

## **REOPENING PLAN ADDENDUM (Updated 8.19.2020)**

To view Mary of Nazareth's comprehensive Reopening Plan, please click [HERE](#)

To view the Archdiocese of Washington's Reopening Plan, Onward in Faith, can be found [HERE](#)

### ***Uniform***

Blended Learning (in-school) uniform options:

- School Uniform PE shorts or sweats
- All white sneakers for girls
- All black sneakers for boys
- Black or white socks
- Shirts: PE Uniform Shirt, HSA Spirit Gear, Race for Scholars Shirts, Spelling Bee Shirts, and MoN Theatre Shirts
- Spring and/or winter dress uniforms option for all blended learning students

Distance Learning uniform options:

- Shirts: PE Uniform Shirt, HSA Spirit Gear, Race for Scholars Shirts, Spelling Bee Shirts, and MoN Theatre Shirts
- Spring and/or winter dress uniforms option for all distance learning students

### ***Health & Safety***

Overview

- Faculty/Staff and Parents will be required to sign an acknowledgement form agreeing to notify the office when they have visited a hot spot within the past 14 days or have been in close contact with someone for 15 minutes or longer who has tested positive for COVID-19
- The ability of Mary of Nazareth School to deliver distance learning and/or in-person instruction will be contingent on the health of teachers and assistants.
- We will not be ordering lanyards for masks.

Comprehensive Updated Cloth Face Coverings Guidelines

- All students regardless of grade must wear a cloth face covering or mask during arrival/dismissal, moving through the building, while in the classroom, and at any time social distancing cannot feasibly be maintained outdoors.
- Opportunities for non-mask time will be made available during lunch or snacks when proper social distancing can be maintained. (This procedure will be evaluated at a later date.)
- **Students must wear a face covering during outdoor recess if social distancing cannot be maintained:** The ADW's goal is to put policies in place that ensure students' safety while also recognizing the importance of students being able to play without face coverings during recess. We will be reviewing the CDC's recommendations and updating our policy as recommended.

### Choosing The Right Face Covering

- Make sure the mask fits securely and covers the nose, mouth and chin.
- Pleated face coverings with elastic are likely to work best for kids.
- Child-face coverings are usually 5x10 inches (may need to adjust size to assure proper fit)
- Adult cloth face coverings are usually 6x12 inches (may need to adjust size to assure proper fit)
- Homemade or purchased cloth face coverings are fine as long as they provide the proper fit.
- Disposable face coverings are allowed provided they fit snugly around the face. These coverings must be disposed of each day.

### Do NOT Use

- Masks with one-way valves or vents allow exhaled air to be expelled out through holes in the material. This can exhale respiratory droplets to reach others and potentially spread the COVID-19 virus. Therefore, CDC does not recommend using masks if they have an exhalation valve or vent.
- Face shields are not recommended as a substitute for cloth face coverings.
- Mesh masks, gaps with material or any holes are not sufficient face coverings.
- Neck gaiters have not been proven to be a useful form of protection during the pandemic

### Allergies

- Classrooms/ pods will be allergy aware, allowing us to create an environment that is as safe as possible from exposure to food allergens.
  - Students will be required to wash their hands before and after eating their lunches at their assigned desks.
  - We will continue to enforce our **no sharing food policy**.

### *Schedule*

Friday, January 22nd-Half Day, End of 2nd Quarter	Thursday, January 21st- Middle school students come to school in-person <i>*K-5 will come to school in person Tuesday, January 19th and Wednesday, January 20th ONLY</i>
Friday, February 5th- Half Day CSW (Changed from Friday, January 29th)	Thursday, February 4th- Middle school students come to school in-person <i>*K-5 will come to school in person Tuesday, February 2nd and Wednesday February 3rd ONLY</i>

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## *Academics*

When will parents receive letters about teacher grading policies and procedures from teachers?

- Grading policies and procedures are generally distributed during the Back to School presentations. This year, the Back to School nights will be virtual; therefore, the families should receive this information during the first week of school.

Will fall Scantron be administered to distance learners in a blended learning environment?

- Scantron Express will be administered to students choosing the blended model. Mary of Nazareth School is awaiting further guidelines from the Catholic Schools Office regarding the administration of Scantron Express for distance learners.

What is Mary of Nazareth's plan to support 8th grade HSPT Prep?

- Recently, Mary of Nazareth received information that Scholastic Testing, the HSPT testing company, has developed an online pre-HSPT and an online version of the actual HSPT. Registration details and procedures will be released in the later part of August.

