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## State of the School FAQs

Ms. Flanagan and I have grouped the questions that we received by elementary and high school. She will address elementary and I will address high school. Keep in mind that things are changing minute by minute and we will be sending updates as needed. Be sure you have the latest information available. If you are not sure, email either Ms. Flanagan or myself.

**COVID19 Protocols** will be sent separately and should answer questions concerning notification if someone tests positive, guidelines to follow if exposed, etc. These will be reviewed by our Advisory Board on Wednesday and upon their approval will be sent to all parents after the board meeting. If you have other questions after reading them, please email Ms. Flanagan or myself.

**School Start** – We have been asked about delaying the start of school due to increasing numbers of positive cases of COVID19. Our health care experts seem to think we will have a peak even greater in the next few months. We have decided to start school August 6 in order to get as much face to face time in prior to a possible mandated closing by the governor later in the year. Research is showing more and more that schools are safer places for our children to be and that wearing masks will help reduce the number of active cases of COVID19.

One parent voiced concern that school would be more like a juvenile detention center/prison than a school. We are sorry that you feel that way. Yes, we will have more guidelines for our students to follow as we try to keep them safe and healthy. This will be harder for everyone. Teachers will be going above and beyond as they assist in sanitizing, teaching both virtually and in class, and wearing masks. Socially distancing will not be easy for them either. We did not ask for a pandemic – we are just trying to educate our students in a safe environment.

We need your help – have a positive attitude, provide your child with extra masks and a zip lock bag to put them in when they take them off. Send bottles of water OR, at the high school, provide your child with money to purchase additional water throughout the day. Let us change this challenge into an opportunity to ALL work together for a POSITIVE learning experience for our children. Remember when we point our finger at something or someone, three of those fingers point back at us. What are we doing to help the school, the teachers, and most of all our students to THRIVE during this pandemic?

### High School FAQs

#### Athletics

Sports may be nonexistent – This statement has been made and is true. At this time, it is not our call. We abide by MHSAA and the Diocese of Biloxi. We can not afford to pay referees if fans are not allowed into athletic events. The CDC guidelines for sanitation prior to and after the games and for the players during the events will boggle your mind. We intend to do our best to have athletics, BUT that decision is on a sport by sport basis.

The number of new coaches per sport in the last few years - Yes, we have had a great turnover in coaches in the past few years. We are a small school with an even smaller budget. It is a fact that most

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coaches prefer to teach PE and not academic subjects – they want a teaching salary, coaching supplement, and designated coaching periods during the school day. Our student population does not warrant having every coach teach PE full-time. We are grateful that we have found part-time dedicated people to fill coaching positions, however our full time positions must be held by persons willing to not only coach, but to teach academic and/or PE classes while meeting the standards for teaching that our academic teachers are held to at Sacred Heart Catholic School.

Sacred Heart is an academic/college prep school that is tuition based. Our faculty/staff members are at Sacred Heart because it is their mission. They believe in what Sacred Heart stands for and are willing to go above and beyond in the classroom and otherwise. In order to keep tuition affordable, our salary scale is not comparable with area schools. We do not knowingly allow parents to supplement coaches' salaries – we feel that academic teaching salaries are not supplemented by parents so coaches should be willing to work for their stated salary.

As of now, we are following MHSAA and delaying the start of fall sports. As more information becomes available, we will send it out. Games will be posted on the school website.

### **Masks**

It seems everyday lately, more organizations, the government, and doctors are stating that masks should be worn anytime we are not able to socially distance. At the high school, we are trying to arrange our rooms to allow as much room as possible between desks, we are changing our schedule so that students have fewer classes, we are implementing protocols in the morning and at lunch time to assist us in keeping our students socially distanced. YES, masks are required. There will be outside time for students to remove them, BUT they will need to have them on when they enter the building daily and wear them throughout the day unless told they can safely remove them.

We ask your help with this. Please have your child/ren practice wearing their masks. Purchase them more than one mask and have it in their backpack so when they lose their mask, they will have another one available. Gaiters are acceptable. Remember that no political slogans, derogatory messages, or offensive messages or pictures may be on the masks. We do not intend to give infractions due to issues with the masks unless a student is chronic, disrespectful, or rude relating to the mask.

### **High School Virtual School**

- Students will log in daily to each class during the time frame they are assigned to the class.
- Teachers will record pertinent information (new concepts, etc.) and that information will be posted on Google to be seen again if need be.
- Teachers will have office hours daily where students can contact them. This information will be given out in class syllabus.
- Teachers will offer tutoring if need be (student would come to school for this either before or after school as has been the custom). Arrangements should be made for this with individual teachers.
- Parent conferences can be held either virtually or face to face. Contact Mrs. Pittman, guidance counselor to arrange these. If there are health issues or anything that you feel would help your

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child be a more successful student at Sacred Heart, PLEASE schedule a conference with teachers so that they will know this information.

