



Connected 2020: The Health and Safety Plan to Reopen Central Catholic

August 1, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

After months of careful consideration, deliberation, pandemic committee meetings and input from members of our community, and with unanimous approval from our Board of Directors and the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Central Catholic is pleased to announce its Health and Safety plan for Reopening the 2020-2021 school year. The Health and Safety Plan, with guidance from CDC and the Allegheny County Health Department and the Pennsylvania Department of Education focuses on minimizing the transmission of COVID-19.

You can view the [Health and Safety Plan to Reopen Central Catholic in full here](#). This plan will be updated as guidelines from the CDC, the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Allegheny County Health Department change.

Orientation will be held in-person August 24 – 28 and students and parents will receive a letter with more information. Freshmen will have orientation each day, while sophomores, juniors, and seniors will be in Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday respectively. **Central Catholic will begin the school year in a hybrid learning model on August 31, with the goal to return to fully in person no earlier than the 21st of September. This decision will be based on the situation in Allegheny County and the number of positive cases among our community at Central Catholic.**

In the hybrid model, students will be split into two groups based on last name (The Blue Group will include students with last names A-L. The Gold group will include students with last names M-Z). Each group will attend in-person class twice a week on alternating days. In a five-day school week, Wednesdays will be considered a pause day or enrichment day for students. Teachers and counselors will also be available online on Wednesdays to provide academic support and counseling. Retreats and other activities – both in person and online will take place. **Students and parents who have concerns regarding attending in a hybrid model or fully back may opt to receive instruction fully online. If you wish for your student to begin the school year online, [please contact me via email](#) prior to the 14th of August.**

Even when a student is learning online, attendance during his specified class time is required. Classrooms have been equipped with cameras to live stream, and teachers will live stream their classes on most days so students at home can tune in via live stream.

We are beginning in a hybrid model to provide the highest quality education that we can while minimizing, not eliminating, the spread of COVID-19 at Central Catholic. In hybrid, if a student contracts COVID-19, there are few, if any, close contacts that also will have to quarantine for 14 days (a close



contact is defined by the CDC as someone who is less than six feet from the person for more than 15 minutes with or without a mask) because we can space the students in the classrooms six feet from each other. In the “fully back” model, Central like almost any other school cannot maintain that 6 feet of social distancing between students in the classrooms and students who are in close contact will have to quarantine. As a college preparatory school, we understand our students’ and parents’ commitment to academic achievement, and we are committed to providing a top-tier education and support services to our students.

I encourage you to visit our dedicated Health and Safety Plan for reopening www.centralcatholicshs.com/connected2020 for complete information regarding all of the items outlined above, as well as information on transportation, athletics and more.

The sense of community that is instilled in our students is deeply important and we know that our students benefit from the socialization and support that in-person instruction provides. We are confident that the hybrid model is the best option at this time. While it is my desire to be fully back in school, it would be amiss to not recognize the very real possibility of having to shift to a fully online learning model – whether that is short-term or long-term. As the COVID-19 situation evolves, we are committed to making seamless transitions between fully online, hybrid and fully back models.

You will continue to receive regular communication regarding reopening, and your student’s class schedule will be mailed out the week of August 10th.

If you have questions or concerns, I encourage you to email me directly at abaginski@centralcatholicshs.com. I understand that there are still many unknowns and questions, and I am dedicated to having 1-on-1 conversations to address them.

Fraternally,

Br. Tony Baginski, FSC

Brother Tony Baginski, FSC
Principal