

Cathedral School

Stronger Together



Cathedral School

*Extraordinary Education - Small School Environment
Endless Possibilities*

Mission Statement

Cathedral School is a vibrant Preschool-8th grade Catholic school that teaches the Catholic faith and provides a learning environment where students can develop their full potential academically, socially and spiritually. A long standing tradition in Superior Wisconsin, our school built in 1950 serves the Roman Catholic Parishes of Cathedral Christ the King, St. Francis Xavier, Holy Assumption, St. Anthony, along with St. Anthony in Lake Nebagamon and St. William in Foxboro, and surrounding communities. Open to students of all faiths, Cathedral School fosters the role of the family as we work together to facilitate a well-rounded Catholic education that elevates academic excellence, promotes community service, and empowers students through the Fruits of the Spirit to follow the example and teachings of Christ.

Extraordinary Education, Small School Environment, Endless Possibilities.

Dear Cathedral School Family,

I pray everyone has enjoyed a safe, healthy, and joyful summer! We are counting the days to welcoming our students back into the building. While summer has given us a chance to work on projects throughout the school, including two newly updated Middle School classrooms, the school is not the same without students in it. As we prepare to start the 2021-2022 School Year, I want you to know the health, safety, and social-emotional health of our students, their families, faculty, staff, and the community is of utmost concern.

In keeping with our Cathedral School Mission, we are committed to ensuring that our students will receive a well-rounded Catholic education that elevates academic excellence. Cathedral School will continue to offer on-site in-person learning 5 days a week. Virtual learning will only be offered due to illness, COVID-19 quarantine, or at the request of public health officials.

The Cathedral School Stronger Together plan has been updated for the 2021/2022 Academic Year. Please read this plan in its entirety, as it identifies the various recommendations of COVID mitigation strategies we will be implementing. We will continue to update the Stronger Together plan as the situation with COVID-19 and new COVID variants changes. The number of student and staff COVID cases, personnel availability, diocesan guidelines, and local and/or federal mandates will impact and determine updates.

We believe the best aspect of our Cathedral family is our ability to treat everyone with dignity and respect. Our students are taught to ask themselves the question, *"What would Jesus do?"* How would Jesus speak to us or to those he disagrees with? How would Jesus treat others who are unkind to him? With this being said, I am asking all Cathedral families to take time before the school year begins to discuss with their children the importance of treating each other with dignity and respect. Students may recognize that some of their friends/classmates have different opinions as they do regarding COVID-19 and its impact. They may see some friends choosing to wear a mask and they may see others choosing not to. Ultimately, our Catholic School must be respectful of our families and friends. We must be respectful of one another's practices (i.e. mask-wearing), treating each other with dignity and respect. I have faith that as members of our Catholic family, we are all able to do just that. Be kind and respectful. Please understand that anything less will not be tolerated at Cathedral School. We are here to learn and grow in our faith, so I ask each of you to openly discuss this with your children.

We are truly in this together! Together we are stronger!

Blessings & Prayers,

Mrs. Samarziya
Cathedral School Principal

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Introduction

In addition to our Cathedral Student & Parent Handbook, we have updated this Stronger Together plan to reduce the impact of COVID-19 and new COVID variants on our school. Cathedral School is incorporating recommendations of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Douglas County Health & Human Services, Diocese of Superior, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, and Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools (WRISA). The policies within this plan are subject to change, inclusive of addition or removal of preventative mitigation strategies based on changing school conditions and public health recommendations. We ask parents to please follow the guidelines in keeping your children home if they are sick so as to minimize the impact on other families and our ability to offer in person instruction 5 days a week.

Learning Format

We continue to offer full time in person instruction for the 2021/2022 school year, with virtual instruction for COVID reasons identified below. Please note that at any given time transitioning between the in-person and virtual format may happen based on transmission factors in our school and community. ****Regardless of which learning format is implemented, all subjects are required to be taught and instructional minutes are required to be met.***

Virtual instruction will only be implemented due to COVID illness, COVID quarantine, or at the request of public health officials. **(This learning format does not apply to family vacations.)** If virtual learning is implemented, students will connect virtually with teachers to engage in learning at home. Platforms of choice for virtual learning are Google Classroom, Google Sites, and/or Seesaw. Students in grades 2-8 are required to use school chromebooks for virtual learning. Middle school, grades 6-8:

- Lessons and assignments will be posted in Google Classroom.
- Assignments will be submitted, when complete, in Google Classroom.