- We are working on either virtual labs or labs in a pack (someone would pick up lab materials, the students would conduct the lab at home, and then return the materials and results to class). Labs will also be videoed for virtual learners to participate in as they are being conducted. This will be determined on a lab by lab basis as some labs do not lend themselves to take home packets. Students will not be penalized if the teacher determines the lab is not conducive to at home learning.
- Nine week and semester tests will be given at school. Arrangements should be made with the teacher for a time for your child to come to school to take those tests. They will be in sanitized rooms and social distanced for these tests. We will post test schedules at a later date.
- Teacher expectations will be communicated through the class syllabus which will be given to the student the first day of class. These will be posted on-line for virtual students.
- Virtual students will have the same deadlines for turning in work as in school students unless approved by the teacher.
- Not signing in virtually during the class and being present for the majority of the class will count as an absence.
- Your child must have access to a reliable computer and internet service if you choose virtual school. They will be being taught the same as the students are that are in the classroom daily. We will not be posting assignments on Monday for the entire week as we did in the spring. Lessons will be taught daily.
- We are asking that parents commit to a semester of virtual learning at the high school so that students will not be at school one day or week, at home a few days, etc. If at some point it is determined that virtual learning is not for you, contact the principal and your student will be welcomed back to school.

### **High School In School**

- High School desks will be 3-6 feet apart – Or, students will be seated leaving empty desks as necessary
- Due to the nature of our schedule, high school classes will dismiss at the same time – however, we are going to only have four classes per day.
- We are doing our best to socially distance during lunch – See Cafeteria Section
- Ms. Charles will be available for in-school tutoring for our in-school dyslexic students as she has in the past. She will work out schedules for this.
- We have tried to keep our class sizes small to accommodate social distancing. When not possible, we will sanitize between classes and students will wear masks. They will have hand sanitizer available in each class. Class materials will not be shared.
- We will be using an A/B modified block this year. This means your child will participate in four classes daily. Because of this and COVID19, we will not have every child have a locker.
- Lockers will be available upon request and available before school, at lunch, and after school. Prepare your child to carry his/her necessary materials with them throughout the day.
- Our chapel is large enough for our students to socially distance. Students will report to a designated area of the chapel each morning upon arrival at school. The middle door to the

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school will open at 7:30 a.m. and temperatures will be taken prior to parents leaving the parking lot.

- Students who arrive prior to 7:30 a.m. in order to have breakfast will enter the building by the main office, temperatures checked and then report to the cafeteria for breakfast. They are to sit in designated areas for social distancing.

### **Cafeteria**

- Breakfast will be available in the cafeteria as usual.
- Lunches will be available in the cafeteria. You may furnish your own lunch if you prefer.
- Snacks should be purchased prior to school since we will not have a designated break time as in the past where students were allowed to go to the cafeteria to purchase snacks.
- Seats will be marked for social distancing.
- When possible, students will be allowed to take their lunches outdoors and sit at picnic tables that are marked for social distancing,
- Seniors will be allowed to take their lunches to the library to allow them to socially distance during lunch. They will be expected to dispose of their trash and leave the area clean.
- Please use My School Bucks to “load” money onto your child’s cafeteria account prior to school starting.
- Children will designate each morning which lunch or no lunch. If they choose a lunch, then they will be charged for that lunch whether they take it at lunch time or not. The cafeteria prepares food according to the lunch counts.

## **Elementary FAQs**

### **Check in Day**

- Check in day is virtual this year.
- On Tuesday, August 4th, teachers will send out a welcome video to their parents and students.

### **Arrival** Carpool begins at 7:15 this year.

- There is no “walker” option.
- All students use the carpool line on Walnut Street.
- Students’ temperatures will be taken in the carline.
- Pre-K and K parents may choose carpool or may walk their child to the base of the front steps until Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. Temperatures are taken at that point and assistants escort the children to their classrooms. All use carpool in the afternoons for dismissal.

### **Tardies**

- A staff member is out front to greet parents as they line their vehicles up on Southern Avenue.
- Parents remain in their vehicles.
- Temperature checks are done and tardy slips issued at that point.

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### **Early Dismissals**

- Parents come up the steps to the front office.
- Parents must wear masks.

