

# Bishop Walsh School 2020-2021 School Year Plan



# Health and Safety



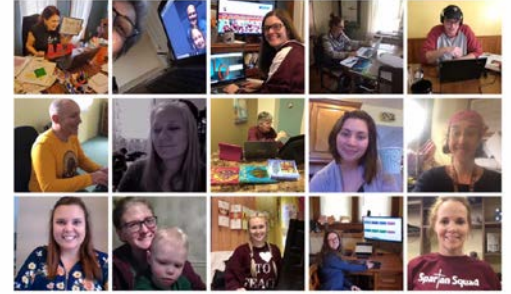
- The number of visitors on campus will be dramatically limited. Visitors will not be allowed to drop off items that students have forgotten at home. Parents may only walk their students to the front door of the school building. In-person meetings and conferences must be pre-scheduled. All visitors must wear masks.
- The FACE Office will be open, but we encourage you to order online or send in your order with your student. Curbside pickup is available.
- A daily electronic health screening will be completed by parents/guardians prior to the student entering the school building. Temperatures will also be taken before the students enters.
- Once in the school building, students will report directly to their classrooms.
- Anyone registering a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees will be required to stay home.
- All faculty, staff, and students will be required to wear a mask while indoors and whenever social distancing is not possible outdoors.
  - The mask must fit each child appropriately, covering both the nose and the mouth.
  - Any solid colored and/or patterned mask is acceptable. A mask featuring characters (i.e. Mickey Mouse, Paw Patrol, etc.) is acceptable.
  - Masks cannot feature political-related content (words and/or images), profanity (words and/or images), or any message and/or image deemed inappropriate or distracting by the administration.
  - Students will be given “mask breaks” during the school day.
  - Families must provide their own masks. We encourage each student to have multiple washable masks available at home to ensure a clean mask can be worn to school every day. Each student should keep at least one extra mask in his/her backpack in a reusable plastic bag.
  - Face shields may be used if medically necessary. A doctor’s note is required.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building.
- Two separate health rooms will be set up. The usual health room area will be set up for healthy students who need medication or who need other non-COVID-19 treatment. An isolation area will be set up in the auditorium for those who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
- Students and staff whose possible exposure to COVID-19 is being investigated, and those who are exhibiting symptoms, will be required to be tested in accordance with recommendations of the Maryland and Allegany County health departments. Notifications about potential exposures will be sent home.

# Facility Management



- To mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 virus in school, cleaning and disinfection protocols have been established and will be implemented. Bishop Walsh School is utilizing a two-step disinfecting and protecting process to disinfect and protect all surfaces using Sniper disinfectant and Endure surface protectant. The Endure surface protectant is a stable, bacteriostatic product that mechanically kills both viruses and bacteria on contact, allowing for 90 days of persistent protection against viruses and bacteria.
- Cleaning and disinfecting will occur daily, with increased attention to frequently touched surfaces (e.g. door handles, sink handles, desks, chairs, stair railings).
- Signs will be posted about mandatory masks, proper handwashing, and social distancing.
- Directional markings have been placed in the hallways, guiding the flow of traffic to mitigate risk.
- Classroom setups have been modified so that students are at least three feet apart, following the spacing recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control.
  - Non-essential classroom items have been removed, such as extra bookcases or filing cabinets.
- Cafeteria lunch will be served using disposable containers and utensils.
- Elementary students will eat lunch in their classrooms. If an elementary student orders the cafeteria lunch, it will be delivered downstairs.
- Middle and high school students will eat lunch in the cafeteria during their respective lunch shifts. These students will maintain a distance of six feet apart while eating.
- In restrooms, only every other fixture (sink, toilet, etc.) will be used and clearly marked.
- Communal spaces such as the auditorium, MakerSpace, chapel, and elementary library will be closed.
- When weather permits, windows should be opened to increase circulation of outdoor air.
- Elementary and middle school students will have daily outdoor recess as the weather permits.
  - Each class cohort will participate in their own recess in assigned locations on our campus.
  - Enough space will be provided to maintain proper social distancing.
  - Individual or socially distanced recess activities will be planned.
- Water fountains will be closed. Students may carry personal water bottles.

