLAN

Gloucester Catholic High School

2020-2021 PLANNING TASK FORCE

Edward Beckett.....	Principal
Thomas Iacovone	Assistant Principal for Student Affairs
Thomas Reed	Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs/ Tech Director
Patrick Murphy	Athletic Director
Mary Kelly	Junior High Lead Teacher
Jeff Cordner	Director of Guidance
Ian Chrzanowski	Faculty
Brittney Cairns	Guidance Counselor
Shannon Gorman	Parent; School Nurse
Heather Mondel	Parent
Charles Kain.....	Parent

Thank you to the taskforce members in the creation of this plan. Their expertise and commitment to Catholic education is commendable.

SOURCES

The information in this plan comes from the hard work of the 2020-2021 planning task force, which used multiple sources to guide its planning. These include policy and directives from the Diocese of Camden Office of Catholic Schools, which are grounded in the following:

- General guidelines and *Considerations for Schools* from the Centers for Disease Control
- *The Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan for Education*, (NJ Department of Education)
- *Considerations for school-related public health measures in the context of COVID-19* (World Health Organization)
- Feedback and input from Catholic school principals, teachers, and parents via the June 2020 parent survey and June 2020 teacher survey

Gloucester Catholic also referenced these documents directly in the preparation of this plan.

In addition to these references, the Diocese of Camden Office of Catholic Schools engaged its standing Strategic Action Team, multiple task forces, and public health officials in developing its guidance. Many members of Gloucester Catholic’s community also shared perspectives relevant to developing this plan.

INTRODUCTION

Catholic schools provide an environment in which we consistently model Gospel values and Church teachings and traditions in the image of Jesus Christ. All students experience an academically challenging curriculum that helps them to grow closer to God by learning about themselves and His world, while preparing them to succeed at every level. At Gloucester Catholic our mission is to empower young men and women to become faithful citizens and to develop in all aspects of life: spiritual, intellectual, moral, emotional, social and physical. Our goal is that our graduates continue their education and carry with them a guide for Catholic Christian living: vibrant faith, respect for human dignity, strong belief in the values of family, promotion of justice, service to community and country, and the desire to make a positive difference in society. Gloucester Catholic High School is enriched by a legacy of Catholic tradition spanning four generations. We draw strength and inspiration from our past as we make an exceptional Catholic education available and accessible to our future leaders.

We believe that this mission is best carried out when students, faculty, and staff can be together, in person, as a Catholic community. This belief was reinforced by the majority of parents from our community, who expressed a desire for their children to be back in school to experience the benefits of Catholic education. We therefore set a goal of opening our school for the 2020-2021 school year so that all students have the opportunity to attend school in person every day, if they are able to do so safely. Current guidelines and data on the status of COVID-19 in our community indicate that, with proper precautions, we will be able to meet that goal. We also recognize that some families have members with special circumstances and are therefore not yet ready to return to school in person. We will have a remote learning option available for those families.

We have created this plan to aid in navigating the return to onsite learning at our school so that employees, students, and families feel safe and to reduce the potential impact that COVID-19 may have on our community. **It is expected that as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, new guidance may mean that aspects of this plan will need to be updated or changed.** Therefore, regular updates will be made to this plan based on information provided by local public health officials, CDC, WHO, and applicable federal, state and local agencies. We will inform all members of the school community of changes as soon as they occur.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In order to ensure the continued well-being of our employees and students, the following principles are the foundation that guide our planning:

- 1) Protect the health and safety of Gloucester Catholic students, faculty, staff, and families.

- 2) Sustain the Catholic faith communities that distinguish our schools and drive their success.
- 3) Maximize student learning through best practices in classroom and, if necessary, remote learning instruction and assessment.
- 4) Maintain flexibility to respond to changing guidance from state, public health, and medical leaders in response to the progression of COVID-19 in our community.

