



**Department of
Catholic Education**

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July 21, 2020

Dear Families, Faculty and Staff,

We, the Office of the Superintendent and School Administrators, are so excited to welcome you back to school. Since the pandemic began, we have been working on our "Return-to-School Plans" (RTS) for a safe and systematic approach to reopening our campuses to our students. Our Bishop, along with everyone in our parishes, has been praying for a vaccine and for the end of this pandemic; until then, we will do everything in our power to keep your children safe, healthy, and enjoying their learning while they are entrusted to us during each school day.

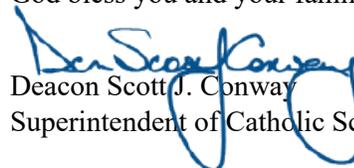
In consultation with our Diocesan COVID-19 Task Force and the Diocesan Council on Catholic Schools and while dialoguing weekly with our school principals, ***we have decided to postpone the start of the 2020-2021 school year in our K-12 schools from August 10 to August 19.*** The reason for our delay is that we are awaiting delivery of specific products, which have all been delayed due to the pandemic, to help us reinforce the daily cleaning and sanitizing of our schools as well as many instructional technology devices needed to upgrade our school systems, and we want to make sure we have done our due diligence in researching every way possible to keep our students, faculty and staff safe and healthy in our school environments. Safety is our number one concern in reopening our Catholic schools. We are committed to the date of August 19 and will be opening our schools to face-to-face instruction on that day. We will be wearing masks, sanitizing frequently touched surfaces throughout the day, and electrostatically spraying our buildings. A new general calendar will be distributed to all Catholic schools, and you can expect to receive an updated calendar once your principal has had some time to adjust any local dates if needed.

Our protocols have been tested here in the diocese for the past five months. Our early learning centers throughout the diocese have not closed and have continued to provide service throughout the pandemic. We have only had one student contract COVID-19, but because of all our health and safety protocols, there was no spread of the COVID-19 virus. We have had a few students test positive during our summer workouts at the high school level, and we communicated with all parents/guardians regarding the positive tests. Again, we have had no spread of the virus because of the same health and safety protocols.

We need to continue to pray for one another and an end to this pandemic. We also need to have some new rules in place for our schools right now. For the time being, we will not be allowing visitors in our schools to limit the schools' exposure from outside our campuses. Our office has been working very closely with the Florida Department of Health to report every case that enters our schools. We follow their guidance and work with full transparency with our families. Our schools are doing everything we can to ensure a safe environment for our students and employees. Please know that our office will continue to monitor the pandemic and make changes to our plan as needed.

Again, we look forward to welcoming you back to school on August 19 and celebrating the gifts of each person.

God bless you and your family,


Deacon Scott J. Conway
Superintendent of Catholic Schools


Rhonda Rose
Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools



Mission Statement

The mission of Bishop John J. Snyder High School, a college preparatory school, is to assist in the formation of young men and women of competence, conscience and compassion; faithful to the Gospel and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Dear Snyder Families,

The last few months have been a challenging time for all of us and I know you are all eager to learn about our plan for re-opening. The administration of Bishop Snyder High School has worked diligently to develop a plan to return to the classroom that allows for flexibility and transparency while prioritizing the health and safety of our community. We are currently preparing the campus to open the school year with students in August while respecting local, state, and federal guidelines and recommendations.

This document contains information about our Return to School Plan (RTS).

My priorities are first and foremost, the **safety** of our Snyder community and mitigating and slowing the spread of COVID-19 in the context of returning to school.

Understanding that there is some risk in returning to school, we also understand that we are part of a societal decision that accepts balancing COVID-19 risks against the need for life to continue.

My next priority is **keeping school open daily**. We do not want to burden parents with challenging schedules that require them to stay home and out of work - we want our students at school with their peers for the full day. **Student growth** in all areas is also a priority. Our students need to be in an environment where they can thrive academically, spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Despite limitations, we want our students to continue learning and growing in the faith environment we have established at Bishop Snyder High School.

Please remember that these guidelines and measures are intended to keep our community healthy and safe. Upon receiving updates and new information from the CDC and other agencies, these policies may change. I will inform you when they do.

My hope and prayer is that these measures will be temporary and that we will return to school without these restrictions. Until then, please understand that all of these measures and guidelines will be explained to your student on the first day of school and in much more detail than what is outlined here in this document.

Thank you again for your understanding and cooperation.

Deacon David Yazdiya
Principal, BJS

The following framework outlines the Return to School protocols we plan to implement.

1. ARRIVAL and DISMISSAL

- a. Our campus will be open for admittance at 7:15 am.
- b. Our campus will dismiss at 2:50 pm, except for Wednesdays. Dismissal on Wednesdays will be at 1:50 pm.
- c. Students are to leave all classrooms no later than 4:00 so we may begin sanitizing and cleaning the school.
- d. The Tierney Media Center will be available in the afternoons from 3:00-4:00 for academic testing purposes only.

2. FACE MASKS

- a. Face masks will be required for all staff, faculty, and students. The school will provide one face mask per student/staff/teacher. You may wear this mask or any **solid color** mask. No logos or designs or multiple colors may be worn.
- b. All persons entering the campus beyond the main office will wear a mask. Other visitors will be asked to wear a mask when entering the main office.

3. SCREENINGS

- a. We will have “marks” outside our five school entrances, spaced 6 feet apart.
- b. These marks will be used for distancing prior to our “opening of school” at 7:15 am and for any lines that form from 7:15 am-8:00 am.
- c. We will have 10 thermometers, two at each of our five entrances, to measure the temperatures of students as they enter.
- d. Temperature checks will be conducted every morning.
- e. Response if temperature above 100.4 – the student will be sent to a designated room while waiting to go home. Anyone sent home with a fever must be fever-free for 72 hours without medication before returning to school. If the student also answers “yes” to any of the questions asked, they may be required to be tested before they return to school.

4. CLEANING

- a. All rooms, offices, hallways, and common areas will be cleaned and sanitized on a daily basis. Classrooms will be disinfected every day and the cafeteria three times per day. Locker rooms will be disinfected everyday using the *Victory Electrostatic Sprayer*.
- b. Each classroom is equipped with a foam hand sanitizer. Teachers will require the use of hand sanitizers as students enter and exit the classroom.
- c. Maintenance Staff will disinfect all classrooms everyday using the *Victory Electrostatic Sprayer* and *Bioesque Disinfectant*.

5. VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS

- a. Parents will be urged to call ahead if they are dropping off items for a student and these visits will be discouraged.
- b. Temperatures will be taken if parents or visitors are entering the campus beyond the main office.

6. SOCIAL DISTANCING

- a. Social distancing measures will be implemented in all classrooms and other gathering spaces when feasible.
- b. During lunch, only three students will be permitted per table and students may remove their masks once they are seated at the table. Tables will be positioned inside and outside the cafeteria.
- c. All student assemblies, including Mass, will be limited to a single grade level in order to adhere to guidelines for social distancing in the auditorium.

If a student or his/her family member is in a higher-risk group or has a specifically documented medical issue or concern, we will give him/her the option of continuing distance learning. Through the platforms *Google Classroom* and *Google Meet*, the student will participate in their classes in real time. Assignments will be due at the same time as other students' assignments are due and assessments will be scheduled to be completed in person in the School Counseling Office. It is important to note that this option must be approved by the principal. Families who choose this option must also consider that their student will benefit from what Bishop Snyder has to offer academically but would not be able to participate in the athletic, spiritual, and social aspects of being a Snyder student as these activities usually involve gatherings of students.

Thank you for your cooperation and trust.