



REOPENING PLAN



POPE FRANCIS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

2021-2022 School Year



Table of Contents

Reopening Objective	3
Reopening Committee.....	4
Resources and References.....	5
Foundational Principles.....	6
Reopening Classifications and Status.....	7-9
Resources and Operations.....	9
Illness.....	10
Contact.....	11



Reopening Objective

Pope Francis Preparatory School (PFPS) will reopen for the 2021-2022 school year with full-time in-person classes. On a daily basis, the school will review the health and assess the safety of all students and personnel and will make adjustments to the reopening plan as needed.



Reopening Committee

A reopening committee of school personnel representing various roles and responsibilities reconvened in the summer to discuss and review policies, practices, and procedures for a safe 2021-2022 reopening of school. This Reopening Plan document is the result of their work. The reopening committee includes the following personnel:

Mr. Brodeur - faculty

Mrs. Fenton - reception

Mrs. Geiger - assistant head of school

Mr. Geoffrey - director of technology

Dr. Harrington - head of school

Mrs. Jackson - school nurse

Mrs. O'Connell - faculty

Mr. O'Neill - dean of students and faculty

Mrs. Perreault - faculty

Mrs. Scibelli - guidance counselor



Resources and References

The following sample of resources helped to inform the development of our reopening plan:

Massachusetts DESE Initial Fall Reopening Guidance:

<https://bit.ly/3isEB25>

CDC Guidance on School Opening:

<https://bit.ly/2TVoVL8>

American Academy of Pediatrics:

<https://bit.ly/3iqwseh>

Colleagues at the Diocese of Springfield's Catholic Schools Office



Foundational Principles

The following foundational principles have been, and will continue to be, considered to determine our strategy and guide our thought process.

- This school year is likely to be disrupted by COVID-19 once again - while we cannot control the containment, mitigation, and response to this pandemic, we must prepare as if the entire school year (and possibly subsequent years) may be affected.
 - Conditions and individual comfort levels are going to be dynamic and unpredictable and may vary by season - conditions in our local community, state, and country may change rapidly and in an unpredictable way. As a result, we must create a plan for the entire school year that can adapt to changes.
 - Overall guidance for safety protocols is the responsibility of the governor and the MA DPH - we have the ability with local school governance to determine our pathway for safe return to school short of any directive or executive order by the Governor. However, it is the responsibility of the state government to provide accurate, timely guidance upon which we rely to make local decisions.
 - If necessary during any portion of the school year, remote learning must be rigorous, accessible, and strive to mirror in-person instruction. While our objective remains a high quality Catholic, college-prep education, we must also acknowledge that remote learning is not an exact replica of the in-person, on-campus environment but similar learning outcomes for students must occur whenever possible.
 - Learning outcomes, standards, and progress must remain intact - we must not dilute our learning standards and outcomes no matter the modality through which students experience learning. We must invest in the resources necessary to instill confidence in students and families to return safely to in-person, on-campus learning.
 - Each member of the PFPS community (students, parents, personnel) must be committed to our objective and willing to be flexible for this school year to be successful - while each member of our school community must make choices rooted in safety and based on their own comfort level, the success of the school year hinges on individual accountability as it contributes to our overall objective.
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Reopening Classifications and Status

Given the changing and unpredictable nature of this pandemic in our community, PFPS will use the following classification system to indicate which level of access we are in along with the corresponding safety protocols for each level.

The decision to move between each level will be informed by the reopening committee, administration, and various data points in our community. Some of this data may include: surveys, surrounding community data trends, federal, state, and local directives that impact our school, case counts, mortality data, positivity rates, hospitalizations, faculty/staff illness, transportation availability, etc.

As of the date of this publication (8-4-21), PFPS is planning to reopen school under the **GREEN status, outlined below.**

OPEN (GREEN): Under this status, the school is open full time, with in-person learning only. This status will follow an alternating ABCD and EFGH schedule with periods rotating and class times of 80-85 minutes in length. See GREEN in-person, on-campus safety protocols below.

