



# MATER DEI

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2018 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON  
SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

## Happy Summer!

Summer is here! We are hoping you and your family are enjoying these beautiful summer days! We are so proud of all that our children accomplished during the 2019-2020 school year with the support of parents and teachers. What a year it has been! Please accept our sincere gratitude for all you did from March through June navigating the eLearning Program, participating in virtual Mater Dei events like the May Procession, Reading Olympics, and our end of school Mass. We are grateful to the many families who joined us each morning for prayer because it truly set a tone for the day, giving us the Lord's blessing as we traveled a path that was unknown to all of us.

### Task Force Information

Now, it is time for us to turn our attention to the reopening of Mater Dei Catholic School! In mid-May, we established a twenty-five person Task Force to begin working on a *Health and Safety Plan* for our school. The membership includes parents, teachers, administrators, Director of Religious Education, school nurse, members of the Boards of Limited Jurisdiction and Home and School Association with expertise in many areas including the medical field, safety consultants, construction, and education. The Task Force is divided into six sub-committees: Family and Student Life, Administration, Medical, Safety, Maintenance, Procedures, and eLearning.

As we consider all the important aspects we need to implement for the Mater Dei *Health and Safety Plan*, our priority is the spiritual, emotional, and social features of reopening school in September. We want to ensure that our children feel the love and welcome that they always feel at Mater Dei. Regardless of some procedural changes, we will be opening the doors of Mater Dei to greet our family back with open arms. The first day of school will be filled with celebration, spirit, music, and fun as we begin the 2020-2021 school year! Although parents will be unable to accompany your children into the building as you have in past years according to CDC guidelines, the administration, faculty, and staff will be here to welcome our children home after a long vacation. We are planning activities and events for the beginning days to let the children know how much we have missed them and how we plan to keep them safe!

The following information outlines some of the policies and procedures for the new school year:

- Health and Safety Plan
- Task Force Updates
  - Uniforms
  - Building Changes and Updates
- eLearning Program and Parent Survey

## **Health and Safety Plan**

The Task Force has been working together over the past month and a half developing policies and procedures to safely reopen Mater Dei Catholic School in the face of the Coronavirus pandemic while continuing to live the mission of Mater Dei. This committee is using the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and "Considerations for Schools," resources published by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and other pertinent resources to establish procedures to ensure the health and safety of the children and staff of Mater Dei Catholic School for the 2020-2021 school year.

We expect the committees to complete the *Health and Safety Plan* by July 17<sup>th</sup>. You will receive the plan in its entirety through Constant Contact on Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Parents will have the opportunity to review the *Health and Safety Plan* from July 20<sup>th</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup> and submit any questions or clarifications. Zoom meetings will be set up in August to review the plan and answer parent questions. The schedule is listed below:

- August 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM - Parents of Pre-K and Kindergarten
- August 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM - Parents of 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
- August 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM – Parents of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
- August 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM – Parents of 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- August 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM – Parents of CARES students

SignUp Genius links will be posted at the of July for parents to register for a meeting and be given access to the Zoom meeting link.

Although the final *Health and Safety Plan* will be available in mid-July, in the meantime, we will share important Task Force updates over the next few weeks through the President/Principal's Pen.

# Uniforms

Due to the fact that it is much easier to wash the girls' and boys' navy blue polo shirts and gym uniforms, the Medical Sub-Committee recommends alterations to the uniform code for the 2020-2021 school year. Navy blue long and short sleeve polo shirts may be worn with the summer and winter uniforms. We will provide opportunities for the children to wear their gym clothes more often throughout the year.

## Uniform Code (Changes for the 2020-2021 school year per the Health and Safety Plan due to the pandemic)

### Girls Grades 1-4

**Fall / Summer:** Navy, White, and Khaki Glen Plaid Jumper **will be worn with a navy short or long sleeve polo shirt with the MD logo on top of the jumper, which will give the appearance of a skirt.** - or - Khaki skort/short with navy polo with logo. White socks that cover ankles.

