

Plan for Reopening School 2020-2021 School Year

Epiphany Catholic School will open on August 26, 2020 as scheduled, 5 days per week, for in person instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. We will continue to remain true to our mission to develop the whole child in a Christ-centered environment. Our Catholic identity and faith formation is the heart of who we are and what we do each day.

Our plan to reopen Epiphany Catholic School abides by the guidelines set forth by the Governor of Virginia, the Virginia Department of Education, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Diocese of Arlington. We continue to analyze the information from these organizations as it becomes available and will make adjustments to our plan if needed.

In addition, the school administration will work closely with students, faculty, and staff members who are at a high risk for severe illness to provide a safe alternative for learning and working. Although we will not be offering a virtual program at this time, we will work with families on a case by case basis to address their specific needs.

As we execute our plan to open Epiphany Catholic School, we want you to know that our pledge to our students, families, and the entire school community is:

- First and foremost: To ensure students, faculty, and staff are safe at school.
- To keep our proven successful spiritual and academic curriculum in place.
- To maintain effective and regular communication to our school community.

Our plan for reopening our school includes the careful and intentional management of four key areas:

- Physical Distancing
- Contact and Movement
- Cleaning and Disinfecting
- Health of Students, Faculty/Staff, Families, and Visitors

Physical Distancing

To effectively manage physical distancing, our classrooms will be arranged to provide maximum spacing between desks, following the current guidelines. Outside classroom space will be utilized as often as possible.

Teachers will be carefully managing student traffic at lockers and cubbies to minimize students interacting in close proximity to one another.

In order to limit the number of students in the hallway at one given time, students will not store classroom materials in lockers and class bathroom breaks will be scheduled. Social distancing signs will be used to help remind everyone to maintain a safe distance between one another.

Contact and Movement

Epiphany Catholic School will be carefully managing contact and movement. We will creatively manage student personal space to maintain safe distancing.

Students will report directly to class in the morning. In the afternoon, students will be dismissed from their classrooms and will not gather in the hallway for prayer prior to dismissal. Our Extended Day Program, which will be available for students in K-8, will operate with the same restrictions and social distancing as we will be using in our classrooms.

Middle School and Specials teachers will likely travel to different classrooms as opposed to students coming to their rooms. Recess periods will continue to take place daily. The playground equipment will be routinely cleaned. The children will have access to our athletic fields and other outdoor spaces on school grounds. In addition to recess, students will be given the opportunities to get up and move around throughout the day. All these activities will require proper social distancing and will be conducted at the grade level.

Students will eat lunch as a class using a variety of locations within the school to ensure social distancing. Hot lunch/milk will not be provided for at least the first trimester. Students must bring their lunch/snack every day. **Parents are asked to send lunch in the morning and not drop off lunches during the day.**

P.E. class will remain a grade level class and will be conducted outdoor on our fields, if possible. P.E. will be restricted to activities where social distancing can be maintained.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the number of visitors/volunteers invited into the school will be kept to a minimum.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

After school each day, all frequently touched surfaces, to include light switches, desks, chairs, and doorknobs, will be cleaned and disinfected. Teachers will be supplied with cleaning supplies to use as needed throughout the day.

Additional hand sanitizer stations will be set up throughout the building to allow students to clean their hands throughout the day. Hand sanitizer does not replace diligent hand washing but will be there as a supplement.

All students will have individualized supply kits to minimize cross contamination. A buddy bag will be placed on the back of each K-3 student’s chair to hold individualized supplies. We will continue the practice of sanitizing shared equipment (i.e. computers) before and after each use. Students will sanitize their hands before and after using shared equipment.

The ventilation system is regularly maintained and is on a service contract to ensure proper function. During school operation, the system will remain in fan mode to ensure that outdoor air is constantly being circulated into the building. The classroom windows can also be opened to increase air circulation.

All water fountains in the school will be disabled. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle labeled with their name to school each day. Disposable cups will be available at the sink in each classroom.

Health of Students, Faculty/Staff, Families, and Visitors

Our top priority is to manage the health of our students, faculty, staff, families, and visitors.

Anyone with a temperature or 100 degrees or higher will not be allowed to attend school. Parents are encouraged to take their children’s temperatures prior to coming to school. Students’ temperatures will be taken and a few health questions asked as they arrive at school before their ride leaves the carpool line. In order to maintain a safe and healthy environment for students and staff we ask that no one enters the school with any of the following:

• Headache	• Fever/Chills	• Stomachache
• Muscle or Body Aches	• Nausea/Vomiting	• Diarrhea
• Persistent Cough	• Extreme Tiredness	• Difficulty Breathing
• Sore Throat	• Loss of Taste/Smell	• Eye/Nose Discharge
• Severe Earache	• Rash	

It is strongly recommended that students wear face coverings that are age and developmentally appropriate whenever safe distancing cannot be maintained. Masks will not be required in classrooms as long as the appropriate distancing is maintained. Students will be encouraged to wear a face covering when in hallways and common areas.

All adults in the school will wear a mask or face shield, when walking in the hallways and when physical distance cannot be maintained.

If an individual exhibits signs of illness, and in particular symptoms of COVID-19, they will be isolated and sent home. **Anyone testing positive for COVID-19 must notify the school immediately.** The earliest a student will be able to return to school is the next calendar day after being free of symptoms for over 24

hours and, without having taken fever-reducing medication, having a temperature below 100 degrees for over 24 consecutive hours.

If a student, teacher or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, local Health Department officials will receive notification and provide guidance to Epiphany on a case by case basis. Those who were exposed to the individual will be notified, as well as the Culpeper County Health Department. Exposed individuals will be required to strictly follow health department guidance for self-quarantine and will not be allowed to return to school until the prescribed number of days has passed.

Preparing Your Child(ren) to Return to School

Make sure your child knows how to thoroughly wash his/her hands.

Help your child get into the habit of NOT touching his/her face. If this is a habit, work with you child to change this behavior to help keep him/her healthy.

Students are asked to provide their own masks/face coverings and to carry them at all times. Choose a mask/face covering that your child is comfortable wearing. Be sure he/she knows how to put it on and take it off.

If your child is feeling anxious about going out into public or returning to school, please begin talking to them and giving assurance that their school family is working very hard to provide a safe environment for their return to school and that measures will be in place to keep our school community as healthy as possible. We will continue to be the same nurturing staff and will help our students adjust to this new learning environment.

Parents need to make sure to have a plan in the event that your child cannot attend school due to an illness. Please do not send your child to school if he/she is sick. We ask all families to monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 at home and to stay at home if there are any indications that a student may be getting sick. Make-up class assignments will be available at the end of each school day for K-8 so students can keep up with classwork if they can't attend school due to an illness.

In Summary

Epiphany Catholic School is well positioned to open school to our students all day and every day in August. Our reopening plan provides the structure to safely bring our children back to the building.

Our school will stay true to our mission by providing strong academics and spiritual formation in a Christ-centered learning environment. We will be offering a full curriculum, all academic subjects and specials, while abiding by all of the requirements and guidelines set forth by the Governor, the Virginia Department of Education, the CDC and the Diocese of Arlington. Our students will continue to receive a quality education in the safest environment possible while being supported by our compassionate and caring staff.