



NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PENINSULA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES
FALL REOPENING PLAN**

Newport News, VA., July 23, 2020 -- As schools across Hampton Roads continue to navigate the uncertainty of the coronavirus in preparation for the fall semester, Peninsula Catholic High School (PCHS) announces plans to reopen on August 24th to in-person instruction, five days a week, with an option for live, remote learning. We recognize that not everyone will be able to immediately participate in on-campus classes. To meet the needs of all our learners, we will also be offering daily digital instruction that occurs synchronously with those students learning in the physical classroom.

Peninsula Catholic formed a Task Group in early June to diligently find ways to bring our students, staff and faculty back into the school five days a week in the safest environment possible, following CDC recommendations and the most current health guidelines. If needed, we will adapt and accommodate to this ever evolving health situation – should health officials call for a need to do so.

Janine Franklin, Principal, comments, “While we are confident we can deliver exceptional instruction in a digital learning platform, we recognize that face-to-face instruction and the in-class experience is the ideal for most learners.” Class sizes will be reduced with classrooms reconfigured to maximize distance to 6 feet between desks. For classes that exceed the maximum capacity, in the socially distanced room, they will be split with half the students reporting to a designated flex space (cafeteria or library). With cameras installed in each classroom, teachers will have options for delivering new content to their students both synchronously (in real time) and asynchronously (independently of class). Live, remote learning will continue to be an option for students with underlying health conditions and families who are not yet comfortable sending their student to school.

For the safety of the entire school community, all students, staff, faculty, and visitors will be screened daily, including temperature checks, to reduce the risk of exposure. Face mask coverings will be mandatory throughout the school when a 6 foot distance cannot be met. Hallways and stairwells will have purposeful traffic patterns to reduce congestion during the staggered class dismissal process. These, among many other safety measures have been developed to provide a safe learning environment.

Peninsula Catholic is still accepting new students who are interested in returning to school in a safe learning environment as well as those seeking daily digital instruction, learning live alongside their peers who are in the classroom. In March of 2020, we adapted to a completely digital platform that we have used for years, with no disruption to the learning environment. If such an event were to recur, we are ready to leverage our current and enhanced technology resources to engage our students as long as necessary.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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