**Winter:** Navy, White, and Khaki Glen Plaid Jumper **will be worn with a navy short or long sleeve polo shirt with the MD logo on top of the jumper, which will give the appearance of a skirt. Navy tights or navy knee socks. (No sweater for the 2020-2021 school year.)**

- **Shoes & Belt:** Solid color Navy or Brown dress shoe with nonskid sole. Brown belt with Khaki shorts.

### Girls Grades 5-8

**Fall / Summer:** Navy, White, and Khaki Glen Plaid Kilt Jumper **will be worn with a navy short or long sleeve polo** with the MD logo or Khaki skort/short with Navy polo with logo. White socks that cover ankles.

**Winter:** Navy, White, and Khaki Glen Plaid Kilt **will be worn with a navy short or long sleeve polo shirt with the MD logo. Navy tights or navy knee socks. (No sweater for the 2020-2021 school year.)**

- **Shoes & Belt:** Solid color Navy or Brown dress shoe with nonskid sole. Brown belt with Khaki shorts.

### Boys Grades 1-8

- **Fall / Summer:** Khaki pants or shorts. Navy polo with logo. White socks that cover the ankle.

**Winter:** Khaki pants. **Navy blue short or long sleeve polo shirt with MD logo. No sweater or tie for the 2020-2021 school year.** Khaki or white socks that cover the ankle.

- **Shoes & Belt:** Solid color Brown dress shoe with nonskid sole. Brown belt.

*(Gym, Kindergarten, and Pre-K dress code will remain the same. Please see the website for requirements. Search Uniform Code.)*

## Building Changes and Updates

The Maintenance Sub-Committee of the Task Force recommended the following changes for the safety of our children:

- Install 32 touchless faucets for restrooms
- Install 32 touchless paper towel dispensers for restrooms
- Purchase new furniture for all 6 Pre-K Classrooms and 2 K Classrooms to promote physical distancing
- Install new handwashing sink for 6th Grade
- Install new sinks for Little Flower Hall boys room
- Touchless hand sanitizing stations for all entrances

### **Classroom and eLearning Updates**

- Purchase 60 new iPads, for 4th Grade students and upgrades for teachers
- Purchase wireless microphones and iPad tripods for teachers for eLearning
- Install 6 new Smart Boards in 6 classrooms: 6A, 4A, 5A, 5B, Pre-K

### **Regularly Schedule Improvements**

- Install 6 new laminate floors in classrooms Pre-K 3A, B, C, Pre-K 4B, C, and 6B
- Finish Gymnasium girls' room restroom renovation (done by 7/31/20)
- Install new clocks in all classrooms

## **eLearning Program and Parent Survey**

At Mater Dei Catholic School, we are committed to ensuring that each one of our students will be given a strong Catholic education that inspires the values of Faith, Excellence, Service, and Community. While we are planning for in-person instruction, we recognize the need to provide uninterrupted instruction for students who are unable to be present in the school building. Therefore, the eLearning Sub-Committee of the Task Force recommends that we offer our eLearning Program alongside in-person instruction when we return to school. Our Technology Committee, comprised of several of our teachers, has been working with us to prepare each classroom to have the equipment needed for students to be able to access instruction at home. Each classroom will feature an iPad, tripod, and the necessary sound equipment to be able to provide a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning for all students.

We are most grateful for all of the hard work of our teachers on the Technology Committee, who are spending time this summer reviewing the eLearning Program framework. In addition to preparing each classroom with the equipment for live-streaming, this committee has developed a short parent optional survey regarding our eLearning Program. We are hopeful that your thoughtful feedback will provide us with more information to make the best decisions possible. [Please click on this link to access the survey, which will close on Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>.](#) Thank you for your willingness to participate.

When we began the eLearning program in March, we knew that patience and collaboration would be the key to our success. In these challenging times, we are comforted by the strength of our Mater Dei family and partnership we share in educating your children.

Thank you for taking the time to read this important communication. Throughout the summer, all Task Force updates will be available on the MD website for further reference. We are grateful to you for your continued commitment to Mater Dei. The next President/Principal's Pen will be published next week with the "Second Edition" of the Task Force updates.

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July! Have a great holiday weekend.

Most sincerely,

Miss Diane E. McCaughan  
*President*

Miss Elizabeth A. Waltrich  
*Principal*