



Sacred Heart-Griffin High School

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July 23, 2020

Dear SHG Parents and Students:

With the release of many local public return to school plans coming out this week I wanted to take the opportunity to provide some of the changes your student will experience at SHG. As explained in my letter July 3 we will move to a block schedule with a 2:15 dismissal time Monday-Friday. Having four 80 minute classes each day will allow us to provide face-to-face instruction and reduce frequent exposure in the hallways during passing periods. We have been busy working with our Board of Directors, Policy Committee, Sangamon County Department of Public Health, and many other medical specialists to create a plan that will keep students and staff safe as we return to in person learning. Below I have included details of our return to school plan. New information is available daily from the CDC and IDPH so we will continue to update and modify our plans.

Face Coverings

All students and staff will be required to wear face coverings at all times. During lunch they will be permitted to remove the covering, but are required to maintain the minimum six foot distancing guideline. Each student will be provided with a customized SHG mask on the first day of school. They may wear that mask or an alternate mask of their choosing.

School Arrival

Tuesday, August 18 is the first day of classes at SHG. Upon arrival students will have their temperature taken at the door. Our doors will be open at 7am each day, but anyone who arrives before 7:30 will be required to sit in one of the designated areas (cafeteria, outdoor space, or gym). These spaces will be monitored and all individuals will be required to wear a mask and maintain 6 feet of distance between one another. Starting at 7:30am all students will be required to go straight to their first period class when they arrive at school. As noted in the CDC guidelines we cannot allow students to gather in groups so they will not be permitted to socialize in the commons and hallways as they have done in the past.

Lockers

We will not use lockers this year. We will allow students to carry backpacks to each of their classes. ISBE and CDC have both recommended this practice.

Water

Water fountains may not be used to directly drink from. We encourage all students to bring a clear refillable water bottle to school each day. They do not have to have these checked and approved in the main office as they have done in the past.

Classrooms

All classrooms have been measured and desks arranged to meet the minimum 6 foot distancing guidelines. Our classrooms have various dimensions so some teachers will teach in alternate locations if their class size exceeds what their room will allow. We are using every space available to us at the east campus to ensure we are always 6 feet from one another. There have been rumors of classes being at

west campus, but at this time, we are not using west for any academic classes. We are blessed with a very large building which affords us the opportunity to spread out and stay safe.

Lunch

We are currently waiting on the state guidelines to be released for food service so I do not have specifics about that quite yet. We have moved to three lunch shifts this year and have six locations designated for students to eat lunch (cafeteria, commons, gym, and 3 outdoor covered areas). As with the classrooms, students will also be required to sit a minimum of six feet apart from one another at all times.

Exposure

We will follow CDC, IDPH, and the Sangamon County Department of Public Health guidelines on returning to learn once being exposed to a positive COVID-19 individual, or having COVID-19. For those students who are quarantined, we will offer remote learning opportunities with remote instruction. Remote instruction is not a full-time option for our school.

Sanitation

Students will be required to sanitize their hands upon entering the building and each individual classroom. Desks will be sanitized between every class period as well. Our maintenance staff will thoroughly disinfect the building daily and are using cleaning products approved by the CDC.

The safety of your students and our staff is at the forefront of all decisions that are being made. The American Academy of Pediatrics is advocating for students to return to school for face-to-face instruction, but it is vital to follow all recommendations for health and safety. We have taken their recommendations into consideration while creating our plan and we are confident in our decisions. You can see the AAP statement and recommendations at <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

We look forward to a healthy and successful school year. Please be on the lookout for upcoming information about freshmen and upperclassmen orientation.

Blessings,

Mrs. Rapacz