In addition to these principles, our school is a Catholic community. As such, we are used to depending on one another. The school leadership is taking on many actions and activities to promote the safety of our community. In order for this plan to be effective, it is important that each parent, teacher, student, and member of the school community take seriously our responsibilities to one another. All individuals will be asked to take actions that protect their health and that protect the health of others. The plan will have the best opportunity for success when we all work together – when we all respond to Jesus’s commandment to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

PART I: PROMOTING HEALTH AND SAFETY

The health of students and all members of the school community is the top priority that ensures all other aspects of the Catholic school program can be delivered. The expectations provided below are intended to help all members of the Gloucester Catholic community to do their part to keep themselves and each other safe and healthy.

SCHOOL SCHEDULE

For this year, our school schedule has been modified to a 9-period, rotating schedule, to help reduce class size and allow for greater social distancing. The school day begins at 7:55am and ends at 2:28pm. Each class will be 38 minutes long. Schedule is listed below. Shaded area is non-rotating to accommodate lunch periods.

	7:55 - 8:10	8:14-8:52	8:56-9:34	9:38 – 10:16	10:20 – 10:58	11:02 – 11:40	11:44 – 12:22	12:26 – 1:04	1:08 – 1:46	1:50 – 2:28
M-W-F	Homeroom	Subject A	Subject B	Subject C	Subject D	Subject E	Subject F	Subject G	Subject H	Subject I
T-Th	Homeroom	Subject H	Subject I	Subject C	Subject D	Subject E	Subject F	Subject G	Subject A	Subject B

SCREENING

Identifying students, faculty, and staff who may be sick is a critical component of keeping the entire school community healthy. Identification begins before students arrive at school and continues with vigilance throughout the school day. Screening and response to symptoms require

faithful citizenship and partnership between parents and the school, with all school community members doing their part to identify potential sickness and respond respectfully, swiftly, and confidentially.

Screening at Home

All parents will be expected to screen their children at home for symptoms of COVID-19 and to take their temperature to ensure that they do not have a fever over 100.4° F. If children have a fever or exhibit symptoms that are not explained by other conditions, then they should stay at home. COVID-19 symptoms include:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
- Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19

Parents will also be expected to keep their children home from school if they have had close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19. If this occurs, parents should notify the school immediately. Close contact is considered to be:

- Within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for 10 minutes or more
- Provided care at home to, or visited, someone who is sick with COVID-19
- Direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)
- Shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

Arrival Screening at School

All students, employees, volunteers, visitors, and employees of organizations that serve the school (e.g., food service, educational service providers) will be screened for symptoms, including a temperature check, upon arrival at school.

Students arriving by bus will enter the building through the Ridgeway Street doors. Students arriving by car (drop-off or driving) will enter the building through the parking lot entrance on the side of the main building. It is critical that all students maintain a social distance of 6 feet from other students and wear a mask during arrival. Students may not enter any building through any other entrances. After temperature check, students will be directed to enter the gym, where they will sit in designated areas 6 feet between each student prior to moving to homeroom.

Any student with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher will be taken to the quarantine area and parents will be contacted for pickup.

Visitors to the School

Visitors will be significantly limited during the school day. Visitors will be limited to individuals with official business at the school (e.g., contractors, service, sales) and a limited number of volunteers specifically assigned to help the school carry out critical operations. All visitors to the school will be required to provide their name and contact information and will be required to wear a cloth mask and maintain social distance (see below) while on the premises at all times.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

In keeping with our duty to protect one another, multiple forms of personal protective equipment (PPE) will be used. Some forms of PPE, such as cloth masks, contribute to health by protecting others from any sickness that the wearer has, even if they do not know they have it. Other forms of PPE, such as face shields and sneeze guards, add protection for individuals from others by blocking the respiratory droplets that carry germs. **It is important that all members of the school community work together to do their part because all forms of PPE are more effective when every member of the community uses them at the same time.**

Face Coverings

All students will be required to have a cloth mask with them at school every day. Students will be required to wear the mask at all times while inside the school building. **Students will not be admitted to the building without a mask.**

All students will be required to wear a mask correctly all day, including while in class. Masks are worn correctly when they cover both the nose and the mouth. Students will be able to remove their masks at the following times:

- While eating in the cafeteria
- While they are outside and 6 feet apart

Each family will be responsible for providing appropriately sized masks for their children. Each student should have an extra mask with them at school at all times. Masks must not have any inappropriate words or images on them.