## *Blended vs. Full Distance Learning Decision*

**Will the school be creating any videos for parents prior to reopening the school to blended learners? (Updated 8/16/20)**

- The school is committed to timely and frequent communication. As time permits the Leadership Team will identify ways to provide dynamic media for parents to view in advance of our reopening.
  - Additional photos and slideshows. [LINK HERE](#)
  - Videos from the CDC and ADW are currently embedded in the [Reopening Plan](#) we distributed on July 29 for parents to review with children before returning to school
  - The Leadership Team is considering a live streaming school tour and Q&A for parents of blended learners before the first day of school.
  - If time permits, The Leadership Team will develop videos related to arrival, dismissal, health/safety, and in-vehicle temperature check protocols.
  - Parents will continue being invited to volunteer over the next few weeks in the school building. This will provide an opportunity for volunteers to see the school in person and become ambassadors for the parent community.

**Will blended learners have access to the curriculum if they are unable to attend school? (Updated 8/16/20)**

- Yes. Although our expectation is for blended learners to attend school in person. 'Pseudo' or intermittent blended learning is not ideal for a myriad of administrative, safety, and academic reasons. Additionally, teachers are now being required to manage students in two learning environments, we don't want to add a third.

**Why did the Leadership Team and Board choose the 1-3-1 model and were other potential weekly schedules considered? (Updated 8/16/20)**

- Our choice to follow the 1-3-1 model was guided by our steadfast and unwavering commitment to a healthy and safe environment. Providing everyone with an option to attend school from home due to Covid concerns was a major priority. The Leadership Team considered, researched, and reviewed many schedules and presented two options to the Board. We chose the 1-3-1 full day schedule for the following reasons:
  - We are confident our school environment is prepared to house students for a full day of school following all Health, Safety, Facility, and Operations guidelines of the CDC and ADW.
  - Parent feedback from multiple surveys.
  - Overwhelming feedback to create more opportunities for rigor, in person instruction, and engagement.
  - Staffing--P/T and F/T
  - Scheduling Staff
  - Opportunity presented for Staff Restructuring
  - A half day schedule for all K-8 blended learning students would have been problematic on a myriad of levels for families who live in our more distant parishes
  - Montgomery County Catholic and independent school competition
  - Loss of instruction in the spring
  - Consideration for being a tuition based school and families who identify time in-school as value added when paying tuition
  - Review of scientific research about the difference between children under and over 10 years old, and not having them in the building at the same time
  - The ADW not permitting morning and afternoon sessions by 6-8 and K-5--cleaning protocols alone make it impossible
  - Consensus between the Board and Leadership Team

**Will blended and distance learning parents continue receiving the same school communications? (Updated 8/16/20)**

- Yes, we will not differentiate parent communication by model choice. We want to keep everyone in the loop and maximize efficiency in the front office. Separate communication will become time consuming, cumbersome, and potentially problematic.

Will MoN of Nazareth families who chose not to return for the 2020-2021 school year be priority acceptance in 2021-2022? (Updated 8/16/20)

- Welcoming back families who have consistently supported Mary of Nazareth School and our mission over the years will have priority reacceptance if space is available.

What were the survey results for blended learners and distance learning families? (Updated 8/19/20)

- 65% of our families chose to be in our blended learning environment and 35% of our families chose to be distance learning only.

Can my student switch from distance learning to blended learning at some point in the school year?

- Yes, students will be able to move from distance learning to blended learning at the end of the first and second quarters. Students may choose to leave learning pods for distance learning in real time. Students who leave learning pods may only return at the start of the next quarter.

If we choose distance learning now and decide to come back in November will there be room for our children to safely return to a spaced out classroom? Will the pods be at full capacity at the beginning of the year?

- We will not swell pod sizes with new families in a way that will not permit our current families to return. This is a priority of the Leadership Team and the Board.

How will we 'reintegrate' distance learners into pods?

- TBD--this will be dictated by the number of students who choose to move from distance to blended.

### ***Health and Safety***

*See a more comprehensive explanation of health and safety procedures in our [Reopening Plan](#)*

What happens when someone on campus is sent home with COVID-19 like symptoms?

- They must contact their health care provider and follow recommendations.
- If a Covid-19 test is performed, the individual is required to stay home and follow CDC guidelines while awaiting results.
  - If test results are negative- and when symptoms are no longer present the individual can return to school with a note from the health care provider stating the diagnosis of a non COVID-19 condition and appropriate to return to school.
  - If a negative test results- but symptoms persist, individuals will be required to remain home for at least 10 days from the first day symptoms appeared **And** 24 hours fever free without fever reducing medications and the improvement of symptoms.