Covid-19 Symptoms & Exposure: Students/Staff

Cathedral School will follow the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Guidelines to determine when students or staff **must** stay home from school or work. Remaining open falls heavily on the shoulders of our Cathedral parents. Keeping children home when they are experiencing signs of illness or COVID symptoms is the key to Cathedral School's ability to continue in-person learning 5 days a week.

The guidance below is subject to change as advisories from public health officials are updated.

- Anyone, **student or staff**, experiencing symptoms of illness should stay home from school. If experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, they should also get tested for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status.
- Students and staff that have tested positive for COVID-19, with or without symptoms, and have not yet finished their isolation period per public health recommendations must stay home from school or work.
- Students and staff who are not fully vaccinated and within the last two weeks have come in close contact with anyone who has COVID-19 must stay home from school or work.
- Students and staff who have experienced within the last 24 hours any of the following symptoms (**above their baseline**) must stay home from school or work:
 - Cough (new onset or worsening of chronic cough)
 - Shortness of breath
 - Fever (100.4°F or greater)
 - Chills
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or Runny nose
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - Diarrhea
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - New loss of taste or smell

These symptom criteria apply to COVID-19 related exclusions for in person instruction. Other symptoms may also require exclusion for a different communicable disease, please see the Student/Parent Handbook.

Mitigation Strategies

The CDC recommends that schools layer multiple prevention strategies to protect students, teachers, administrators, and staff, and slow the spread of COVID-19. We have been recommended to monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of school outbreaks to guide decisions on the number and types of layered prevention strategies to implement in the school. Please read the mitigation strategies in its entirety, as it identifies the various COVID mitigation strategies we will be implementing. Please note, layering prevention strategies may vary based on school outbreaks.

Vaccination

The Wisconsin Department of Health states, vaccination is the leading strategy to prevent cases and eventually stop the spread of COVID-19. Recommendations are for all eligible students, teachers, and staff to get vaccinated against COVID-19 to protect themselves and others in the school and community. People are considered **fully vaccinated** 2 weeks after receiving the second dose in a two-dose vaccine series, or two weeks after receiving a single dose vaccine.

Limiting Visitors

Cathedral School will not permit visitors in the school building including parents, other family members, and community members. This is not intended to exclude teachers, teaching staff, or direct healthcare service providers from entering the school to provide educational services to students.

Physical Distancing

Cathedral School will maintain 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms and on campus. Increased physical distancing is an additional layer of prevention that could be implemented at a future date if conditions change.

Cohorting

Cohorting can be used to limit the number of students, teachers, and staff who come in contact with each other, especially when it is challenging to maintain physical distance.

- Grades will be in cohorts as follows: Preschool (3 & 4 year olds), Kindergarten & Grade 1, Grades 2 & 3, Grades 4 & 5, and Middle School.
- Lunch & Recess times continue to be staggered among the cohorts.
- Mass attendance continues in cohorts, alternating weekly between in-person and virtual attendance of school mass.

Masks

Mask use is **optional***, but recommended for non-vaccinated students and staff at Cathedral School. We reserve the right to update this policy per school outbreaks, diocesan guidelines, or local and/or federal mandates. *Thoroughly read below for mask use exceptions.* Please be aware, the CDC recommends that all students, teachers, and staff, regardless of vaccination status, wear face masks at school.

- ***Masks are required for all staff and students on Superior School District Transportation**, in accordance with the CDC order which applies to all public transportation, including school transportation.
- Those selecting or required (i.e. vaccinated close contacts) to wear masks:
 - Masks must be two-layered and follow CDC guidelines. Masks may have patterns; however, masks must be school appropriate (no scary faces, blood/guts/gore, inappropriate language, weapons, etc.). Students need to have an appropriate mask for school. **Gaiter Shield type masks will be prohibited.**

Additionally, all Cathedral School students and families must treat everyone with dignity and respect. Regardless of age, our students are taught to ask themselves the question, “*What would Jesus do?*” How would Jesus speak to us or to those he disagrees with? How would Jesus treat others who are unkind to him? With this being said, I am asking all Cathedral families to take time before the school year begins to discuss with their children the importance of treating each other with dignity and respect. At school, students may recognize that some of their friends/classmates have different opinions as they do regarding COVID and its impact.

They may see some friends choosing to wear a mask and they may see others choosing not to. Ultimately, our Catholic School must be respectful of our families and friends. We must be respectful of one another's practices (i.e. mask-wearing), treating each other with dignity and respect. I believe as members of our Catholic family, we are all able to do just that; I have faith in our ability to treat one another with kindness and respect. Please understand that anything less will not be tolerated at Cathedral School. We are here to learn and grow in our faith, so I ask each of you to openly discuss this with your children.

