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|  | **Gesu Catholic School*****Educating Detroit’s Future***17139 Oak DriveDetroit, MI 48221313-863-4677gesuschool.udmercy.edu |
| *Building a culture of success**for the greater glory of God.* |

 July 24, 2020

Dear Gesu School Parents,

On Friday, July 17th, you should have received our Return to School Plan from the Archdiocese of Detroit Office of Catholic Schools Superintendent, Kevin Kijewski, J.D.  Gesu Catholic School plans to provide full-day, face-to-face instruction following the Archdiocese of Detroit plan as long as we are in Phase 4.  Our faculty has been in regular contact this summer to prepare for best practices for a safe and healthy learning environment.  We will be sharing more details in the coming weeks.

**If we remain in Phase 4**, our first day of school is scheduled for Monday, August 31st from 7:55 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  Tuesday, September 1st through Thursday, September 3rd are full days, from 7:55 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  We will not have school on Friday, September 4th or Monday, September 7th due to the Labor Day holiday weekend.  Latchkey services are available for students who are pre-registered for these services.

Here is a brief summary of items for you to know:

* Students will enter the building at 7:45 a.m. and go straight to their classrooms. Students dropped off before 7:30 a.m. will have a specific space to wait until 7:45 a.m. All students are to be in their classroom by 7:55 a.m.  AM latchkey services are available, but students will need to meet social distancing requirements while in the gymnasium.  Masks will need to be worn.
* Students in grades 6-8, faculty, and staff are always required to wear a mask in the school building.
* Because drinking fountains will be nonoperational, students will have water available to them.
* Students in pre-k through Grade 5 students will wear a mask entering/exiting the building and in the hallways; they will not need to wear masks in their classrooms.  However, they will be required to wear masks for any activity during which they will interact with others outside of their classrooms.
* Students will remain with their class throughout the day.
* Students will maintain six feet of social distance in school, in the classroom, hallway, bathrooms, and in the gymnasium.
* Lunch will be served in the classroom. The Archdiocese of Detroit will provide a boxed lunch for students who elect to order lunch.
* Recess will be scheduled so each class will have their own space outside.  The classes will not be playing together during recess.
* Classrooms will be cleaned by maintenance during the day as required.
* Library time will be in your child's classroom.
* Shared time classes should begin the week of September 8th.  Shared time teachers will teach classes in your child's classroom.  PE class will take place in the gym or outdoors, and social distancing will be enforced.
* Unfortunately, parents are not allowed in the school building without an appointment.  If a student requires early dismissal, the child will be escorted to the school entryway.  It is necessary that we keep access to the building, for non-staff or students at a minimum.

**You may review the Archdiocese complete Return to School Plan at www.aod.org.**

We are prepared for online learning if we are required to move back to Phase 3.  Experts agree that face-to-face learning is preferred to distance learning while being mindful of keeping our faculty, staff, and students healthy and safe.  Our children do require social interaction with their peers, their faith enriched, and their academics strengthened and revitalized.

Preschool families will be receiving an email next week with details pertinent to their needs.

Join us in continued prayer for all persons in the Gesu family as we diligently prepare for this upcoming school year.

Educationally Yours,

Mr. Mark S. Friday M.Ed.

Principal Gesu Catholic School

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