

Dear St. Paul's Catholic School Parents,

We will begin the 2021-2022 academic school year the week of August 16-20, 2021. Due to the low number of COVID-19 cases in our area, St. Paul's Catholic School will continue to follow a "masks optional policy."

We will NOT implement universal masking in our school at this time and will keep masks optional. We have shown in the past year that we can successfully provide a safe environment for in person learning when we develop an effective operational plan, make the needed investments, and come together as a community to execute the plan - in spite of whatever prevailing CDC/Southwest District Health guidance exists.

Our masking policy to start the 2021-22 school year is as follows:

- Our instruction will be on-campus with learning in a face-to-face model. All students will be on campus - all day, every day (Monday-Friday).
- We will not require masks for any students or staff to start the school year. Masks will be optional.
- We recognize that parents are the primary educators of their own children and therefore we wish to support personal choice whenever possible. Please note the overall health and safety of our entire student body, faculty and staff will remain a top priority in our decision making.
- While masks are not required, we ask that everyone respect the rights of those students and staff who choose to wear a mask or not wear a mask.
- Students, teachers, and staff must stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness, fever, cold, etc. and be referred to their healthcare provider for care.
- Our plan will remain flexible and adapt to changing circumstances.

School administration will monitor community transmission, Governor Little's recommendations, and any cases and/or outbreaks here in our school community and in the city of Nampa, Idaho throughout the year. Should we have outbreaks or see the 4th wave of infections here in Idaho predicted by many, we will look at implementing further mitigation factors, such as mandatory masking while indoors for students and staff or remote learning for a period of time if necessary.

Fr. Brady, the teachers, staff, and I look forward to welcoming you back to school! Please join us for the School Open House on Monday, August 16, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. The first day of school is Tuesday, August 17, 2021 – first bell is 7:45 a.m.

Blessings,

Sara R. Harris
School Administrator
St. Paul's Catholic School
Nampa, Idaho