



July 24, 2020

*"The laborers in the Lord's vineyard should have one foot on the ground,  
and the other raised to proceed on their journey." --St. Ignatius of Loyola*

Dear Families,

The year 2020 has certainly presented all of us with a unique journey! At St. Edmond, we are excited and ready to continue our partnership with your family. We would like to update you on our preparations for the 2020-2021 school year in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our school has been working diligently to create a return-to-learn plan and re-opening guidance to ensure your family continues to receive a safe and sound Catholic education that meets your child's and family's spiritual, emotional, and intellectual needs.

### **Living Our Mission**

In this school family, we believe that we are better together because we are a family; indeed, we are many parts of one Body of Christ. We believe that we grow in our relationship with God by learning about God's creation: the world, the people in it, and ourselves. We are always learning, and we believe that we learn better together.

To that end, it is our goal to begin the school year on August 24 with on-site instruction. With this in mind, we are committed to providing a quality Catholic education, regardless of the mode of delivery used. The education your child receives from St. Edmond is distinct, as our Catholic beliefs, traditions, and teachings are deeply embedded in daily instruction. St. Edmond staff is prepared to continue this for the 2020-21 school year.

St. Edmond is committed to offering the highest level of education possible by focusing directly on the social, emotional, faith, and intellectual needs of each child.

- Religion classes and prayer opportunities will be held daily.
- Teachers will have daily communication and interaction with all students.
- Catholic beliefs, traditions, and teaching will continue to be deeply embedded in daily instruction.
- Mass will be celebrated.
- Service opportunities will be available for all students.
- Core classes will be taught daily.

### **Three Modes of Delivery**

We have prepared three models for instruction in order to be prepared for the unknown of the next school year. Each one is described below.

#### On-Site Learning

This model indicates services are offered at St. Edmond. It is our goal to begin the school year on August 24 with on-site learning. To meet this goal, we have planned for additional cleaning, social distancing, training, and health/safety plans.

### Hybrid Learning

This model may be used to address specific student health concerns and a lack of readiness to return to the onsite model, as well as state mandates for social distancing, etc. Please contact Mrs. Glass if you are interested in this option.

### Distance Learning

This model indicates services will be held remotely for all students. Distance learning will be used in emergency situations when on-site learning is not possible.

## **Health and Safety**

We recognize it is not possible to eliminate all COVID-19 exposure risks. However, we are working diligently to mitigate as many risks as possible with the understanding that **we rely on you, our families, to do their part to help keep our school community safe and allow us to remain on-site.** We will be implementing the following health and safety strategies to make our school as safe as possible:

### Screening

- Children and staff must be screened at home before leaving for school. If they exhibit any of the following symptoms, **they must stay home:**
  - Fever or chills (temperature of 100.3 or above)
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea
- If a temperature is discovered at school, the child or staff member will be kept away from others and expected to leave as soon as possible.

### Face Coverings

- When social distancing is not possible, students (Grades K-12) and staff must wear face coverings or masks upon entering and exiting the building, in hallways, and in common areas (library, commons, Mass, etc).
- If you, as a parent, require your child to wear a face covering at all times throughout the day, the St. Edmond family will support you and your child.

### Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Frequent cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be implemented. We will follow an aggressive cleaning schedule and disinfectant procedures. We are using a top grade disinfectant cleaner, Pure & Clean, that is highly rated for human safety. The high touch surfaces and bathrooms are scheduled to be cleaned and disinfected multiple times a day.

### Hand Washing and Personal Hygiene

- Hand washing will be done several times a day, including at arrival, dismissal, before and after lunch, recess, etc .
- Hand sanitizer and tissues will be available in multiple places in the classrooms and school.

### Limiting Exposure

- We will limit school visitors and access to the school building.
- Staff continues to plan how to reconfigure and utilize building space to provide for as much social distancing as possible.
- Cohorts will be used wherever possible to keep small groups of students together and limit exposure to other groups of students. This will occur for lunch, recess, art, music, etc.
- Schools will develop protocols for isolation and discharge of students who become sick during the school day. Separate spaces will be created for ill students to wait for pickup where possible.

#### Exposure

- All positive cases of COVID-19 will be reported to Webster County Public Health. We will follow their guidance for notification, contact tracing, cleaning, and closure.

#### Training

- All school staff will complete the [AEA Learning Health and Safety Modules](#) on best health and safety practices for schools.

### **What You Can Do**

We are excited to have your children back and hope they are as well. Please understand that we are making the best decisions we can for all involved. We know that not everyone will be happy or agree with all of our decisions. Their attitude about school will directly correlate with yours, so we ask that you please share questions or concerns with us as they arise. Below are a few other things you can do to help our school community:

- Talk to your child about how school will look differently and discuss health and safety measures when they are released next week. Please view pictures, videos, and posts shared by our school and teachers showing classroom configurations and other helpful information.
- Continue to read school communications as more information becomes available.
- When available, complete registration accurately and make sure your contact information is up to date in case we need to communicate with you.
- **Please keep your child at home if they do not feel well.** It is important to keep your child home if they have a temperature above 100.3. Please do not give fever-reducing medication and send your child to school.
- Report any exposure or positive cases to St. Edmond immediately at 515-576-5182.
- Please contact Mrs. Glass to request to be part of our hybrid model if your child can not attend on-site
- Please reach out with any questions or concerns. Our school staff is here to help!

Our school team continues to receive information almost daily from the Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Department of Public Health, CDC, Diocese of Sioux City Catholic Schools Office, and the Webster County Health Department. Please know that plans and guidance may change as more information is received. Our local return-to-learn committee will continue to review this information in order to welcome your child back to St. Edmond as safely as possible. Thank you for entrusting us with your most precious gift.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Gibb, Mrs. Glass, Mr. Steinhoff, and Father Feller  
St. Edmond School