Staying Home When Sick

Cathedral School will follow the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Guidelines and local health department directives to determine when students or staff **must** stay home from school or work. Remaining open falls heavily on the shoulders of our Cathedral parents. Keeping children home when they are experiencing signs of illness or COVID symptoms is the key to Cathedral School's ability to continue in-person learning 5 days a week. Please reference the COVID-19 Symptoms & Exposure on page 6 for additional information.

- Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness such as influenza or COVID-19 should stay home and refer to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Any student showing signs of illness will have their temperatures taken in the main office and students with a temperature of 100.4°F or above, or showing respiratory symptoms will be isolated and sent home.

Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette

Cathedral School continues to teach, model, and practice proper hand-washing and respiratory etiquette to keep from getting and spreading infectious illnesses including COVID-19.

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose or use the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze.

General Protocols

Medical Procedures/First Aid

Over the counter medications for headaches, stomachaches, etc., are not available in the main office. Please see the Student & Parent Handbook for prescription medication policies.

Reasons students are sent to the office:

- Blood related (can't be handled with band-aid)
- Vomiting
- Fever
- Prescription Medications
- Playground injuries
- Head related injuries

Classroom Treats

Bringing or sharing refreshments for class parties, or birthdays must be store bought individually wrapped items. Group snack items, candy, and drinks will not be permitted until further notice.

Choosing/Snack Time

- Students bring snacks/drinks from home.
- Students wash their hands before and after eating snacks.
- Snack time will be in classrooms and students should eat in their designated space.
- Students will not be permitted to share snacks nor will the teacher be able to provide students with a snack.
- Students will be permitted to participate in choosing/free time following 3 feet social distancing guidelines:
- Students wash their hands after choosing time.
- Student desks and manipulatives continue to be cleaned/disinfected after snack.

Water Bottles

Drinking directly from the water fountains will not be permitted. Water bottles will be permitted to be filled at the water bottle dispensers or classroom sinks. Students need to bring their own water bottles to school. Water bottles will be sent home each day to be washed.

Student Appointments

Parents are required to notify the main office if it is necessary for the student to leave the building for an appointment or other obligation occurring during the school day. When parents arrive to pick up their child, they will need to check in with the office communicating through the intercom within the Baxter Avenue entrance. Their child will be sent down to the entryway while office personnel will record the student's departure time, and arrival time should the child(ren) return to school. Students are responsible for completing any assignments they may have missed.

Morning Arrival

School day begins at 8:00 am.

Drop off Hours: 7:00am-7:55am

Morning Extended Care: 7:00am-7:30am

Morning Extended Care released to classroom teachers: 7:30am

Protocol for Entering Building:

- Preschool families must sign in their student(s). Parents & Guardians will not be permitted to enter the school building.
- All students, Preschool - 8th grade, must enter through the 14th Street doors and report directly to the gymnasium for the morning Extended Care program.

7:30-8:00am Arrival

- PreSchool Parents must come to the main entrance to sign their child(ren) in for the day. Preschool students will be signed into their classes outside of the Baxter Avenue main entrance from 7:30am - 8:00am. Students enter through the Baxter Avenue doors where they will be guided to their lockers and then to their classroom.

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- K-5th grade students will enter through the 14th Street doors and proceed up the stairs to their cubby to put away their belongings and then enter their homeroom.
 - Middle School Students enter through the 14th Street doors and go up to the 3rd floor to their lockers and then report directly to their homeroom; NO gathering will be permitted in the hallway.

School Mass

At present, cohorts will be taking turns attending mass in the church. Those classes not attending mass will watch the mass virtually in their classroom. Only students who attend mass at church will have the option of receiving communion. To reduce the likelihood of Covid-19 exposure, students will only sit with their student cohorts/class.

Chromebook /Computer Lab Cleaning

Computer Lab Keyboards, monitors, mice, tables, chairs will be cleaned and sanitized between classes by UV wand (by a staff member). Computers will be socially distanced from one another. To allow for cleaning, elementary computer classes will be shortened to 25 minutes. **Chromebooks** will be sanitized at the end of each day by UV wand (by a staff member) before being put in the charging cart.

Physical Education

Physical Education classes will be similarly structured to ensure 3 feet physical distancing. Staff will clean/disinfect physical education manipulatives after each class.

- **Middle School Physical Education:** Locker Room use will not be permitted. Middle School students will not be changing for Physical Education with the exception of tennis shoes.

Recess

Recess times continue to be staggered among the cohorts. At this time, student cohorts will have recess in separate areas of the Cathedral campus. Each classroom will be assigned balls and outdoor toys.