What will be the procedure for communicating suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases at MoN?

- If someone at MoN receives a positive COVID-19 test result, the Montgomery County Health Department will conduct contact tracing which includes contacting MoN and informing the administration of follow up procedures and guidance for potential closure. Mary of Nazareth School will work closely with the Montgomery County Health Department and the ADW to ensure the safety of our community.
- Nurse Williams will be in close communication with anyone who has shown signs or symptoms of the virus but official reports and instructions will come to us from the Montgomery County Health Department.
- We will be using this [flowchart](#) when an individual displays COVID-19 symptoms at school.

Will teachers and students wear face coverings all day, including recess?

- Yes, teachers and students will wear masks all day.

Will parents of blended learners be required to sign an acknowledgement page to ensure safety measures are followed when not in school, including communicating out of state travel, following CDC social distancing guidelines, CDC face coverings guidelines, etc...?

- Mr. Friel and the Board are working on a draft Acknowledgement Page all parents of blended learners may be required to sign before the first day of school.

How will students make up work they have missed while sick?

- This will be determined on a case by case basis, but students will be expected to complete work as directed by the teacher. Accommodations will be made for long term absence and/or illness.

If my child has a doctor's appointment, do I still bring him/her into school for blended learning? What is the procedure?

- We will follow the procedure outlined in the 2020-2021 Student and Parent Handbook which will be distributed prior to the first day of school. Blended learning students will be able to arrive at school late and leave early for appointments following CDC guidelines as it relates to parent visitors. Protocol TBD.

Should I still notify Nurse Williams if my child (ren) is sick or anything changes with their health?

- Yes, you will notify Nurse Williams and the pod teachers if your child (ren) will be out of the building due to sickness.

What about common use areas such as the restrooms? Will students using restrooms be recorded so Mary of Nazareth can track possible contamination of those surfaces as well?

- For contact tracing purposes, an individual needs to be less than 6 feet for greater than 15 minutes. Bathroom stalls, sinks, and urinals will be spaced out by closing down every other one in both the elementary and middle school wing.
- High touch areas will be disinfected 3-4 times a day i.e. door handles, light switches, faucets, toilet handles, stall locks, etc... Current CDC guidelines require a deep cleaning once during the school day. These cleanings will be staggered between 11:00am and 12:00pm. A deep cleaning of all bathrooms will take place nightly.

Will classrooms be peanut free?

- Classrooms/ pods will be **allergy aware, allowing us to create an environment that is as safe as possible from exposure to food allergens.**
- Students will be required to wash their hands before and after eating their lunches at their assigned desks.
- We will continue to enforce our **no sharing food policy.**

### ***Technology***

*See a more comprehensive explanation of technology upgrades and procedures in our [Reopening Plan](#)*

What computer should I purchase for my child?

- Mary of Nazareth School recommends, but does not require, a device with the following capabilities: working camera and microphone. For Kindergarten or 1st grade, an iPad, tablet, or Chromebook with a touch screen may be most suitable since they are still developing mouse and/or trackpad skills. A Chromebook should be sufficient for most. You can see a list of supported devices [HERE](#).

Can my child borrow a device from MoN?

- Yes, Mary of Nazareth will provide electronic devices for families on a first request first serve basis. We are confident we will be able meet the demand for student devices with Chromebooks. To request a Chromebook, please complete this form. [HERE](#)

### **How do I request a Chromebook if my child needs one? (Updated 8/19/20)**

- Fill out [THIS](#) link if you are in need of borrowing a Chromebook. Families can pick up Chromebooks on the following dates:
  - September 2nd from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
  - September 3rd from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
  - September 4th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## *Schedule*

Will before care and/or after care be provided?

- At this time, before and after care will not be provided in the blended learning model, which will begin on September 8, 2020. This decision will be reassessed in October after the Leadership team can collect follow-up data and reassess the ability to offer before and after care programs.

## *Misc.*

Will there be hot lunch or milk?

- Hot lunch will not be provided. Families are required to provide student lunches.
- A nonrefundable milk program will continue to run at a reduced rate for interested blended learning families.

Why was the number of prospective families included in the most recent communication?

- Including the number of applicants was to encourage people to complete our learning model survey so we can begin accepting students in the younger grades with openings based on up-to-date data. It was also to instill confidence that we are in a position to replace students who have decided not to re enroll without a debilitating impact on our budget and subsequent school program.

Are there online resources available from the Archdiocese of Washington that we can use at home during distance learning? (Updated 8/19/20)

- Yes, the Archdiocese has a website with links to student learning resources. You can access the link [HERE](#).