



July 20, 2020

Dear Lourdes Academy families,

I hope each of you is enjoying the summer vacation and staying healthy. We realize that there are many questions surrounding the opening of schools and what this will look like. Please see the information below and realize that as we continue to progress in the weeks ahead, we will continuously reevaluate and potentially amend some items noted below. While the items below may trigger more questions, I trust this will not be the last piece of communication we share together before the start of the school year. Please also realize that as a school family, we intend to take many steps to ensure the safety of all who enter our campus; you will find many of these items below.

Additionally, we appreciate your responses to our survey sent last month. Since then, eight (8) students have expressed a desire to select distance learning to receive their education. Unfortunately, this option is not available to students in VPK. As outlined below, we will accommodate distance learning but it will look substantially different than this past spring. Most notably, any student who selects distance learning will have to login “virtually” to class and stay with their class for the duration of the school day. Distance learning will require the assistance of the parent/guardian to ensure the punctuality of their child each day when logging in and submitting assignments, amongst other items depending on the grade level. **We ask that if parents/guardians are selecting distance learning to begin the school year to please confirm their intentions by calling the School Office by Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.** This will allow for teachers to prepare their lessons while knowing they will have a student(s) joining the class virtually and will also allow the school to purchase necessary supplies.

Above all, our school is our family and we will always strive to keep our school family safe and healthy. We appreciate your patience as we look to begin the school year under these unique circumstances. As more information becomes available, or if anything changes, we will certainly reach out to you. This information which was emailed to you on the date above will also be mailed via US Mail and therefore, if you did not receive this in your email, please contact the School Office so we can update our system.

Thank you for your continued support and give your children our very best from Lourdes!

God Bless,

Mr. Dole



### **Important Dates:**

- Parents/Guardians please contact the School Office no later than **Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup>** if you intend to select distance learning to start the school year
- The first day of school for **VPK-5<sup>th</sup>** Grade is Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> and will be a half-day with a noon dismissal. VPK-5<sup>th</sup> will not report to school on Thursday, 8/27.
- The first day of school for **Middle School (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)** is Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> and will be a half-day with a noon dismissal. Middle School will not report to school on Wednesday, 8/26.
- The first full day of school for **all grades** will be Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>
- The orientation schedule for VPK, Kindergarten and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade will now take place on **Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>** as follows in the cafeteria. Placements for Kindergarten will be mailed via US Mail this week.
  - VPK 8:00-9:00AM
  - Kindergarten (Mrs. Andrea Mele's class) 9:00-10:00AM
  - Kindergarten (Mrs. Diomara Perez's class) 10:00-11:00AM
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade (all students – new and returning) 1:00-2:00PM

### **Campus Health and Welfare**

- Additional safety and sanitizing items have been purchased:
  - Touchless thermometers
  - Electrostatic misters for sanitizing (performed daily after school)
  - Hand sanitizing stations throughout campus and in each classroom
  - Water bottle filling stations
  - Dividers for classroom tables
  - New filters for A/C units
  - Signs throughout campus encouraging social distancing, washing hands, using hand sanitizer etc.
- Additional measures taken will include:
  - Temperature checks will be conducted daily at carline for drop off and repeated between 10-11AM. We anticipate carline taking a bit longer in the morning and appreciate your patience! Any student, faculty or staff member with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be checked again for a temperature and if it still exists will be required to stay home – we greatly appreciate your understanding!
    - **Note: if a student develops a fever or any symptoms congruent to COVID-19, parents will have one hour to pick up their child. For this reason we ask that all parents please update the School Office with their contact info and**

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# Lourdes Academy

## emergency contact info!

- Social distancing 3-6 feet, as possible. Separated hallway traffic pattern.
- Sharing of supplies will be limited – students will be asked to purchase their own supplies (see supply list attached to email or on website)
- No School Mass in the church – Thursdays will be focused around Catholic identity in the classrooms – students will still be required to wear Mass uniforms. Thursdays will remain our early release day at 2PM.
- Morning Prayer will be streamed live in each classroom, every morning
- Students in K-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade will be asked to bring backpacks to school on **designated days only** to ensure enough distancing of seats and storage of necessary supplies.
- Enhanced cleaning throughout the day and each evening (including sanitizing of door handles, desks, chairs, tables and other frequently touched areas/communal spaces)
- Designated recess times
- Additional lunch periods added
- Additional outdoor seating for breakfast, lunch and After School Care
- Block scheduling for Middle School students to reduce hallway traffic and changing classes.

### **Masks – as noted by the Diocese of Orlando:**

- It will be required that all students in K-8, as well as all faculty and staff wear masks during the following times: arrival to/dismissal from school, changing classes, close group work, and one-on-one instruction (when social distancing cannot be maintained or enforced).
- Students will not wear masks during PE, recess or if students are active.
- If students are standing in close proximity talking, masks must be used.
- Masks are encouraged in the classroom but not required if social distancing or if using Plexiglas dividers or if face shields are in place. Employees will follow the same rules. Teachers may remove their masks during instruction if they are maintaining a distance of six feet. PE teachers will not be required to wear a mask when teaching PE or providing an active lesson, especially outside where social distancing is easier.
- If a child has a medical condition preventing them from wearing a mask we ask for parents to provide the school with documentation from the child's pediatrician. In this case, the child will be required to wear a face shield.
- For VPK students, it is recommended that students wear masks but not required.

### **Option for distance learning:**

- Parents/Guardians may select distance learning as an option to begin the

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school year – if you wish to select distance learning please notify the School Office by **Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup>**

- Students who select distance learning will be required to:
  - Report virtually to class each day from 7:45AM through the end of the school day
  - Wear the appropriate school uniform for the day (i.e. wear PE uniform on PE days, Mass uniform on Mass days etc.)
  - Participate and communicate regularly in lessons, as expected of students learning in the classroom
  - Submit assignments as instructed by their child’s teacher
  - Review and agree to the expectations sent home for parents who select this option for their child
- It is important to note that students will not be permitted to “bounce back and forth” between distance learning and learning in-person at school.
- Distance learning will likely be utilized in the event that a student is quarantined for 14 days.
- Distance learning is not available to students in VPK.

#### **Miscellaneous Items:**

- The Diocese of Orlando will soon provide schools with the protocols to follow in the event of a positive case/exposure of COVID-19 and other scenarios.
- Volunteers on campus will be extremely limited and only allowed if absolutely necessary.
- The Fall Festival scheduled for October 23<sup>rd</sup> is cancelled, as well as other items typically held in the fall (i.e. ECC Apple STEAM event)
- Students are encouraged to bring refillable water bottles to campus.
- Breakfast and After School Care will still be offered – more info will be released prior to the start of the school year.