# Learning Experience



- Two modes of learning, in-person and virtual, have been established, along with archdiocese guidance and recommended instructional minutes.
- Families must fill out an intent form with their choice for the student's mode of learning. This decision would hold for at least the first marking period of the year. There are no additional costs if you choose distance learning only for your child, and every student will be a vital member of our Spartan family.
- All archdiocesan schools, including Bishop Walsh, added the equivalent of five instructional days to their 2020-21 academic calendar. The added time came from eliminating days off of school and the change of half days to full days. These days were added to provide teachers and students extra time for review, remediation, and enrichment.
- Elementary students will remain in their assigned classroom for instruction. Resource teachers will come to the classroom for that class. Physical education and computers will continue to be taught in the gym and computer lab, respectively.
- Middle school students will remain in their grade-level cohorts as they travel to each class. Differentiated math classes will continue to be taught.
- High school students will also travel between classes. Students will be grouped in cohorts as course scheduling allows.
- Weather permitting, classes may be held outside.
- All teachers will be provided targeted professional development and guidance on technology and instructional practices.
- Bishop Walsh School will safely integrate our Catholic identity in the school. This may include virtual Masses and prayer services. Daily prayer will continue.
- The school will continue to support our students' social and emotional needs. An additional guidance counselor has been hired to help address these needs.
- Student accommodation plans will be modified as needed.
- All in-school extracurricular activities (MathCounts, After School Art, etc.) are cancelled at this time.
- All athletic games and practices are postponed.

# Technology



- Teachers will continue to use the Google Suite for Education. This includes Classroom, Meet, Docs, Sheets, and other apps.
- Virtual instruction will be both synchronous (live) and asynchronous (recorded) to meet the needs of all of our families.
- Teachers will receive training on synchronous and asynchronous learning, virtual best practices, and other educational technology.
- The school has a synchronous one gigabit internet connection, which will easily allow multiple streams into and out of the building without any disruption.
- Wifi access points have been updated throughout the building.
- Teachers will receive new webcam-enabled laptops to meet the instructional needs of all of our students.
- Bishop Walsh School is committed to enhancing our technology as grant funding arrives.



# Arrival, Dismissal, and Transportation



- The school day will begin at 8:15 am and end at 2:20 pm, like normal.
- If possible, parents should stay in the vehicle. Parents may only walk their students to the door of the school building.
- A daily electronic health screening will be completed by parents/guardians prior to the student entering the school building.
- Elementary students will enter and leave the building through the elementary door near the locker rooms.
- Middle and high school students will enter through the front doors near the main office. They will leave through the doors near the auditorium.
- Once in the school building, students will report directly to their classrooms. Congregating in hallways will be prohibited.
- Middle and high school lockers will not be used. Students will be able to carry backpacks throughout the school day. Backpacks may have wheels.
- All students should try to be in the building by 8:30 every day. Otherwise, they may want to plan on distance learning that day.
  - Excessive tardiness will result in detentions.
  - Please try to schedule appointments during after-school hours.
- Elementary students who attend before/after care must be registered for that program. Drop-ins are not allowed since space is limited.
- Middle and high school students who arrive to school before 7:55 am, should report to the cafeteria, where they will have assigned seating.
- All parents and students must plan to leave campus immediately after dismissal.
- Dismissal will be staggered.
  - Bus students will be dismissed first.
  - Elementary parents should wait outside the student's respective dismissal door. Everyone should be socially distanced and masked.
  - One elementary class will dismiss at a time until everyone is out of the building.
  - One middle school and one high school class will dismiss at a time from the upper floors.
- Buses will be regularly disinfected. Siblings will sit together, while non-related students will be socially distanced from each other. Masks will be worn on buses.