



## Sacred Heart-Griffin High School

1200 West Washington Street • Springfield, Illinois 62702-4794 • (217) 787-1595 • Fax: (217) 787-9856

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July 2, 2020

Dear SHG Faculty, Staff, Students, and Families,

Last week, the Illinois State Board of Education released a 63 page document outlining suggestions for opening our schools in the fall. In response to that document, I met with approximately 40 teachers, administrators and students from SHG earlier this week to discuss their thoughts and concerns about the upcoming school year. There were many great ideas discussed at this meeting and the underlying theme was that everyone wanted to be back in school in August for face-to-face instruction. We used that feedback to create the following SHG reopening plan for the 2020-2021 school year.

As a school community, we understand the importance of being in the school building and offering face-to-face instruction. We are going to do our best to offer that to all of our families while ensuring the safety of everyone is at the forefront of all decisions that are made. There will be some significant changes to our daily schedule for this coming school year, however, with this plan we will be able to provide the top-notch education that our school is known for. Some additional changes include: daily temperature checks as students arrive at school, face masks must be worn in the building, and sanitizing stations will be set up in every room of the building.

Back in May we asked families to complete a survey about their online learning experiences. The feedback we received from that survey showed us that it was very difficult for students to manage eight classes per day with varying expectations from teachers. We value that feedback and that is in large part why we have chosen to use a block style schedule for the school year. Students will only have four classes per day which are 80 minutes in length instead of the traditional 45 minute class periods. This alternate schedule will also allow us additional time to clean and disinfect between classes as well as during and after all lunch shifts. Moving to four 80 minute classes will also reduce exposure that students would have in the hallways during passing periods.

Our new daily schedule for this school year will ensure we are ready in the event that we are forced to go back to online instruction due to directives from the Governor, IDPH, and ISBE. Please understand that we will not choose to go to online education on our own. It truly is a last resort and will only be utilized if mandated by the Governor and ISBE. In preparation for possible online learning, all of our teachers will be utilizing the same online platform. We are working to integrate the Google Suite with our current Renweb/FACTS system. This will allow families to easily access information without the confusion of having to go to multiple sites. If mandated to provide online education all teachers will also be required to meet virtually with their class in a “live” format twice a week.

In preparation for students possibly missing school due to illness, we are also going to ask our teachers to video all lessons and post online for students who are unable to be in the physical classroom. These are all significant changes that our faculty, staff, and administrators are working hard to implement. Thank you for your patience as we have been forced to reform our thinking on education. This pandemic has taught us many things and we have learned flexibility is key. We are proud of the education that we provide to our students and we are going to do our very best to continue to fulfill that legacy.

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### **2020-2021 SHG Daily Schedule**

\*Students will alternate “A” and “B” days each week. “A” days will include periods 1, 3, 5, and 7. “B” days will include hours 2, 4, 6, and 8. (Example: Week 1- A, B, A, B, A. Week 2- B, A, B, A, B.)

8:00-9:20 Class

9:20-9:30 Passing Period

9:30-10:50 Class

10:50-11:00 Passing Period

11:00-12:45 Class and Lunch

12:45-12:55 Passing Period

12:55-2:15 Class

2:15- Dismissal

**Please note the earlier dismissal time for the 2020-2021 school year. Teachers will be available each day from 2:15-3:30 for additional student support and conferencing.**

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This time has proven that the SHG community is incredible and I would like to thank you for your patience, support, and encouragement throughout this tough time. We are looking forward to a successful 2020-2021 school year!

Prayers of health, safety, and security,

*Mrs. Rapacz*