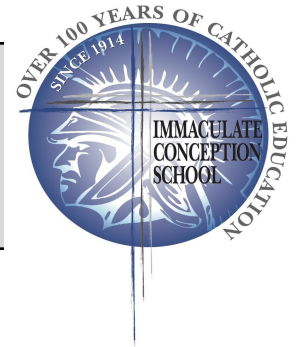


# *Immaculate Conception School*

## Return to Learn Plan



First and foremost, ICS's ***Return to Learn Plan*** is focused on our students' safety, health, and well-being. We understand the importance of establishing a positive and supportive learning environment as our students navigate the many challenges due to the disruptions caused by the pandemic. We are committed to helping our students succeed in a different yet safe environment.

This ***Return to Learn Plan*** is for the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year and is subject to change based on guidance from the Office of Catholic Schools (OCS), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and the Office of Governor of Illinois.

### ***Fall 2021: Return to Learn***

#### ***In-Person Learning :***

Students will attend in-person classes at ICS (5) five days a week, **beginning at 8:00 a.m. and concluding approximately 7 hours later with staggered dismissal times from 2:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

- Face masks will be worn by all students, teachers and staff throughout the day when in the building
- Students will engage in all core content areas with their teacher(s) each day.
- Whenever possible, teachers will utilize "outdoor classroom" space.
- Technology will be integrated into the daily content areas.
- Recess/Physical Education, Art, Computers, and Music will be provided.
- Traditional grading policies will be in place.
- Attendance policies and procedures will be followed.

### *Remote Learning Option:*

**Remote Learning - At this time we will not be offering a Remote learning option for our families.** All students will be in attendance.

\*Please know Remote learning will be used for children who may become ill or have to quarantine. The school will provide information on how students will receive academic instruction at home if they are to quarantine.

### *Other Academic Considerations*

As we begin this new school year, it is important for parents to understand that students will be assessed in the various content areas, new material will be taught, and traditional grading will be used as in any other school year.

### *ICS Preschool / Pre Kindergarten Programs*

Both the Preschool and Pre Kindergarten Programs will follow all of the same guidelines, protocols and procedures as the Kindergarten through 8th grade. Classroom supplies may be shared, given the unique educational practices of early childhood education but limited to essential use only and cleaned/sanitized frequently.

## *Safety Protocols/Procedures*

### *The Cohort Model*

Students and staff are grouped by homerooms and these groupings are kept as static as possible by having the same group of children stay with the same teacher(s). This helps maintain a safe environment by strictly limiting the interaction between students and allows for rapid response and containment in the event of a student becoming infected. As part of this model, schools will strive to physically separate students in the same cohort as much as possible.

*\*Please note our Advanced Math and ELA students at the middle school level will be the only students mixing cohorts in the school building to provide an optimal learning environment.*

## *Masks*

All individuals in school buildings (students, employees) are to wear masks. Families are asked to supply masks for their child/children. Reusable cloth masks are allowed with the stipulation that they be washed every night in preparation for the next school day if using the same mask.

Disposable masks are preferred in the school setting with the intention of disposing at the end of every school day. Parents should send students with extra PPE in case masks are damaged during the day.

Masks should not contain messages or images that would distract from the educational environment of the school.

Schools will ensure an ongoing supply of PPE (disposable face masks, cleaning supplies) for all employees and will maintain a minimum supply of masks for students in case students forget or break their personal mask.

Masks may be removed in special circumstances, i.e., when eating or drinking or engaged in outside activities or instruction. Individuals should wash or sanitize hands before putting their face covering back on.

Schools will maintain a regular supply of gloves for cleaning surfaces and treating students with medical injuries/illnesses.

## *Parents/Visitors*

The safety and well-being of our students, teachers and staff are our primary concerns. Therefore visitors (parents, volunteers, guests) will have limited access to the school buildings. The main offices will keep accurate records of all parents and visitors, including the individual's reason for the visit, contact information, and all locations visited, in the event contact tracing is needed.

*Arrival Procedures:* Each morning...

- Students, faculty and staff must wear a face mask upon arrival at school.
- **School doors will open at 7:40 a.m.**
- **Tardy bell: 8:00 a.m.** (All school doors locked - Students enter through main front doors)
- Students enter through designated grade level doors and report directly to their homeroom.
  - ***3 year old Preschool - 3rd grade students need to be dropped off at main school entrance***
  - ***4th and 5th grade students need to be dropped off at Becker Hall entrance***
  - ***6th, 7th, and 8th grade students need to be dropped off on on the Northside side of building at Middle School entrance***
    - ***Please note that Archer Ave will be a one way street heading East***

*before and after school. The street will be closed from 7:40a.m. to 3:30p.m.*

- Students will immediately sanitize their hands before entering the classroom at the sanitation station.
- Parents/guardians are asked NOT to enter the school building at arrival or dismissal.