All faculty, administration, staff, and other adults in the school building during the day will be required to wear a cloth face mask and face shield.

Face Shields

Each student will be required to have a face shield. This face shield will be provided by the school. The face shield will be worn by students at all times.

Transparent Barriers

Each student will have a portable three-sided, transparent guard. The barriers will be used as an added layer of protection for all students and faculty in all classrooms and while eating in the cafeteria. Each student will receive one barrier from the school and will be expected to have it with them each day.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distance is usually described as maintaining a 6 foot distance from all other individuals. This distance is generally understood to be sufficient to ensure that any large droplets that are exhaled and may contain the coronavirus do not reach other people. The minimum accepted social distance is one meter (approximately 3 feet), as described by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Maintaining social distance may be challenging for students of all ages, particularly when they have not seen each other or when they have found themselves in social environments outside of school in which social distancing has been relaxed. It may also be difficult when larger classes are gathered. The guidance we are following from the CDC and the NJ Department of Education allow students to be closer than 6 feet apart if other protections are in place, such as masks, barriers and face shields.

Social distancing and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) work together to ensure the safety of students, teachers, administrators, staff, and the entire school community.

Therefore, it is critical that all school personnel and parents remain vigilant in reminding students of their responsibility to each other to maintain a social distance in case they are carrying the virus and may be able to unknowingly transmit it to others, even if they do not have symptoms.

Social Distancing in Classrooms

We have taken extraordinary measures to ensure the maximum distance between students in each classroom. These measures include spacing desks as far apart as possible (4 feet or more) and utilizing the gym for larger group study halls.

Our approach is to combine social distancing of students in the classroom with the use of cloth face coverings, face shields and barriers to provide a holistic approach to avoiding respiratory droplets that may carry sickness reaching another child, teacher, or staff member.

Social Distancing in Other Areas of the School

In addition to social distancing measures in classrooms, we are implementing the following procedures and protocols to promote social distancing:

- Physical Education/Gym Class will not be held for at least the first semester.
- The number of students who can enter the restroom at any time will be limited to ensure 6 foot distance between students. The maximum number of students allowed in a restroom will be posted on the door. Students will use assigned restrooms to limit the total number of individuals using any one restroom.
- In areas where students might wait in line (e.g., main office, restroom, cafeteria, entrances, doorways), clear markings will be placed on the ground to identify a 6-foot distance between individuals.
- Student movement through the school will be kept to a minimum throughout the day.
- All halls will have directional signage, keeping one-way traffic flow.

PERSONAL HYGIENE

In addition to PPE and social distancing, each member of the school community will be expected to take responsibility for his or her personal hygiene, including responsibility for personal belongings and space. Teachers will provide instruction and allocate time in the classroom to ensure that students understand and can take these responsibilities seriously.

Hand Washing and Hand Sanitizing

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important defenses against the spread of all sickness, including COVID-19. The virus may survive for a period of time on surfaces that students touch throughout the day. For this reason, it is critical that students, teachers, and staff wash or sanitize their hands regularly.

- Students will be required to use hand sanitizer upon arrival to the building, at the beginning of each class, and upon entering the cafeteria or gym.
- Hand sanitization stations will be set up in the following locations:
 - In each classroom
 - At entrances and exits to the school building
 - At the entrance to the school office
 - At the entrance to or in the nurse's office
 - The cafeteria, gym, and media center/library
- Each day, each student should have a personal bottle of hand sanitizer and a personal container of sanitizing wipes for use in his or her personal space.

