

AUGUSTINIAN ACADEMY



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Dear Parents,

I am happy to update you on the school reopening. At this time, we are planning to reopen with all students five days a week. Due to our small class sizes, we are able to follow the Department of Health, CDC, and NYSED guidance for creating as safe and healthy learning environment as possible. With that in mind we are limiting our class sizes to 10 in Pre-K, 15 at the Elementary level and 12 at the Middle School level. (PreK 3 will have 5 students per class) While we would love to take all students looking at a Catholic education for their child, in these unprecedented times, we have to consider the health and safety of our students and staff.

The Reopening Plan we filed to the Department of Health is available on our website, www.caugustinian.org. This week we will complete the Reopening Plan for NYSED. It will be more comprehensive, and it will also be posted to our website. I am grateful to all families who responded to the brief survey questions over the last two months. I took all questions and concerns raised by parents, students and staff into consideration as we worked on the Reopening Plan. I encourage you to reach out to me if you have any other concerns or questions not identified in the DOH plan.

I would like to point out a few important guidelines we will be following:

- Everyone will need to wear a mask to enter the building.
- Everyone will have a temperature check and screening before entering.
- For at least the first 10 weeks of school, visitors will be limited to the main office area.
- Carthage Central students will be bused two days per week. We will let you know as soon as they send us a schedule. **We are asking parents to transport the other 3 days.** We have reached out to the other school districts for their busing plans.
- Pre-Kindergarten will maintain their regular schedule: 5 half-days for PreK 4 and 2 half-days for PreK 3.
- All students will be dropped off and picked up at the main entrance and directed to their classrooms. Preschoolers will be taken to their rooms by a staff member.
- Students will be in cohorts, small groups to limit their interactions with others. Each classroom will be considered a cohort.
- Social distancing markers and directional markers will be appropriately placed in the building, especially in shared areas.
- Good health hygiene will be expected, explained, and reinforced.
- The entire school has been cleaned and sanitized, initially in March/April and again over the summer. Regular cleaning & sanitizing will take place daily.

- Before and Aftercare will be available daily. We will use the gym to allow for social distancing and maintaining our cohorts. Our program is available as needed, especially on days students are transported.
- The cafeteria will be open as usual. Classroom teachers may choose to have lunch in the cafeteria or in their classrooms.
- Special subject teachers will be offering all programs.
- Attendance and accountability will be important this year. Attendance will be taken daily and classwork will be graded as usual.
- **Anyone experiencing a temperature or any symptoms will be sent home and advised to contact their healthcare provider.**

This is not a complete list of our guidelines, so please look at the document posted on the website! **If you are concerned with any of the guidelines, please reach out to me.** I understand that as a parent you have so much to consider regarding your children and your family life. The students and staff are our greatest concerns at this point. We know that they need to be together to provide the best possible learning experience, and we also have to do it with health and safety in mind!

Know that we are here for you and we are excited to be able to plan for everyone's return next month. The teachers and staff have been busy completing extra training and working on a plan to meet everyone's academic, spiritual, social and emotional needs. You generally do not hear from me until we get closer to school beginning, but for now I will keep you posted more regularly.

Reminder: There is a new scholarship program available this year: The Hope for the Future Scholarship offered through a grant from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation. While it is income-based, it is also available to families who have experienced financial hardships during this pandemic – extra childcare costs, additional expenses, loss of job or reduced hours, etc. Please fill out the application and return it with the appropriate documents by August 15th.

Enjoy the beautiful days of summer and time with your families.
Many blessings,
Mrs. Margrey



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