### ***Dismissal Procedures:***

At dismissal time...

- Students will exit through the designated grade level doors they used for entry.
- Teachers will accompany students outside as they exit the buildings.
- Families are encouraged to work out a dismissal plan with their children in order to discourage congregating by parents and/or students on school grounds after school.
- **Staggered dismissal times:**
  - **2:45 - 3 year old preschool, 4 year old Pre-k, 4th grade, and 8th grade students**
  - **2:50 - Kindergarten, 3rd, 5th, and 7th grade**
  - **2:55 - 1st, 2nd, and 6th grades**
- Parents/guardians are asked NOT to enter the school building at arrival or dismissal.

### ***Promoting a Healthy School Environment***

Immaculate Conception School's maintenance staff, in conjunction with our teachers, will implement enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols on a daily basis. This will include the constant cleaning of restrooms and high touch areas such as: door knobs, crash bars, desks, stair railings, counters, faucets, sinks, etc. throughout the school day. The maintenance staff will use EPA approved products and procedures to clean and disinfect the school daily. An electro-static fogger has been purchased for deep cleaning frequently.

The HVAC in all buildings have been inspected and serviced to ensure proper air flow in all classrooms.

## *Hygiene*

All students will be taught how to properly wash their hands and have scheduled hand-washing breaks throughout the day. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the buildings at all times.

## *Education for Students, Teachers, Staff*

All teachers and staff will receive appropriate training and education in the areas of proper hygiene, mitigation strategies, classroom cleaning procedures/protocols, signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Students will also receive age appropriate training and education in proper hygiene, safety procedures, precautions, and protocols, and infection prevention.

## *Additional Practices to Minimize Cross-Contamination*

- No sharing of snacks
- The drinking fountains will not be in use, so students are asked to bring their own bottle of water/reusable container.
- Each student will be provided their own device to use at school/home.
  - *Students will have devices that will stay with them at school. If we would have to transition to Remote learning for the whole school or an individual has to stay home due to illness ICS would provide devices to go home.*
  - Dismissal times will be staggered.
  - Restroom/hand washing breaks will be staggered throughout the day.

## *Classrooms*

- Extra furniture has been removed from classrooms to allow for maximum spacing/distance between students.
- Classrooms have been reconfigured to allow the maximum possible space between desks.

## *Daily Movement Throughout the Building:*

- Signage and visual guides are in place throughout the buildings and classrooms to help students keep appropriately distanced from one another.
- Restrooms will be limited to 3-4 students at one time with visual markers in place to help students appropriately distance.

## *Mass*

***School Mass will return to Wednesday for the upcoming school year.*** At this time we will have one School Mass and spread students out to maintain physical/social distancing at church. Please remember on Wednesdays to have your student/s wear their Mass uniforms, which are a navy blue polo with the ICS logo in the left corner and Khaki pants or skirts.

## *Recess for Elementary:*

Scheduled with cohorts to minimize cross-contamination with other cohorts.

During recess with their cohort only, students will be kept socially distanced and will be allowed to remove masks for the duration of the recess.

As students re-enter the buildings, masks will be worn and hands washed/ sanitized.

## *Special Classes*

Specials' teachers will minimize shared supplies (e.g. art supplies). In any case, supplies will be cleaned between each use particularly when used by different cohorts.

Music classes will try to avoid singing or asking students to play woodwinds, brass instruments, and recorders, in order to minimize risk of cross contamination *unless* social distancing can be maintained.

***Middle School Physical Education Classes*** - At this time the ICS middle school students ***will not change*** for Physical Education classes. We will communicate in advance if we transition to changing for P.E. so parents can purchase P.E. uniforms.

Whenever possible, classes will be moved outside, especially physical education classes.

*School Lunch Program:*

At this time we plan to have students eat lunch in the cafeteria, with the exception of 3-year-old Preschool and 4-year-old Pre-k students. We will be adding more tables and minimizing the seating at each table to allow for physical distancing. Students, as they have in the past, will only be seated by students in their cohort (grade level)

\* Please note that hot lunch will continue to be free for all students due to Federal funding.

*Extra-Curricular Activities/Athletics:*

- At this time all fall IESA athletic activities (Baseball, Cross Country, and Girls Basketball) are going to be allowed.
- Other extracurriculars we will determine as we get closer to their start times

**INFECTION PROTOCOL - WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE GETS SICK**

**\*Please note we will follow the most current IDPH guidelines in regards to close contacts, quartaning, etc. I will be working with the local Health Dept. on a case by case basis to make sure we are following the most up to date protocols.**

**Please know this document is subject to change.**