

Frequently Asked Questions

Below is a list of common topics found in various questions from parents and teachers. The goal of Aquinas and St. Mary's Catholic Schools to provide a safe, Catholic learning environment, and we feel this is best done by holding classes in person.

Aquinas and St. Mary's Catholic Schools will be following the guidance of 4 Corner's Health and local medical professionals.

Band and Chorus

Students will participate in band and chorus. Class sizes are small enough to accommodate students being socially distanced. For instance, the HS chorus room accommodates 60 students, but with a class size of less than 25 students can be spread out. The HS band is also smaller this year and will be able to be distanced. The band may also go outside or use one of the gyms. At SMS, students will be spread out also or use the gym if PE classes are outside.

Temperature Checks

The Diocese emphasized that we are not medical professionals and should not take on the liability of temperature checks, which is why we need the cooperation of parents and are asking parents to be responsible for temperature and symptom checks each morning before children leave for school. If a student shows any signs of illness, the student should stay home. We understand that this may be difficult for some at times, so students may stop at the office if they need assistance. As always, teachers and staff will be vigilant in watching students and any that appear ill will be sent to the office for evaluation. Each school will designate an area for ill students being evaluated.

Online School

We will not offer online schooling options for the year. Teachers were able to do this in the spring because almost everyone was quarantined. Many teachers also

have extra-curricular activities they coach and moderate, so asking them to teach in person as well as offer online options would not be feasible. Our schools do not have the technological capabilities to live stream all classes during the school day. It would take an extreme amount of bandwidth.

If a student is sick and must stay home, teachers will provide work through Power School Learning (PSL), and packets if necessary. Teachers have worked with students who have had prolonged illnesses and having to be quarantined would be no different. Teachers may be able to provide some options, such as letting you know when they are available during the school day for one-on-one discussions.

Activity Seating

The gym seating will be marked off for social distancing and an area will be designated for those wanting to wear masks and sit away from others. Signs will be posted to ask for social distancing between non-family members.

Please keep in mind that requirements may vary by school. Other schools may mandate visiting fans to wear masks. We will work with other schools to get that information out to our fans.

Lunch

Extra lunch times have been added at Aquinas, and both schools will spread tables and have empty seats between students.

Teacher Quarantine

Teachers who have to quarantine but are able to teach will use PSL and other means to teach remotely to ensure classes continue.

Classrooms at Aquinas

Teachers will work with students who have to be at home due to quarantine (as they would with any extended illness.) Teachers may wear masks but cannot require students to wear them in their classrooms while social distancing is maintained. Teachers can use small groups but need to keep students 3-6 feet apart. If closer than 3-6 ft **and** longer than 15 minutes, students will need to wear masks. (Teachers have been told this should not happen every day.) Classroom doors should remain open when possible to avoid touching of common surfaces and recommended circulation of air. Hand sanitizer will be available in each room and students are encouraged to use it when entering or leaving a room. Disinfectant spray bottles will be provided for each room also. Desks and common surfaces will be sprayed by the teacher with sanitizer every 2 class periods. This can occur at the beginning or end of each class. At the end of the day, desks will be sprayed with disinfectant and left to dry. Desks must all face the same direction and be socially distanced.

Classrooms at SMS

The general guidelines of maintaining distance and wearing a mask when distance cannot be maintained for 15 minutes or more will be followed. Student desks will be spread out as much as possible. Students will have a consistent seating arrangement and line order to limit the contacts with other students in indoor spaces. Surfaces will be sanitized twice a day or more often as needed. Desks will face the same direction. Doors will be opened as often as possible to minimize contact and increase air flow. Students will take stretch breaks outdoors and hold lessons outdoors when possible and appropriate. Students will have recess with their own grade level only. Students wash hands and sanitize frequently during the day including restroom breaks, computer lab use, library use, and lunchtime.

Computers/IPads

When using the computer labs, COWs, or IPAD carts, students should have an assigned computer/IPad and use hand sanitizer when entering and leaving the labs or before and after using COW computers or IPADs.

Student Sick in Class

Sick students should be sent to the office. If teachers suspect a student is ill, they will send them to the office to be assessed and parents will be notified (as we would with any illness).

Fever Outside of School Day

Any teacher or student with a fever will need to stay home for 24 hours before being allowed back to school. Students are expected to work remotely, if physically and technologically able. Teachers need to post class work/lecture notes, etc. on PSL for students who have to work at home.

Water Bottles

Teachers and students need to bring their own water bottle. The water fillers will be available but the fountains will be wrapped to prevent use.

Book Bags at Aquinas

In times requiring social distancing book bags will be allowed in classrooms to reduce hall traffic.

Buses

Masks will be worn on buses when social distancing CANNOT be maintained. Also, **NO** food will be allowed on buses, this includes buses to activities. Parents should NOT provide meals to teams after activities. Participants will need to wait until they return home to eat. Drivers will sanitize the buses after each trip.