

**#Reuknighted!**  
**Outline for Reopening Peninsula Catholic**  
**Fall of 2020**

**Our Mission:**

Our community develops young men and women into spiritually, intellectually, and morally mature citizens, prepared to lead in a global and diverse society, by providing a supportive and disciplined college preparatory environment rooted in the Catholic tradition.

**Introduction:**

Peninsula Catholic is committed to reopening the campus and welcoming back our students, faculty, staff and families. Educating our students “spiritually, intellectually, and morally” is our mission, but only after placing the health and well-being of our community first. To that end, a Task Force was formed in June after receiving guidance by the CDC, our state and local health officials, and the diocese. From there, we have created a plan that we believe will deliver the strong programs you expect for an exceptional high school experience for all our students.

Peninsula Catholic has become known for our ability to effectively teach students in an online environment. In a recent poll, 80% of PC parents believed that we “met expectations in providing continuous education during the crisis” that shut down all school on March 13. Already having a distance learning platform, all parents agreed that the transition was a smooth one. Nonetheless, we firmly believe that there is no equal substitute for face-to-face instruction and the in-class experience. The social interaction our students crave--in the classroom, in Mass and during prayer, in our extracurricular activities, on our fields of play and even in the hallways--cannot be replicated in a digital environment, and while not the same as it has been in the past--will be far more communal than isolated digital learning. Our students, faculty, and staff want to return, even if it means changes to the way things have been done before.

*Hebrew 10: 24-25*

*We must consider how to rouse one another to love and good works.  
We should not stay away from our assembly...but encourage one another,  
and this all the more as you see the day drawing near.*

For these reasons, our Task Force on Reopening PCHS has been diligent in finding a way to bring all our students, staff, and faculty back to the classroom five days a week starting on August 24 in the safest environment possible, following CDC recommendations and the most current health guidelines. Though the new academic year may hold surprises and some uncertainties, it is important that we face whatever comes as one community, united by our love for one another and our trust in God.

*Philippians 4: 6-7*

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer  
and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to  
God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,*

*will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

### Important Dates:

- August 19 Welcome Back Mass, following Diocesan Protocols for social distancing during Mass; followed by socially distanced fellowship with dessert  
We will welcome students in small groups the first week in order to provide them with training on safety procedures to help ensure a safe and healthy return to campus.
- August 24 Team Building, Orientation, and Retreat; Grades 8 and 9 only; 8:00-3:00
- August 25 Orientation, Grade 10 only, 8:00-12:00 (?)
- August 26 Orientation, Grade 11 only, 8:00-12:00
- August 27 Orientation, Grade 12 only, 8:00-12:00
- August 28 First full day of school, 7:45-2:20 (See new daily schedule)

### Reopening Approach:

We recognize that not everyone will be able to immediately participate in on-campus classes. We may have students with underlying health conditions which may increase their risk if exposed to COVID-19. To meet the needs of all our learners, we will be offering both face to face and digital instruction options.

Peninsula Catholic is able to  
provide a campus with enhanced  
safety protections in place for the fall of 2020

✓yes!

As a family, you have determined  
that you are comfortable with  
synchronously (in  
sending your student to PCHS  
for face to face instruction

NO ⇒

Students will be taught  
primarily  
real time) and  
asynchronously  
(independently of the class).

YES ↓

Primarily face to face instruction  
with social distancing accommodations

Class instruction will be  
delivered using Big Blue  
Button in Canvas or via  
Zoom.

### Full Day Schedule

7:00	-	7:40	Zero Block (Band)
7:40			Warning Bell
7:45	-	8:00	Homeroom
8:10	-	9:30	Block 1
9:39	-	10:59	Block 2
11:09	-	11:30	Lunch --all students to eat in block 3 classroom
11:30	-	12:50	Block 3
12:59	-	2:20	Block 4
2:20			Staggered dismissal begins
2:30	-	3:00	Activity Block (dismissal for general student body/club

### **Staggered Dismissal Plan**

- 2:20 Carpool #1
- 2:23 Student Drivers
- 2:26 Extra-curricular activities (club meetings, athletes, tutoring)
- 2:30 Remaining students report to homeroom--2:30
- 3:00 Bus riders/Carpool #2
- 3:30 Carpool #3/Remaining students report to study hall
- 3:45 Carpool #4/Remaining students will be billed for study hall past 3:45; study hall ends at 5:00

### **Weekly Schedule**

#### Monday

- 12:00 dismissal every Monday (to continuously train for the possibility of a return to remote learning);
- 7:45-12:00: Homeroom/Prayer/Announcements, Blocks 1, 2, 3, and 4;
- Every 4-6 weeks Mondays will be a DLD (7:45 Start time), where students work from home and teachers work from school.
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#### Tuesday-Friday

- Full Day (following daily schedule above).

