



Uniting Faith and Knowledge

Divine Savior
Catholic School

October 23, 2020

The mission of Divine Savior Catholic School is to provide a high-quality, personalized, Catholic-based education that inspires and empowers its learners to achieve academic excellence and develops life-long learning skills. Learners are challenged to walk as disciples in the footsteps of Christ valuing knowledge, prayer, and service to others.

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

I want you to know that the decision to go virtual was agonizing for the staff. Just before 3:00 yesterday, we received a call about a positive covid-19 case. All students in grades 2-8 were exposed. For everyone's safety, we decided that we had to go virtual. I spoke again this morning with the health department, our diocesan superintendent, Mr. Zenk, and a couple of Board members about the situation. For the safety of our students and staff and the number of possible contacts, going virtual is the best option. HOWEVER, everyone agreed that we should re-evaluate the situation next Friday. Depending upon the number of students that develop symptoms or test positive, we can re-open the following week, November 2.

That means we need you, as parents, to notify the school if your child develops symptoms. According to the recommendation below, if you decide to have your child tested, wait for three days.

We are currently awaiting student test results. Depending upon that report, you may be notified regarding a quarantine.

With the virtual sessions we have had, several band lessons have been cancelled. If your child is in band, he/she will have the lessons made up in December with lessons 2-3 times per week.

The staff and I appreciate your understanding and support. Please know that we take your child's health and safety very seriously and are doing the best we can to keep everyone healthy.

This past week I received the following information from the Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools of which we are a member. The information was provided by Dr. Mario Ramirez, an emergency medicine physician and former Director at the US Dept. of Health and Human Services' Office of Pandemic and Emerging threats. He indicated that as more details about the covid-19 virus become known, some practices are being changed.

Testing: If you are exposed, you should get tested but wait at least three days or you may get a false-negative result.

Temperature Checks: These have not been shown to effectively screen out people who are infected. Even the National Institutes for Health have discontinued the use in their offices. Dr. Ramirez indicated they are not valid for schools either. As a result, we will not continue to do temperature checks. As indicated last week, if your child has a fever and any two or more symptoms, he/she should NOT be sent to school.

The Day Care will resume normal operations next week Monday. 3K, 4K, and 5K will continue to operate as usual for now.

As soon as a retake date for school photos is determined, you will be notified.

Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for Tuesday, November 24. These conferences will be done virtually. A Sign-up Genius form will be sent home soon. Once the teachers have your request, they will set up a Zoom Meeting and send you an invitation to join at your assigned time.

The Board of Trustees will meet next week Tuesday at 6:15 with an Open Floor to discuss the Choice and SNSP Program. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about these programs that you wish to express to the Board you are most welcome to attend. Please call the school office before Tuesday if you plan to attend so that we can ensure adequate social distancing.

Together in Christ,
Kerry Sievert