Personal Space and Belongings

Personal responsibility is an important skill for students to develop and exercise as a defense against the spread of COVID-19. Students have a responsibility to each other that they demonstrate through hand washing, social distancing, and the use of PPE. Taking responsibility for their own belongings and contributing to cleaning their workspaces are additional ways that students can be accountable to each other for maintaining the community's health.

- All students will need to have their own set of school supplies (masks, hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes, writing utensils, notebooks/folders, calculators as needed, electronic device). These supplies will be carried by the students in a back-pack or other similar bag.
- Lockers will not be used this year.
- Where supplies must be shared, such as science lab equipment and computers, only one group of students will use those supplies at a time, and they will be cleaned and disinfected between use.
- When students use spaces that may be used by others, they will wipe down the space with a disinfecting wipe after they use it. This includes wiping their desk at the end of every class.

Backpacks, Clothing, and other Belongings

We are asking all students to limit the number of items they transport between home and school. Students may bring a backpack with their supplies and books to school. We recommend that students remove shoes immediately upon returning home and that all school clothing be washed promptly after students return home.

FOOD SERVICE

Food service, including lunch, is an important part of the school day. It will be particularly important this year as an opportunity for students to socialize during the school day.

Lunch

Gloucester Catholic continues to partner with Duke Catering for our lunch services.

Lunch will be served in the school cafeteria. Seating will maintain 6 feet social distancing and students will be required to use their transparent barriers at their places. In lines, students will be required to maintain proper social distancing, with masks and face shields. There will be no microwave ovens available for student use.

Tables will be sanitized after each lunch period.

HEALTHY FACILITIES

An important part of maintaining the health of the school community is ensuring that the school grounds and systems support the health of students and employees. Gloucester Catholic has developed enhanced practices to increase our attention to the cleanliness of the school grounds, facilities, and environment.

Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection

We have developed protocols to ensure that all areas used by students or staff are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected every day.

Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each day.

For classrooms that are used by multiple classes, including shared use spaces, frequently used objects (e.g., doorknobs, pencil sharpeners) and all student seating (chairs, desks, tables) will be disinfected after use by any group.

In general, rooms that have been disinfected at the end of the day will not be used for any purpose until the next school day.

Bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected twice daily.

Cafeteria tables will be disinfected after each use. The entire room will be disinfected daily after its final use.

In addition, frequently used objects in common spaces, offices, and other rooms throughout the school will be disinfected multiple times per day.

Duke Catering maintains all the kitchen areas during lunch service. The entire kitchen and food service preparation area will be cleaned during its use and should be cleaned and disinfected at the end of the day and should not be entered or used for any purpose until the next school day.

Ventilation

Ventilation of our spaces is an important component of keeping members of the school community healthy. We will keep windows open to the maximum extent possible and ensure that all filters are replaced and equipment serviced with components that meet the manufacturer's recommendations.

PART II: MANAGING POTENTIAL SICKNESS

Gloucester Catholic is taking precautions to limit the transmission of sickness, especially COVID-19, including the use of personal protective equipment, social distancing, and enhanced personal hygiene and facilities cleaning protocols, as described in the rest of this guide. However, we recognize that some students and/or staff may still show symptoms of COVID-19, or students, employees, or their family members might be exposed to or test positive for COVID-19. Our response follows guidelines established by the CDC and followed by the Camden County Department of Public Health.

RESPONSE TO COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

Students and Employees who Show Symptoms of COVID-19

Any adult or student who shows symptoms of COVID-19 upon arrival at school or at any time while they are in the school building will enter a protocol to protect them and other members of the school community that will result in their leaving the school building as soon as practicable.

