



July 29, 2020

Dear MSCS Families,

Thank you for your support and patience as we continue to make plans for the upcoming school year. As you are aware, the Archdiocese of Baltimore recently released its overall plan for how Catholic schools will reopen on time in the safest possible manner. We would like to take this opportunity to share a few plans that have been designed specifically for Monsignor Slade Catholic School. Please note that our plan is a fluid one, as we continually receive updates from the Archdiocese and the CDC. We will share updates with you as information becomes available.

Learning Mode: Should a family choose to start their child in-person at the beginning of the year, they have the option to transition to remote learning at any time should they deem it necessary. However, if a family chooses to start their child remotely, they would need to wait until the end of the trimester to transition back to in-person learning. We will send out a survey approximately three weeks prior to the end of the trimester so that parents can inform us if their learning mode will need to be changed. Should all students return for in-person learning, we have adequate space in the building to accommodate all students. If additional space is needed to safely distance students in classrooms, we are fortunate to have extra classrooms on each floor as well as the auditorium, cafeteria, and multi-purpose room (MPR), which can be subdivided into classroom space.



Masks: Everyone entering our school will wear masks. Solid, uniform-colored (black, red, hunter green, white, yellow), multi-layered face masks with earloops will be required. A clean mask should be worn each day, and students must have an extra mask in a plastic baggie to be kept in their backpacks for emergencies.

Should a student arrive without a mask, he/she will be provided with a disposable mask for that day. As an option, we have purchased four-layered masks with the

Slade logo on them. They will be on sale in limited quantities for \$5 each. More information will be released soon about making that purchase.

Social Distancing: Classrooms will be arranged with minimal furniture, and desks will be spread apart. We will practice appropriate social distancing by arranging student desks in traditional rows. Students will stay in their classroom cohorts (homerooms), and if they have multiple teachers, those teachers will move to the students' room. Students will not use lockers or coat closets. Movement through the hallways will be limited. Restrooms will be limited to three students at a time. Directional signage will be placed throughout the building.



Wellness: Our building will be equipped with many touchless features: refillable water stations, bathroom lights, paper towel dispensers, sinks, and hand-sanitizer stations. Students will be taught hand-washing protocols. The AOB will have a screening process to determine if students or staff should stay home. Our healthroom is being enlarged to accommodate an isolation room. With the safety of all in mind, visitor access to the building will be dramatically limited.



Technology: All students in grades 1-8 will be equipped with a Chromebook. In addition, classrooms are being equipped with Acendo Vibe cameras and sound bars which will allow teachers and students to interact virtually within the school building and at home for remote learning. These two-way sound bars allow for at-home students to interact on a live platform with the teacher and students in their class. Teachers are currently being trained to use this new equipment.

Lunch and Recess: Lunch and recess will take place within the cohort. Outdoor space will be designated for cohort use in order to limit the amount of contact between students. To start the school year, students will need to bring a peanut-free, bagged lunch. When it is safe to do so, we will resume our hot lunch program.



In future MSCS Return Plan Communications, we will address questions as information becomes available from the Archdiocese and as we continue to plan. COVID-19 topics to be addressed include:

- Protocols for classroom and building sanitization
- Protocols for families and staff who become ill or test positive for COVID-19
- Protocols for synchronous learning for remote learning students
- Protocols for arrival and dismissal
- Protocols for daily health screenings of staff and students

Please know that the teachers, staff, and I are committed to the safe return of our students and the continuation of learning. We continue to pray for all of you and look forward to seeing everyone again soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexa L. Cox".

Alexa L. Cox
Principal