

# School Handbook Appendix

## Academic Year 2020-2021

This school handbook appendix has been developed to help families of the Diocese of Fall River Catholic Schools understand how our schools will operate for the foreseeable future following the COVID-19 pandemic and public health guidelines currently in place as a response to the pandemic. There may be additional public health orders (such as reverting back to stay-at-home response phase) or additional guidance from the Diocese of Fall River Catholic Schools. Communication from the Catholic Schools Office and the individual schools will be provided to parents in a timely manner.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT AND REOPENING**

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We are focused on three major areas in our reopening planning:

1. The health and safety of our school communities.
2. The ability to deliver our mission and educational excellence to our students, and
3. A sustainable reopening and long term sustainability of our schools

### **UPDATED STUDENT HEALTH POLICY**

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Each school will provide a School Reopening Plan that will put forth the goal of a **safe** return of as many students as possible to in-person learning.

Agreement to abide by the terms of the Diocese of Fall River Catholic Schools Health Policy is a condition of enrollment at any Catholic school in the diocese. All schools will provide protocols for responding to specific COVID-19 scenarios this fall. In addition, schools will continue to update families as additional protocols are released by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

The following link provides Massachusetts Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios as of July 17, 2020. [Coronavirus/COVID-19: Guidance/On the Desktop Messages](#)

## **RETURN TO LEARN**

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Understanding the variety of needs and concerns of students, families, teachers and staff, as well as the potential for changing health circumstances, the Catholic Schools Office is requiring schools to prepare a reopening plan that includes three learning models: in-person learning with new safety guidelines, a hybrid of in-person and remote learning, and a comprehensive fully-remote learning model. These plans will be reviewed and approved by the Catholic Schools Office leadership team. Please refer to your school's website for more information regarding its reopening plan.

### **Attendance**

**Schools must take daily attendance whether a student is in person or remote. Schools are also required to differentiate between students attending school in-person or remotely.**

Parents/caregivers are responsible for ensuring their child(ren) attend school every day, whether in-person or remotely. Please refer to your school's regular policies concerning attendance requirements. Parents are expected to report student absences in accordance with the same current school procedures that existed before the pandemic. Schools will continue to investigate extended absences and make and document reasonable efforts to contact the student and determine the reason for nonattendance.

### **Digital Learning Platforms**

All schools within the Diocese of Fall River currently have some form of online platform to support full delivery of remote instruction. Schools will work closely with students and families to implement online platforms and promote safe and effective use throughout the school year.

**By signing this appendix, parents are acknowledging that their student(s) will participate in remote instruction in accordance with the guidelines put forth in the school plan and herein.**

### **Remote Learning Student Requirements**

1. Students will attend remote learning classes dressed in school uniform or appropriate attire as stated by the individual school. Wearing pajamas to remote classes is strictly prohibited.
2. Students should be prepared to attend remote classes to learn and fully participate. This includes video and audio on, face fully visual on camera, seated at a table or desk, in an area free of background noise, with no eating during instructional time.
3. Students are prohibited from sharing passwords and other digital information with non-members of the school community.

**Remote Learning Family Requirements**

1. Parents are encouraged to ensure that their students are attending and fully participating in remote learning. This includes that families will ensure that students have properly functioning devices for remote learning as required by the individual school.
2. Any type of recording of remote sessions by students, parents and caregivers is prohibited at all times in order to appropriately protect the privacy of students and teachers.
3. The home environment should not in any way disrupt the learning environment of all students in attendance. For example, other family members, television, pets and other electronic devices should not disrupt the learning environment..
4. Although schools will not record all remote learning or other sessions, the schools reserve the right to do so for security purposes and parents agree that they may do so.
5. Especially for younger children, a parent or caregiver should be nearby during all remote learning and have the ability to monitor such sessions.
6. One on one remote instruction should take place with a second adult present, but if an additional adult cannot be present then the session may be recorded for security purposes.
7. Please refer to your individual school policies for further guidance regarding remote learning.

**Grading**

All schools will continue to assess and grade student work regardless of the model of instruction. Please refer to your individual school for grading periods.

**SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR SCHOOLS**

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**Tuition**

Because of the rich and meaningful education program our schools will strive to provide each and every day whether it be in-person, hybrid or remote, **our schools will continue to charge and collect full tuition.**

If a family has been adversely affected financially for any reason, they are encouraged to contact their school’s leader. The school and diocese will make every effort to address the tuition challenges.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By signing below I acknowledge that I have read and understand the guidelines set forth in this school handbook appendix and in the school plan referenced herein and agree to abide by them. I also acknowledge that certain remote learning or other sessions may be recorded for security purposes and agree that the school may do so.

STUDENT NAME (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE LEVEL: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN (please print name): \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN \_\_\_\_\_

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_