### **Social Distancing**

#### **Classrooms and Instruction:**

- Class sizes will be as small as possible;
- Seating will be reconfigured to maximize distancing between 4 and 6 feet;
- All desks will face the same direction and students will sit in the same desk daily;
- For classes whose size exceeds the maximum number of students that can fit in a regular classroom, some classes will be moved to larger classrooms (I.e. a class of 22 can fit in the Distance Learning Center with 6 foot social distancing);
- For classes whose size exceeds the maximum number of students and whereas the larger classrooms are already being used, classes will be split in half; half the class will stay in the regular classroom while the other half reports to their designated "flex space" (library, cafeteria, or auxiliary gym);
- Teachers with students in a flex space may choose from the following options based on the day's lesson:
  - Teach half the class face to face while the other half works independently and then switch midway through the class;
  - Teach half the class face to face the whole block while the other half completes an assignment relevant to the objective; then flip the class the following day--content will not be repeated; new learning will be taking place every day for both groups.

#### **Communal Areas:**

- Hallways
  - Class change between classes and to lunch will be staggered; only  $\frac{1}{3}$  of population will be changing class at a time (3 class changes at 3 minutes each);

- There will be directional traffic patterns for all hallways and stairwells; the main stairwell and athletic wing will be divided into two lanes--students will travel in single file. (Stay in Your Lane!).
- Restrooms/Water/Locker use
  - Each teacher will have a 20 minute window designated for their class to use the restroom/water/locker--only one student may leave at a time;
  - First floor classes will use downstairs main foyer restrooms; second floor classes will use upstairs main foyer restrooms;
  - All restrooms/water fountains will have social distancing floor markings to keep students at a social distance of six feet;
  - Only water fountains with the bottle fillers will be functional; students will be encouraged to bring water bottles to school to hydrate.
- Cafeteria
  - Food service will continue to provide lunch and a la carte items in individually and pre-packages servings;
  - Food will be pre-ordered and lunch will either be picked up by students or delivered to their classroom;
  - Social distancing floor markings will be used to keep students at a social distance of six feet if picking up lunch;
  - Students will be eating in a classroom or another designated space.
- Main gym/Mass
  - Social distancing markings will be used to keep students at a social distance of six feet in the bleachers and on the floor during assemblies and Mass;
  - Communion and other guidelines for Mass as directed by the Bishop will be followed.

### **Extracurricular/Retreats/School Activities**

- Modifications of programs and events with limits to size and social distancing measures;
- There will be no overnight retreats or other overnight trips this fall;
- There will be no fall field trips.

### **Athletics**

- Our Athletic Department will review the guidelines issued by the Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association (VISAA) and the Tidewater Conference of Independent Schools (TCIS);
- Currently, cross country and tennis will compete in the fall;
- Decisions are yet to be made regarding soccer and volleyball;
- Current year physicals will be required for athletic participation *prior* to the start of their conditioning and/or tryouts;
- Spectatorship may be limited to immediate family;
- Temperature checks will be required prior to each home competition and will be taken before boarding transportation to away competitions.

### **Buses and Transportation**

- Temperature checks will be required prior to boarding school transportation;
- Parents may not leave the morning bus pick-up location until their student is admitted onto the bus after the temperature check;

- Depending on how many students are riding the bus, students will be socially distanced between 3 and 6 feet (with the exception of siblings); face masks will be encouraged during travel.

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## Health Screening

Individuals with serious underlying medical conditions or at higher risk should consult with their physician prior to returning to face to face instruction.

- Parents are urged to take students' temperatures at home before coming to school; If temperature is elevated over 100.4°F or 38°C, students must be kept home until they are fever-free for 36 hours without the benefit of medication or an alternative diagnosis is determined by a physician allowing their return to school;
- Each grade level and staff will have an assigned entry and exit point in the building--main entry; Knights Athletic Center; side entrance;
- All staff and students will have temperatures taken before entering the building in the morning; all vendors and visitors will have a temperature check:
  - Anyone with a temperature of over 100.4°F or 38°C will not be allowed to enter the building or referred to the School Nurse;
  - Students who develop a fever during the day will await parent pick-up in a designated Isolation Room (not the clinic);
- Carpool drivers must wait until their students have been allowed to enter;
- The School Nurse will monitor all students for COVID19 symptoms daily;
- Reliable Emergency contacts must be updated in your FACTS Family Online Portal on the website (see Web forms);
- Students will be expected to be picked up immediately or no longer than 60 minutes after contacting parents;
- Uber/Taxis, etc. is not acceptable transportation for student pick-up if the student does not pass the health screening;
- Fall flu shots for the PCHS staff, students, and family will be encouraged.

## Health Clinic

### Communication and Responsibilities

Mrs. Silcox, L.P.N., will

- Maintain a clear communication with the Virginia Department of Health and the Newport News Health Department, PCHS families and staff about ongoing policy adjustments and or illness outbreaks;
- Provide educational training and materials to staff and students about how to stop the spread of COVID 19, symptoms of COVID 19, and what to do if you feel sick;
- Be the designated staff person responsible for responding to COVID 19 concerns for staff and families. She will oversee the communication system for staff and families to self-report symptoms and will, with the Principal, initiate notification of exposures and closures.