- Students, employees, and any other adults in the school will enter an isolation area if they show symptoms of COVID-19.
- All students, employees, personnel, and others in the isolation area will wear a mask and gloves and maintain a 6 foot distance from each other as practicably as possible.
- A parent, guardian, or authorized adult will be called to pick up any student who shows symptoms of COVID-19.
- Students will be isolated safely and respectfully, with continued supervision and care and respect for their privacy, until an authorized adult can pick them up. The isolation area will be thoroughly disinfected after it is used by symptomatic students.
- If symptoms appear after the school day has begun, the teacher and students will wash their hands thoroughly and immediately, the classroom or workspace of the student or employee will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, and the class will meet in an alternate location for the rest of the day.
- The Camden County Public Health Officer will be notified that an individual with symptoms that are potentially due to COVID-19 has been sent home. This contact will be made confidentially to protect the individual.

- The Camden County Public Health Officer will advise the school about whether or not any additional steps, such as asking other students to self-quarantine, need to be taken. It is important to understand that such decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis, depending on the circumstances. Not every case of an individual with symptoms that are potentially due to COVID-19 will lead to self-quarantine for other individuals, a class, or the school.
- Parents will be contacted with basic information about any symptomatic individuals if the school is advised to do so by the public health officer. All information will protect the privacy of the individual(s) involved.
- Students and staff who show symptoms that could be attributed to COVID-19 will be advised to seek the advice of a physician about whether isolation is necessary.

Isolation due to Symptoms COVID-19:

Students or staff may be advised to isolate by a physician or a public health official because their symptoms are new and cannot be explained by another condition. Isolation refers to staying home and away from others because of symptoms that may be due to COVID-19. An individual who is advised to isolate will be permitted to return to school in any of the following circumstances:

- If the student has a COVID-19 test, and the test is negative, then the student may return to school after they are fever free (without fever reducing medication) for 72 hours and other symptoms disappear.
- If the student has a COVID-19 test, and the test is positive, then the student may return to school after following the guidance of their local public health department. This will generally be after 3 days with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND respiratory symptoms have improved AND 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- If the student does not have a COVID-19 test and is determined to have a sickness other than COVID-19 by a physician, then the student may return to school with a written clearance from a physician.

Any employee or student who is absent due to symptoms that could be attributed to COVID-19 for 3 days or more, including those sent home from school, must have a physician's clearance to return to the school and must be fever free for 72 hours before returning to school.

POTENTIAL AND CONFIRMED EXPOSURE TO COVID-19

Students and Employees who have had Close Contact with Someone with COVID-19

Any member of the school community who has had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 must alert the school. We will immediately notify the Camden County Public Health Officer, while maintaining confidentiality. This includes employees of the school, students, volunteers, and family members of students. Close contact is considered to be:

- Within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for 10 minutes or more
- Provided care at home to, or visited, someone who is sick with COVID-19
- Direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)

- Shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

Students or staff may be advised to self-quarantine by a physician or a public health official because they have had close contact with someone who has COVID-19. Self-quarantine refers to staying home and away from others because you might develop symptoms of COVID-19 or might have asymptomatic but contagious COVID-19. It is important to understand that such recommendations to self-quarantine will be made by a public health official or a physician on a case-by-case basis, depending on the circumstances.

Self-Quarantine

Students who are advised to self-quarantine by a physician or a public health official are expected to stay in the home for 14 days. The 14-day count will generally begin on the day of potential exposure to COVID-19, as advised by a public health official, even if the individual does not begin self-quarantine immediately. Students who do not show symptoms during this period will be expected to participate in school remotely.

- If the self-quarantine is due to a contact with someone you will not encounter again, then you may return to school 14 days after the contact, or with a negative COVID-19 test.
- If the self-quarantine is due to a positive COVID-19 test for anyone who lives in the household, then the quarantine likely will be longer.
 - If you can avoid contact with the person (for example, they are isolated in their bedroom), then the length of the self-quarantine will be calculated as 14 days from the date that person began isolation.
 - If you cannot avoid contact with the person, then the length of the self-quarantine will be 14 days from the end of that person's isolation.
- In all cases, an individual who is advised to self-quarantine will only be permitted to return to school when cleared by a doctor to do so.

