

August 20, 2021 Letter to Families

Hello IC Families -

It is a pleasure to welcome our new families and reconnect with our returning families.

How I wish that this Welcome Back To School letter would reclaim a school experience similar to that of September 2019. We continue to navigate obstacles that weigh heavy on our minds and hearts as we prepare to start another school year in less than ideal conditions. Like last year, we must embrace a combined team effort and practice care for one another to make the most of the situation and ultimately succeed at providing an in-school learning environment for IC children. This letter outlines policies and procedures that we will follow for the start of the school year, all of which are subject to change as state and local health conditions change. This letter is detailed and long, so please take the time to read it in full.

Our objective is to protect our community, while reinstating some social-emotional components to the school experience that were paused last year, but also keep procedures that contributed to a healthy in-person environment. There is a seat for every student. Middle school grades will change classes. Specials such as Gym, Art and Music will be in-person. Instrumental music instruction will resume, in-person. Children will eat lunch in the Cafeteria. We will start our day as a school community for prayer and announcements. Before Care and After Care programs will run.

- Anyone who feels sick or has COVID-like symptoms must stay home. Remote learning is available for all, every day.
- Masks are required inside the school building for all individuals, regardless of vaccination status.
- Masks are not required when students and staff are outside the school building. An outdoor break and/or outdoor recess is scheduled for every grade, everyday, unless extreme weather prohibits.
- Any individual who chooses to wear a mask outdoors may do so, without criticism or judgement.
- All bus riders must wear a mask.
- All individuals must wear a mask when in the school Health Office.
- Best practices for hand hygiene will be practiced. This includes hand sanitizing when entering the school building each morning and hand washing at periodic times during the school day.
- Classroom windows will be open for ventilation.

everyone will remain seated for the duration of the Mass unless going up for Communion. Masks will be required by all attendees.

- At this time school visitors will be limited to service providers and contractors.
- Anyone who is dropping off items for the office, a student, teacher, or signing out a student for early dismissal will do so from the table on the landing outside the front doors to the school.

The IC has applied to offer two types of COVID-19 testing, “symptomatic testing” and “test and stay” to both staff and students, with parental permission. More information will be provided once available, but these two testing programs are intended to limit the number of children quarantined or sent home unnecessarily.

We will continue to offer remote learning for all students - but have a seat for every student to attend in-person. If at this time, if you absolutely know that you want your child(ren) to start the year remotely, kindly complete the attached form. <https://forms.gle/5y8etyqXfJp6RzvR9>

We pray that God continues to bless our school community. With God, anything is possible.

Sincerely,

Joan F. Sullivan, Principal

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor