



West Catholic High School

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Dear West Catholic families:

We are excited and blessed to be welcoming our students back to our campus in person in just a few short weeks! We remain dedicated to forming Disciples of Christ through a dynamic, excellence-driven Catholic education while doing our best to ensure the health and safety of our students. Last year, we were very successful at preventing any outbreaks of COVID-19 in our building and we expect this year to be the same.

The CDC and Kent County Health Department recommend that all students, K-12, wear masks regardless of vaccination status. West Catholic recognizes that you, the parent/guardian, are the primary educator of your child and have the primary responsibility for their health and safety. Parents may choose what is best for their child in regard to masks. Please note that federal law still requires facial coverings on buses and other forms of public transportation, so we ask that you plan accordingly.

Throughout the last year, we have made many important repairs and upgrades to the infrastructure of our school with the health of our staff and students in mind. We have installed new air handlers and updated our ventilation system to ensure that air circulates as efficiently as possible. We have also installed MERV 13 air filters to remove any contaminants that may be floating around. Hand sanitizing stations continue to be available in every classroom, common area and hallway.

We are blessed to be able to keep most of our class sizes down to around 25 students, which allows for us to do our best to follow CDC recommendations of socially distancing students and keeping them 3 feet apart. The building will continue to be cleaned regularly and disinfected as needed.

On August 6th, the Kent County Health Department released a statement regarding positive COVID-19 cases and close contacts. Detailed information regarding this topic can be found [here](#). As we have done in the past, West Catholic will continue to act in compliance with any requirements issued by the Kent County Health Department and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Please stay tuned for updates and changes. At this time there are no requirements for regular testing of students.

The Kent County Health Department is no longer requiring, or providing the use of a daily symptom screener. However, please keep your student home if they are experiencing any symptoms such as fever, sore throat, cough, runny nose, etc. Let's work together to stop the spread of all viruses this school year!

Although we will no longer be livestreaming lessons for all classes, there will be accommodations for instruction and we will be working with teachers to give them additional tools to support student learning. All homework assignments will continue to be posted to Canvas.

We stand together in learning, forever in faith

One of the root beliefs of West Catholic is to “Open wide the doors to Christ” and we cannot wait to carry out that belief in less than two weeks! Our goal is to keep our doors open for an entire year, and with your cooperation and by God’s grace, we fully expect to do so. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these safety protocols or any other topic, please feel free to contact the main office. We thank you for your continued partnership.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and God Bless,

Cynthia Kneibel
President/CEO

Tony Fischer
Principal

Joe Gietzen
Dean of Students