Students and Employees who have Tested Positive for COVID-19

Any member of the school community who tests positive for COVID-19 must alert the school. We will immediately notify the Camden County Public Health Officer, while maintaining confidentiality. This includes employees of the school, students, volunteers, and family members of students.

- All parents and employees will be notified, maintaining confidentiality, sharing information advised by the Public Health Officer.
- The individual's classroom will be closed off and not used until after cleaning and disinfecting. All common areas will be immediately cleaned and disinfected.
- Upon the recommendation of the Public Health Officer, some students, a class, multiple classes, or the school may be asked to self-quarantine and monitor symptoms as a precautionary measure. If this occurs, the school will implement remote learning for teachers and students affected.

Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 may be readmitted under the following conditions:

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
- At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication **and**
- Symptoms have improved **and**
- Cleared by a physician to return to school

PART III: SUSTAINING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Academic excellence is a hallmark of Catholic schools. We are implementing some changes to our instruction for the 2020-2021 school year based on what we learned during the 2019-2020 school year. The intent of the changes is to maximize student learning, regardless of the context. Our expectation is that most students will be in classrooms, onsite for the 2020-2021 school year. However, students who are advised to isolate due to COVID-19 symptoms or self-quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure will learn remotely for short durations, and some might learn remotely for longer periods. It is also possible that the progression of COVID-19 in our community and/or in the state may require us to transition to remote learning temporarily as we did last year. The instructional plan leverages technology so that instruction and learning are as fluid and transferrable as possible between onsite, in-classroom and remote learning.

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Continued strategic use of technology will allow teachers to personalize learning and provide instruction that is fluid across onsite/in classroom learning and at home.

Hardware

The remote learning situation forced upon us by the COVID-19 pandemic at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year uncovered several issues for Gloucester Catholic students. Families reported competing for use of available hardware at home and suggested that they preferred to use devices with which they were most comfortable. For this reason, GCHS has transitioned to a bring-your-own-device (BYOD) model. Students will be expected to have an Internet-capable, modern device capable of using the programs and systems utilized by the school. The type of device, however, is now the choice of the student/parent.

Software

The use of instructional software will aid teachers in understanding student progress and learning, personalizing learning, and organizing assignments for students.

- All students will use Schoology and/or RamsNet during the school day.
- Schoology and/or RamsNet will be used to organize instruction during the day for students in school and learning at home.
- Login information for all student accounts will be shared with students and parents to ensure access.

CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT, AND INSTRUCTION

Some changes will be made to the instructional program to ensure that all students show appropriate growth from the previous year.

- Gloucester Catholic will continue to follow the curriculum for the Diocese of Camden (where applicable). Some changes to the curriculum are being implemented to ensure that any changes in students’ learning due to remote learning in the 2019-2020 school year are addressed.
- Physical education class will be replaced by an expanded in-class Health curriculum.
- All teachers will use the educational technology infrastructure to incorporate blended learning into their classrooms. Blended learning incorporates technology into instruction to assist teachers with personalizing instruction for all students. Blended learning in the classroom can also help prepare students for learning at home, if necessary.
- The schedule for the day has been changed to allow for smaller class sizes. Schedule is listed below. Shaded area is non-rotating to accommodate lunch periods.

	7:55 - 8:10	8:14-8:52	8:56-9:34	9:38 – 10:16	10:20 – 10:58	11:02 – 11:40	11:44 – 12:22	12:26 – 1:04	1:08 – 1:46	1:50 – 2:28
M-W-F	Homeroom	Subject A	Subject B	Subject C	Subject D	Subject E	Subject F	Subject G	Subject H	Subject I
T-Th	Homeroom	Subject H	Subject I	Subject C	Subject D	Subject E	Subject F	Subject G	Subject A	Subject B

REMOTE LEARNING

We anticipate that there may be a need for remote learning during the 2020-2021 school year. More students may be absent for sickness, and likely for longer duration, than usual. Some students will be asked to self-quarantine, meaning a minimum of 2 weeks absence. Other students may need to learn remotely for longer periods, even the whole year, due to health concerns. **Therefore, we will support remote learning every day for students who are in need of it so that students learning at home have a learning experience as close to the classroom experience as possible.** To facilitate this remote option for those students who are not in school on a particular day, each classroom will be equipped with a new webcam and microphone.

