

Dear IHM Families,

Based upon the directives received from the Department of Catholic Schools and in conformance with all Maryland Department of Health mandates, we want to share with you additional information and plans for the 2021/22 school year at Immaculate Heart of Mary School. We are thrilled that all students will return to school five days a week at our IHM campus. We can't wait to see them all on August 30th.

Academic Instruction

We have added five instructional minutes to each class period to provide more academic learning time for our students. Students will move throughout the school building for academic instruction. Our teachers are busy preparing for your children.

Students who are absent due to illness or other medically related situations requiring rest and recovery will receive all missed work when they return to school. Assignments can also be gathered from teacher websites as well as Google Classroom. Families may request work prior to their child's return to school, if students are able to complete work but are not in a position to return to in-person learning. If students are absent for a non-medical related reason, they will receive make-up work upon their return. Students will not receive synchronous instruction (e.g., live instruction through Zoom or Google Meet) when absent during the 2021-22 academic year. If an entire class is absent due to contact tracing, synchronous instruction will be provided to that class.

Arrival Procedures

Prekindergarten students will arrive by the prekindergarten door. As we begin school, masks are required so all students MUST have their mask on when they exit the car. Cars can come onto the IHM lot from either the Putty Hill Avenue entrance or the Loch Raven Blvd. entrance and follow the loop pattern where cars pull up to the sidewalk for students to exit. Students will open their car door independently, exit the car with their belongings, and close the car door. For morning arrival, doors to the school open at 7:50 am and will remain open until 8:10 am. After 8:10 am, students are tardy (NO Tardies please!) and must enter the school building by ringing the bell at the main entrance. Students who participate in Beyond the Bell can arrive any time after 7am. Any questions regarding BTB should be directed to Mrs. Holly Dengler (hdengler@ihmschoolmd.org).

Lunch and Recess

To begin the school year, students in grades 3 through 8 will eat lunch in the gym/cafeteria in two shifts. In grades 3-8, students will eat with their homeroom

classes. Students in prek3 through grade 2 will eat lunch in their classrooms. A reminder that IHM is NUT FREE. No foods with peanuts, tree nuts or nut products can be packed for student lunches or snacks. Students and staff will sanitize their desks or cafeteria tables and clean their hands both before and after lunch. Per policies from last school year, parents cannot drop off fast food for students to eat in place of packing a lunch. Also, birthday food treats are not permitted in any grade level.

All students will go outside for recess whenever possible but classes will remain in separate areas. Students will NOT wear their masks when outside at recess.

Dismissal

Please make sure your child knows who is picking them up each day and the type of car that they should be looking for. IHM will utilize stadium parking lines for dismissal. There are 2 sections and drivers may join either one. One section forms between the gym and front lobby doors (dismissing onto Loch Raven Blvd) and the 2nd section forms between farthest gate on Putty Hill Avenue and the front lobby doors (dismissing onto {Putty Hill Avenue into 2 turn lanes). Parents are asked to enter the parking lot from either Putty Hill Avenue or Loch Raven Blvd and pull into one of the established car lines. The car lines will be marked with a sign "Line Forms Here." The Loch Raven Blvd entrance will be closed once students begin to dismiss. **Parents may not use a designated parking space since the carpool lines will form in that area.** Dismissal will begin a few minutes before 3:00 pm for kindergarten students and they will dismiss from the gym lobby doors and wait in the carpool lines. Grades 1-8 will dismiss beginning at 3:00 pm from the gym lobby doors, the main office lobby doors or the breezeway doors closest to the middle school. All car lines will be dismissed by IHM faculty beginning at 3:08 pm. Prek parents will be instructed for their dismissal procedures by their child's prek teacher during Cubby Conferences.

Students who are walking home or going to cars parked along Putty Hill Avenue will wait in the pedestrian crosswalk in the parking lot and then exit the school property by the main gate when the supervising teacher allows them to do so. There will also be assigned crossing guards from Baltimore County at arrival and dismissal.

School Cleaning

Pronto Cleaners have prepared our school very well for our reopening. They are trained in the proper procedures for cleaning during the pandemic and served our school community well last school year. They will continue to institute their robust daily cleaning schedule. This includes disinfecting all areas of our campus including those items that are frequently touched by students and teachers, including but not limited to bathrooms, doorknobs, light switches and furniture. In addition, IHM school and church will be utilizing a non-leaching and non-migrating disinfectant and protectant that will be applied to all areas and surfaces of the school. This same disinfectant was used both in the school and the church last year. It molecularly binds to any surface, forms

a bubble and destroys any viruses and germs - this is part of the persistent protection model that is promoted by the Center for Disease Control.

Facilities Modification

To promote all of the protocols in place for safety and health of IHM students and faculty, the following upgrades have taken place:

- Signage to promote physical distancing, one-way pedestrian traffic, hygiene practices
- HVAC filter enhancements to maximize air flow and quality
- Mandatory hand sanitizer upon entering the building and within classrooms
- Closing of water fountains other than for the water bottle filling feature
- The number of students allowed in a restroom at a given time will be maintained at 3 so that they can practice appropriate distancing.

