



MCDONELL AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Est. 1882

1316 BEL AIR BLVD., CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI 54729 • TEL 715.723.0538 • FAX 715.723.1501 • WWW.MACS.K12.WI.US

August 3, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to welcome students back for the 2022-23 school year! Once again, the MACS pandemic committee has reviewed and refined our policies to best serve our school community.

We have continued to take into consideration the “layered prevention strategies” approach. This approach not only helps prevent COVID transmission, but also transmission of other communicable diseases that can negatively impact students. Our primary strategies are: (1) Staying home when sick; (2) Hand washing & respiratory etiquette; and (3) Healthy spaces.

Following guidance issued by the State of Wisconsin DPI, we will no longer conduct contact tracing or require quarantine for close contacts to positive cases. However, we will follow the “5+5 rule” for *positive* cases. (See reverse side for symptom list and positive case guidelines.)

Finally, we share your care and concern for the mental health and well-being of students, staff, and families. Staff will continue training on mental health and social and emotional considerations. Additional supports will continue to be provided as follows:

- MACS has designated space for counseling services at all MACS facilities.
- Any staff member can recommend services of a student to the principal, counselor or student support staff member.
- MACS partners with OakLeaf Clinics to provide an Employee and Student Assistance Program (ESAP) for teachers, staff, and students.
- Awareness of external community and on-line mental health resources for students, staff, and families.
- MACS utilizes Gaggle and Speak Up Speak Out - resources to manage student safety and well-being, as well as to report abuse and threats, on school-provided technology.

We look forward to partnering with parents to ensure that our children grow in mind, body, spirit, and community this school year. As always, we entrust our schools to Jesus through Mary.

In Christ our hope,

Molly Bushman
President

Please monitor for the following symptoms and keep students home when needed:

- Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Sore throat, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nausea, vomiting, when in combination with other symptoms
- Headache, when in combination with other symptoms
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies), when in combination with other symptoms

Please note the following process when your child tests positive:

- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 should isolate at home for at least 5 days. This includes school and all extracurricular activities. If they are asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving and they have been fever-free for 24 hours, they may return to school/work after Day 5 (on Day 6 with Day 0 being day of test or onset of symptoms). CDC stipulates this return may occur on Day 6 provided:
 - If the individual is able to mask, they must do so through Day 10
 - If the individual is unable to mask, it is recommended they have a negative test on Day 5 or later to return to school/work prior to day 11
- Students who are in mandatory isolation due to a positive COVID test will receive access to supplemental instructional materials to stay current in their classes.

Please note face masks are not required but are permitted if an individual chooses to mask. For field trips or extracurricular activities, the requirements of the venue or sponsoring organization will be honored.