### **Dismissal** Carpool begins at 2:45 this year.

- There is no “walker” option.
- *For first day, please use last year’s family signs or make your own. This year’s signs will be sent home at the end of the first day in your child’s backpack.*
- There are two carpool lines according to the student’s last name:
- Students whose last name begins A-M are picked up on Walnut Street.
- Students whose last name begins N-Z are picked on Southern Avenue alongside the black gates out front.
- Access to this carpool line is from Court Street onto Southern Avenue.
- Both lines pull up, load the students and move off as a group as directed by the crossing guard.
- Please do not block the driveways on Walnut and Court Streets.
- Teachers on duty help buckle the younger children’s seat belts as need.
- Parents are to remain in their vehicles.
- If you live in the neighborhood and walk to school from your house, please contact Vicki Flanagan at [vflanagan@shshattiesburg.com](mailto:vflanagan@shshattiesburg.com).

### **Breakfast**

- The cafeteria opens at 7:00 and serves breakfast.
- Temperatures are taken and social distancing closely monitored.
- Parents are not permitted in the cafeteria to have breakfast with their child at this time.

### **Lunch**

- The lunch schedule is arranged for students to socially distance (staggering seating and not facing each other).
- Students may bring their lunches from home or order in the mornings.
- Lunches are already on the tables (in closed takeout boxes) when students arrive through their designated door.
- Parents are not permitted to have lunch with their child at this time.

### **Extended Care**

- Extended Care is offered after school.
- All workers wear masks at all times and monitor students closely.
- Students are kept in grade levels/age group cohorts.

### **After School Activities and Camps**

- After school activities are permitted.
- All students wear masks when they cannot social distance.

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- Students have their own materials.

### **Masks**

- Masks are worn by students and teachers unless social distancing may be safety achieved.
- Recess, Lunch, PE are arranged to socially distance without the necessity to wear masks.
- Common areas, such as the hallways, require the wearing of masks.
- For Pre-K and K students (children under 6 years old), masks are encouraged yet not mandatory (except at Mass).
- Send an additional mask in backpacks should it be needed.
- Practice wearing masks with your children. They are uncomfortable but a necessity.

### **Classrooms**

- Classrooms are arranged where student desks are as far apart as possible and students face forward.
- Unnecessary furniture is removed and the remainder has been placed against the walls.
- Soft items (bean bags, area rugs) are removed as they are hard to clean.
- Specials classes (other than PE and computer) are held in the homeroom classrooms.
- Fifth and sixth grade teachers move between classes rather than the students changing classrooms. This lessens movement in the hallways. Breaks will be taken.

### **Water Bottles**

- The water fountains are turned off and will not be used.
- Send a water bottle (clearly labeled with your child's name) to school daily along with extra bottled water.
- No child will go thirsty; we have limited quantities on hand as needed.

**Parent/Teacher Conferences** will be virtual.

### **Volunteers and Class Visits**

- There are no visitors or classroom visits at this time.
- No parents are allowed in the buildings at this time other than the front office. Upon entering the front office, masks must be worn, temperatures taken and hand sanitizer used before conducting business.

### **Sanitization**

- All teachers and staff have their temperatures taken upon arrival each morning.
- All students have their temperatures taken upon arrival to the school.
- Administrators and all cafeteria and custodial staff are trained by a professional outside agency on how to properly sanitize our school to keep all safe.
- Custodians and cafeteria staff follow a schedule to regularly sanitize common areas throughout the day (e.g., bathrooms, railings, doorknobs, stairwells, etc.).
- Teachers sanitize common areas and desks in their classrooms throughout the day.
- Custodial staff follow a schedule to deep clean and sanitize the school after hours.

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### **Distance Learning**

- Pre-K and Kindergarten use SeeSaw for age appropriateness.
- First – Sixth grades use GoogleClassroom for continuity across grade levels.
- Teachers videotape and send out new material.
- Specials teachers videotape and send out new material weekly.
- Teachers will GoogleMeet “office hours” to answer questions and concerns.
- Teachers will GoogleMeet all students in order for those learning from home will feel connected to their classmates.
- Joy Suggs will be the tech support to parents-students. She may be reached at [jsuggs@shshattiesburg.com](mailto:jsuggs@shshattiesburg.com).
- Students must have the technology and internet connectivity at home to support distance learning.
- Teachers are professionally trained in their online format by an outside group.
- Distance learners will not participate in extracurricular activities.
- Tests/quizzes may be administered live on GoogleMeet to maintain integrity of assessments.
- Attendance is mandatory and taken daily by logging into GoogleClassroom.
- Grades are taken and students accountable for all assignments and deadlines.
- If distance learning option taken, commitment for nine weeks is expected. Contact Vicki Flanagan at [vflanagan@shshattiesburg.com](mailto:vflanagan@shshattiesburg.com) should family circumstances change.

**We encourage you to visit the SHS website for further information. Thank you for your unending support and flexibility as we make decisions with an unprecedented and incredibly fluid situation.**