Visitor Policy

All visitors and volunteers are required to wear a mask while on campus if masks are required that week. All visitors must enter through the visitor designated doors by the main office and have proper identification (driver's license) for use in the Raptor screening system. Visitors will be directed to wait in an enclosed glass curtain walled-off area and will not have access to other areas of the school building until screened. If you should need to drop off any items for your child during the school day, please follow the above protocol and leave all items at the front desk. Miss Ellen will assist in getting the items to your child.

Campus Events

HSA and campus events will be held but will be subject to rules and regulations of the Archdiocese of Baltimore as well as Baltimore County. Some events will be held virtually.

Health and Wellness

WE ALL HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY to prevent any exposures, spread or an outbreak in our school community. We must remain vigilant and disciplined to maintain the progress that has been made to stop the spread of COVID-19 and other RSV infections. As we enter the fall and winter, in addition to dealing with COVID-19, influenza will be present in our communities. We will be utilizing our experience with COVID-19 with our continued emphasis on the risk mitigation strategies of testing, sanitization, ventilation, and influenza vaccine clinics to address this health concern. **Once again, we need the support and partnership of our parents and guardians.** We ask you to monitor the health of your family and children actively (symptoms and daily temperature checks) each morning prior to coming to

school. Please KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME if they are experiencing any illness symptoms. If your child has a fever, DO NOT give them a dose of medicine and send them to school. There will not be official wellness surveys from the Archdiocese each morning. We are relying on you to take care of this.

Mrs. Susan Baer, our full time school nurse, will be available in school at all times. We have a section of the clinic where a student who becomes ill can be isolated. Parents will be called and asked to pick up any sick student as promptly as possible but within a 30-minute window. Parents will come to the front entrance to sign the student out and then will go around to the Beyond the Bell exit, near the Clinic, to meet their child. Students must be fever free for 24 hours, without the use of medication before returning to school. In addition, a doctor's note will be required for re-entry. A fever is defined as any reading over 100.4 degrees.

If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason, please email the School Nurse (sbaer@ihmschoolmd.org) and your child's homeroom teacher. Please be sure to include the reason for their absence even if it is a non-medical reason.

Students will not be sent to the clinic for routine matters but will remain in their classrooms unless they are truly sick. Teachers have been supplied with basic first aid supplies to limit students leaving the classrooms. Ginger ale, crackers, cough drops and mints can no longer be provided. Refillable water bottles must be sent to school daily with each student. No medications will be provided to students unless supplied by the family along with a note from the physician. Students who take daily medications or require frequent health assessments will work out a schedule with the nurse.

It is the responsibility of the families to supply masks for the students to wear. Families should purchase their own masks of soft cloth, paper fiber, or fabric masks with layers of material that fully covers a person's nose and mouth. Masks must be worn with BOTH the nose and mouth covered at all times. Students will need at least one extra mask in a disposable baggie or washable pouch, in their backpack for daily use. Fabric or reusable masks must be washed before re-use. Paper masks should be disposed of after one use. Masks should have no writing, lettering, graphics, slogans or controversial material on them. They can have a design. Students do not need to wear masks outdoors. Regardless of local or state guidelines, any family can choose to have their children wear masks.

Reporting & Contact Tracing

In the case of a positive COVID-19 test within our IHM community as confirmed by a rapid and/or PCR test, the Archdiocese of Baltimore Department of Risk Management and the Baltimore County Health Department will work collaboratively with the school and the school nurse to lead the efforts to perform outreach and guide the contact tracing process. This may result in faculty, staff, and students quarantining for a defined period of time. As guidelines evolve, we will adjust our processes

accordingly.

IHM Clubs and Activities; Athletics

Clubs and activities will begin again at IHM. This includes clubs/activities that occur during the school day as well as those after school. Please continue to read the weekly Wednesday email update regarding sports at IHM. At this time, there are some opportunities for fall sports through the various recreation councils.

Gatherings During the School Day

Schoolwide gatherings, such as assemblies, prayer services and Masses will occur in a modified form. For weekly Friday Mass, two to four grade levels will be present in the church with appropriate distancing rules in place. The remainder of the classes will watch a livestream feed of Mass from their classrooms. Prayer services and assemblies, will occur in smaller groups, virtually or through livestream capabilities.

Field Trips

While field trips are currently permitted by the Archdiocese, IHM will not be scheduling any field trips that require bussing to off-site locations until after the first trimester at which time we will reevaluate.

We hope that this information is helpful to you as we begin our new school year. We understand that it can be overwhelming for parents and guardians who are concerned for the health and safety of their children. We will continue to update you throughout the coming weeks and months. Please be assured that every decision that we make will be done for the benefit of our children.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.