Daily Remote Learning for Temporarily Absent Students

The intent is for instruction to be as similar as possible, and as simultaneous as possible, for students in-seat and learning remotely.

- Remote learning should mirror the in-person instructional experience as closely as possible.
- Each classroom is set up with videoconferencing capabilities so that students can be “live” in the classroom through Microsoft Teams or Zoom. Students will be able to login to join the class on the regular schedule.

- Students who are learning remotely and in the classroom will both have access to lesson materials using Schoology and/or RamsNet.
- Teachers will schedule their classes consistently every day so that students who may be learning remotely will be able to follow the schedule to participate in class.
- Schedules, assignments, time for remote students to be “live” in the classroom, and approaches will vary according to the age and grade level of the students.

Temporary remote learning is intended to serve students who are out for health reasons (such as COVID-19-related isolation or quarantine) for longer than they would be in a typical year. Students may not opt to miss school for reasons other than illness and learn remotely on that day.

Full-Time Remote Learning Option

Students with physical or mental health concerns related to COVID-19, or who have a member of the household with physical or mental health concerns related to COVID-19, may choose a full-time remote learning option.

The decision to exercise the full-time remote learning option will be made collaboratively with the principal on an academic quarter by quarter basis. There will be special considerations for ensuring that students in this status experience a robust curriculum and engage with the teacher.

The full-time remote learning option is intended to serve students with circumstances that merit it. Students may not opt to miss school for reasons other than illness and learn remotely on that day.

Mandated Remote Learning

It is possible that during the 2020-2021 school year, Gloucester Catholic will be advised by public health officials to close temporarily due to the presence of COVID-19 cases so that members of the school community can self-quarantine. It is also possible that Gloucester Catholic will be ordered to close temporarily due to the progression of COVID-19 in the region or state, as it was during the 2019-2020 school year.

In the event that the school is advised or ordered to enter remote learning status, teachers and classes will adhere to the following guidelines:

- We will continue to use the new, 9-period schedule on a Day A only (non-rotating) basis.
- We will continue the use of Schoology and/or RamsNet established for in-class and remote learning. Using it in school regularly should make access to and completion of assignments at home easier.
- The schedule for the remote learning school day will continue as seamlessly as possible from the schedule for in-classroom learning, with live teaching and learning scheduled every day.
- Teachers will use specific guidance from the Office of Catholic Schools for the type and duration of live instruction, established in response to parent feedback and in light of best practices for remote learning for students of varying ages.

- The same comportment expected of students while in school will be expected during remote learning. This includes the expectation that the students are dressed and groomed and seated at a desk or table, as free from distractions as possible.
- We are committed to making remote learning as close to the classroom experience as possible to ensure that teaching and learning are continuous and students progress as expected regardless of the learning environment.

ATTENDANCE

The attendance policy will be adapted for the 2020-2021 school year to accommodate students who may be learning remotely. When in-classroom learning is occurring, attendance will be marked as: Present, if in school; Remote, if learning remotely (present for live teaching and turning in assignments within class time expectations), or Absent, if home and too ill to participate.

If the school building is closed for all students due to advice from a public health official or an order, then attendance categories will be Remote or Absent. It is expected in this scenario that students learning remotely will attend all live instruction and submit all assignments on the deadlines expected. Any family who would like special consideration for an alternate deadline due to supervision or child care challenges must ask for such consideration in writing. Students who are sick or who do not attend classes and do not submit assignments will be marked as Absent.

Any student who is not physically present on a school day may not participate in any after-school, extracurricular or athletic events. This includes students who have opted for remote learning.