### Deciding When to Stay Home

- If a member in your household tests positive for COVID19, is awaiting test result due to direct contact, or experiencing COVID like symptoms
  - fever/chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches

- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- diarrhea

**Stay home, call your doctor, inform Mrs. Silcox**

### **Procedures**

- Students with symptoms that mimic the flu or COVID 19 and/or fever will be sent to the Isolation Room (across from the clinic);
- Student/ Faculty/Staff sent home with a fever will need a medical evaluation and may not return until released from isolation/ quarantine or alternative diagnosis is determined;
- The clinic and Isolation Room will be disinfected between every client visit;
- The clinic and Isolation Room will be ventilated with an air purifier.

**If a staff member or student is exposed to someone with COVID 19 or becomes ill with COVID 19, this must be immediately reported to the School Nurse or the Principal. Communication with the Newport News Health Department will be initiated and instructions for self-quarantine or other actions will be given.**

### **Personal Hygiene**

#### **Handwashing**

- Students and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently;
- Hand sanitizers have been installed in every classroom, in every communal area, and at every entrance;
- No contact paper towel dispensers have been installed in all restrooms;
- Frequent reminders and signage regarding personal hygiene;
- Students and staff are encouraged to avoid touching their faces, particularly eyes, nose or mouth.

#### **Use of Face Coverings**

- Teachers, all staff members, and visitors are to wear face mask coverings when they are not able to maintain a 6ft. distance in classrooms or when in communal spaces such offices, hallways, restrooms, school Masses, etc.
- Face mask coverings are to be worn by students in grades 8-12 when they are at a distance of less than 6ft. in the classrooms or in communal spaces such as hallways, restrooms, school Masses, etc.; medically necessary accommodations will be made as needed.
- Face coverings must be solid colored or appropriately patterned, no messages, images, or identifiable symbols will be allowed;
- All parents, visitors (over the age of 10), and vendors will be required to wear a face covering;
- Parents/guardians will not be allowed past the check-in desk before, during, or after school hours without an appointment with a staff member or teacher or unless otherwise invited to attend a special event (this does not include parents who are spectators at athletic events).

### **Cleaning and Sanitizing**

- Use of shared office and art supplies will be minimized and sanitized;

- Supplies of anti-bacterial sanitizing wipes will be stocked in every classroom;
- At the end of each block, students will sanitize their desk and the teacher will sanitize the door handles and other surfaces as appropriate;
- There will be frequent cleaning of high touch areas daily:
  - Water fountains
  - Handrails
  - Door handles
  - Keyboards used by multiple users
  - Phones
  - Light switches
  - Sink faucets
  - Restroom facilities;
- Classrooms, Main Office, and communal areas will be cleaned nightly with an electrostatic sprayer;
- Frequent reminders regarding personal hygiene;
- Frequent disinfection of PE and athletic equipment.

### Visitors and Volunteers

In order to maintain a healthy environment, we will strictly limit access to the building:

#### **Regular School Hours--6:30-3:00**

- Parents/Guardians may drop off and pick up items for their students or conduct minor business via the check in window, but may not enter the building without an appointment;
- Parents/Guardians may not bypass the check in window or gain admittance through any other entry point during “open” periods (6:30 AM-7:45 AM or after 3:00 PM);
- All visitors must have an appointment to enter the building; visitors who enter will also go through the regular check-in process for receiving a pass;
- Volunteers must check in before proceeding to a scheduled meeting;
- Only faculty, staff and students will be allowed at Mass and scheduled student events/programs that occur during the school day;
- All adults who enter the building must have a temperature check and answer three COVID-19 self-screening questions
  - Are you experiencing any of the following symptoms that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
  - Have you taken medication to lower your temperature in the past 72 hours?
  - Have you been in close contact with anyone in the last 14 days who has been sick with COVID-19?

#### **After School Hours--3:00 and after**

- Parents/Guardians may not bypass the check in window or gain admittance through any other entry point after 3:00 PM unless attending a meeting that has been scheduled;
- Any extracurricular activities that may occur at which parent/family attendance is allowed (i.e. athletics) must include sign-in, screening, and temperature checks.

### Preparing for Interruptions

PCHS is well prepared to move to distance learning if on campus learning is interrupted by a spike in COVID 19 and schools revert to Phase 1 or 2 guidelines. Our transition will be smooth and our high quality instruction will continue as it did during the initial shutdown in March 2020.

## Health and Wellness Partnership

PCHS is committed to implementing and following all the guidelines and procedures stated here. This effort must be supported by everyone in the community: faculty, staff, students, and families. With everyone's cooperation both at school and at home, there is a greater chance for success and keeping a healthy environment for all!

*Psalm 91:2*

*I will say to the Lord,*

*"My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!"*

## Many Thanks to the Task Force on Reopening PCHS

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Campus Ministry

**Dan Batkin**  
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