

News from the Dean of Students:

Dear West Catholic Community,

We are beyond excited to partner with you in supporting your child(ren) as they grow as disciples and to be able to do so, in person! This year is shaping up to be one of the most unique school years of all time and it is a great honor to accompany you and your student(s) on this rapidly changing journey.

At West Catholic, our mission is to build disciples of Christ through a dynamic, excellence-driven, Catholic education. Throughout the spring and summer, God has directed us to pay close attention to the word “dynamic.” I can assure you we have listened! We are taking great measures to ensure that your child continues to receive the Catholic education you desire for them, whether in person or online. Our staff is focused on adapting and adjusting to do what is best for your student spiritually, academically, socially, emotionally and physically. Rest assured, WE ARE READY! Please know that we are continually making adjustments to our building policies and procedures as we receive information from the State, CDC and the Kent County Health Department and we greatly appreciate your patience and understanding with the ever-changing information.

For this school year, the physical student handbook provided to your student will be slightly out of date, due to the changes that occurred after it was sent off to print. The [online version of the handbook](#) will be updated regularly and is the most up-to-date version of school policy. Below is the link to the addendum that details specific changes to the handbook: [Handbook Addendum](#).

Although we have made a ton of changes throughout our planning, we are unable to include them all in this letter. Please see a few of the major changes highlighted below: (Be advised that this is not a comprehensive list.)

Student Safety Policy Adaptations:

- Mask Requirement:

In order to remain in compliance with “phase 4” of Executive Order 2020-142 and prevent the spread of COVID-19, masks are required for all staff and students throughout the school day except during meals. Masks must be worn as intended fully covering the mouth and nose at all times. (These rules may be adjusted if/when we move to “phase 5.”) Mask design options are as follows: **Option 1: Solid color.** **Option 2: Official West Catholic Logo.** No other mask designs or messages will be allowed at this time. Please click the link above for more details on guidelines and policy. Please be sure to review this addendum with your student(s) as **it will come into effect with the start of school on August 19th.**

Academic Procedure Adaptations:

- Weekly Missing Assignment Reports:

Teaching students both virtually and in person poses a new challenge for teachers to ensure that all students are staying on track academically. This issue has provided us the opportunity to evaluate our current method of monitoring student performance and identify ways to better assist all students in keeping up in their course work whether virtual, or in person. Beginning in August, we will run weekly

missing assignment reports for all students in order to try to make sure that all students receive the support they need more frequently. Our hope is that these reports will allow for us to intervene more quickly, alleviate some stress on students, and support your child as they adjust to the current format of a school day.

Extracurricular Participation Updates:

- Participation Policy:

Any student who wishes to participate in extracurricular activities must plan on attending school in person or online for every class, each day. Extracurricular activities are a privilege for students who are in good standing academically. Safety protocol and procedures for extracurriculars are very similar to the school day requirements.

Thank you so much for your partnership and for trusting us to keep your child(ren) safe and to continue to form him/her into Disciples of Christ. Please stay tuned for updates to policy and procedures throughout the school year. I am sure they will be much more frequent than in years past.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding policy, procedures, or school rules, please feel free to contact me.

God Bless.

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