CLOSED (RED): Under severe conditions, the school building and campus will be closed. This status could be the result of an executive order by the Governor or health and safety concerns at the school. Learning during this status is 100% remote, following this schedule, alternating ABCD and EFGH days with periods rotating:

- 8:00am to 9:15am Period 1
 - 9:30am to 10:45am Period 2
 - 11:00am to 12:15pm Period 3
 - 12:45pm to 2:00pm Period 4
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Status **GREEN** full-time, in-person learning safety protocols:

- It is strongly recommended that all students and staff wear masks indoors. Masks are required for all visitors.
- To monitor occupancy in areas with limited capacities (bathrooms, nurse, guidance, etc.) and to limit interpersonal contact with “objects”, all students will utilize contactless eHallPass instead of physical passes and sign-out sheets to leave the classroom or study hall.
- During the school day, the number of visitors, volunteers, and guests will be minimized and at times may be limited to the main office vestibule.
- Extensive and regular hand-washing and hand-sanitizing will be required. Hand-sanitizer will be placed throughout the campus.
- The school building will be open from 7:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Students will not be permitted in the building before or after these times.
- Upon arriving to school in the morning, students should remain in the lobby until 7:40 a.m. when permitted to head to their locker and first period. Students desiring breakfast will be directed to the dining commons. Students may only utilize the dining commons before school if they are eating breakfast.
- Maintenance staff will continuously sanitize common area touch points throughout the day and assist with sanitizing between lunch periods.



Resources and Operations

- Faculty professional development - our success in creating a safe environment that is academically successful will necessitate a revisit of effective teaching and classroom management strategies with faculty before the start of school.
- Security - The school doors will open at 7:15 a.m. School personnel will be at the entrance to visibly screen students upon arrival. After school, students are welcome to utilize the dining commons to study or wait for their ride home. The dining commons will be supervised until 5:00 p.m. each school day.
- Cleaning and sanitization - Maintenance staff has been trained on current and updated cleaning and disinfecting guidelines.
- Transportation - It remains the intent of the school to continue to provide to/from school busing to the cities and towns we serve. Buses will arrive at school between 7:15-7:40 a.m. and buses depart school at 2:30 p.m.
- Staggered dismissal - Students will be dismissed at the end of the school day using a staggered schedule.
- Athletics and Activities - at the time of this publication, there are no planned restrictions per the MIAA or the school regarding sports, clubs, and activities.



Illness

- Families are required to keep their child(ren) home if they are exhibiting any signs and symptoms of illness, particularly those related to COVID-19. From the 7-17-20 DESE report: Below is a list of symptoms for which caregivers should monitor their children, and staff should monitor themselves:
 - Fever (100.4° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
 - Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
 - Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Headache when in combination with other symptoms
 - Muscle aches or body aches
 - Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
 - Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
 - Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) when in combination with other symptoms
- In the event a student appears ill at school, they will be immediately referred to the nurse for a temperature check and health screening.
- Students with symptoms will remain in an isolation area until picked up by a parent/ guardian from their provided contact list. Students must be picked up within 30 minutes.
- Families may wish to submit copies of COVID vaccination for your student to the school nurse. Having a copy of COVID vaccination in the school health office could determine and expedite the procedures for a close contact and quarantine situation as some exceptions may apply for vaccinated students. If you are interested, Nurse Jackson requests that you submit a paper copy of your vaccine card (front and back).
- If a student is out of school for an extended period, they will need to work with their teachers and counselor to keep on top of their studies.



Contact

The school will continue to keep students and families informed if/when changes occur that necessitate a revision to our reopening plan. In the meantime, should you have any questions for our reopening committee to review, please direct inquiries to Dr. Harrington at pharrington@popefrancisprep.org

Reopening Plan last updated: August 20, 2021