Field Trips

Field trips will take place on a trip by trip basis. Masks may be required on field trips.

SCRIP

More information to come.

- Online ordering of SCRIP is strongly encouraged.
- SCRIP orders may be sent home with students. Prior permission (signed form) will be required.

Lunch Food Service

- No visitors will be permitted on campus; therefore, parents/visitors are not permitted to eat with or deliver lunch to their student(s).
 - Students who forgot their lunch may have a lunch delivered to the school by a parent or guardian. A staff member will retrieve the lunch at the door.
- The lunch program will be served buffet style.
- Middle School-No microwave available.
- Students will not be permitted to share food.
- **Preschool Students** will eat lunch in their classrooms.
- **K-8th grade students** will eat lunch in assigned seats in Kress Hall 2 to a table six feet apart, facing the same direction.
- Students will dispose of their garbage in trash cans themselves.
- Cleaning and sanitizing of tables and chairs will be done between groups.
- Lunch will be in classrooms if the parish hall is being used.

Volunteer Hours

To be determined.

After School Dismissal

Bus Rider Dismissal: 2:45pm (14th Street Door)

K-8 Dismissal Time: 2:50pm-3:00pm (Baxter Avenue Door)

PreSchool Dismissal: 3:00pm-3:10pm (Baxter Avenue Door)

Protocol:

Two staff members will take post on the porch at 2:50pm. Kindergarten - 5th grade students will be dismissed via the Baxter Avenue, main entrance at 2:50pm. Middle School students will be dismissed via the 14th Street entrance at 2:50 pm. Preschool students will be dismissed via the Baxter Avenue entrance at 3:00pm.

- Preschool students will be signed out of their classes outside of the Baxter Avenue main entrance at 3:00pm. Preschool parents must come to the porch to sign their child(ren) out for the day.

Any K-8 students remaining at 3:05pm will be brought to Extended Care by classroom teacher(s). Any Preschool students remaining at 3:10 will be brought to Extended Care by classroom teacher(s).

Bus Riders/**School District of Superior Transportation**

Wearing masks, students that ride the bus begin getting ready to go at 2:40 and are dismissed to walk to the 14th Street Entrance and enter the bus.

***Masks are required for all staff and students on Superior School District Transportation**, in accordance with the CDC order which applies to all public transportation, including school transportation.

Crossing Guards

The student crossing guard program has been suspended at this time, and will resume at a future date. Staff supervising dismissal will guide students safely across the road. The flags will be in the entryway for supervisor use.

Extended Care

Before School Extended Care:

Morning : (fee based): 7:00am-7:30am

Classroom: 7:30am-8:00am

After School Extended Care: (fee based)

Preschool Afternoon Extended Care: 3:00pm-5:30pm

K-8 After School Extended Care: 3:00pm-5:30pm

Staffing: Aides

Protocol:

- Parents & Guardians will not be permitted to enter the school building.
- Students will be kept in their student cohort groups.
- Food will not be permitted at morning Extended Care.
- Parents will need to provide their child(ren) with an Extended Care snack if their child(ren) will be there past 4pm. The school will not be providing a snack.

Extended Care:

All students should enter through the 14th Street doors and go directly to the gymnasium. When in the gym, students will report to their designated area, keeping student cohorts together.

Cohorts will follow social distancing guidelines and sit 3 feet apart. At 7:30am students will be released to their homerooms in student cohorts, one grade at a time.

Classroom Extended Care:

Students will put items in their cubbies/lockers and report directly to their homeroom. Students will remain in their designated space.

After School Extended Care:

Extended care will be held in a converted gymnasium space, students will remain in cohorts physically distanced 3 feet. Each student will need their own supplies. The space will be disinfected between classes and Extended Care. Parents must use the Baxter Avenue main entrance to pick up their child(ren) from our Extended Care program. Inside of the main entrance, parents will use the Ring doorbell located to the right of the interior entrance doors to

notify personnel of their arrival. Student(s) will then be walked to the Baxter Avenue main entrance to be picked up and signed out.

PM Extended Care Snack Time Protocol:

- Snack time will begin at 4pm.
- Students will use hand sanitizer and/or be released from the gym to wash their hands prior to eating their snack.
- Once students finish their snack, students will use hand sanitizer and/or be released from the gym to wash their hands
- Make sure students have cleaned up after themselves with all garbage being thrown away.

Cleaning & Disinfection

Cleaning with products containing soap or detergent reduces germs on surfaces by removing contaminants and decreases risk of infection from surfaces. Daily cleaning by custodial staff will continue with hospital grade disinfectant.