**August 5, 2021**

**Dear Bergan Family,**

**During the 2020-2021 school year, Archbishop Bergan Catholic School leadership worked with our local Three Rivers Health Department to establish new processes and procedures in order to allow our school to operate in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. This was not a comfortable situation, but with the grace of everyone involved we were able to offer our families a quality in-person educational experience for the duration of the entire academic school year.**

**As we enter the 2021-2022 school year, we would like to share the highlights of our return to learning plan for the operation of Archbishop Bergan Catholic School.**

* **Bergan Catholic will operate as a mask choice school. Masking while on campus is recommended, but is not required at this time. It is the responsibility of students and parents to supply face coverings. Staff at the school will not monitor students for mask compliance while mask choice is a practice. If a mask is chosen to be worn at school, it is asked that the mask be worn appropriately covering the nose and mouth. There will be zero tolerance for bullying or politicizing the choice to wear a mask or to not wear a mask while on our school campuses.**
* **All unvaccinated adults on our campus are strongly encouraged to wear masks while visiting the school or attending extracurricular activities.**
* **If an individual has Covid-19 symptoms, they should stay home. If these symptoms are prolonged, these individuals should see their physician and get tested for the Covid-19 virus.**
* **Positive Covid-19 test results will result in a 10-day quarantine period in which the individual is excluded from academic classes or activities in person. Teachers will communicate expectations for at home academic support and coursework for these 10 days. The quarantine period begins based on the day that the onset of symptoms occurred.**
* **There will be no alternate learning plan for this school year in which parents choose to keep their child at home for prolonged periods out of fear of transmitting the virus or illness. Families either need to attend school in person or secure alternate educational arrangements.**

* **Teachers and staff will attempt to create learning and interactive environments in which students retain three feet of distance between themselves. While our staff aims to keep students socially distanced from each other as much as possible, we cannot ensure that this will be the case one hundred percent of the time.**
* **The staff will attempt to teach, reinforce and monitor proper handwashing, sneezing and cough etiquette to all students. When handwashing is not feasible, the school will enforce hand sanitization opportunities.**
* **The school will continue to practice the cleaning and sanitization of surfaces especially on high touch areas. Teachers and maintenance staff along with the nightly cleaning service, will work to maintain a clean and orderly environment that is safe and conducive to optimal learning.**
* **Our on-site hot lunch program will continue to operate and provide safe options for students to receive proper nutritional opportunities. Students will be allowed to eat lunch while properly social distanced. There will be additional tables to allow students to spread out at lunch should their parents or themselves feel that they are too close to other students while consuming lunch.**
* **Our extracurricular activities program will follow the same protocols that are aligned with the expectations for the academic school day. We will follow the expectations communicated to us by other schools in which we visit for activities and competitions. We will post these expectations to our website www.berganknights.org**
* **Should there be any unanticipated outbreak of COVID 19 in school, the local Health Department will be consulted by the school administration to determine if any short-term masking and/or quarantine measures will be required until the outbreak can be mitigated.**
* **The opportunity to host on-site vaccination clinics will be considered and explored for those populations that are eligible to receive these life saving measures.**
* **The school will retain and continue to utilize the services of the Three Rivers Health Department staff for guidance on all issues in reference to public and student health.**

**Archbishop Bergan Catholic School is committed to providing our students and staff with a safe, in-person learning environment. The practices and procedures outlined above will be implemented to help curb the risk of spreading Covid 19 in our school. This plan may be revised at any time based on the Covid cases in our schools or the Fremont and Dodge County communities. As new research and evidence becomes available, we will weigh all of the factors and always make decisions based on what we believe is in the best interest of our students.**

**God Bless,**



**Dan Koenig**