



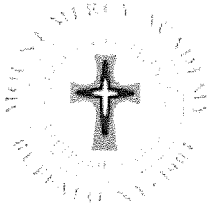
Mount Mercy Academy Continuity of Learning Plan: 2020-2021

Mount Mercy Academy has a comprehensive continuity of learning plan for the 2020-2021 academic year with three models of learning: in-person instruction, distance learning, and a hybrid model of learning that includes both in-person and online instruction. It is our intention to proceed with full in-class learning in September 2020, following all mandates from state and local government and meeting all required guidelines. Our first priority is the health and safety of all students and our entire Mercy community. We understand we may need to shift between learning plans throughout the academic year as health and safety guidelines change.

Each of our reopening plans is aligned to the hallmarks of a Mercy education- academic excellence, dedication to Christian service, leadership, commitment to service, and family in partnership. Emphasis is placed on creating challenging opportunities for growth in spirit, mind, and body. Our approach in each learning plan reflects our Mercy values of charism and hospitality and calls upon us to exhibit kindness, gentleness, and understanding to one another.

In order to ensure that all plans were inclusive of the consideration of multiple participants, survey results that were previously administered were utilized in this process. A team consisting of key stakeholders submitted 3 separate surveys to parents, teachers and students for feedback concerning distance learning. The results from each of the 3 surveys was carefully reviewed and considered for the future planning of the models listed below:

1. **In-School Resumes with Guidelines** - Full in-class learning, with the implementation of guidelines from NYSED, the New York State Department of Health, the Center for Disease Control, and the Erie County Health Department, New York State and Erie County Government.
2. **Hybrid Model** - This is a blended learning model of both in-class and distance learning. School will resume with full in-class learning. Distance learning will be provided for any student who is unable to attend in-school sessions due to illness, quarantine, or a medical condition that puts the student at risk of serious illness. Students learning from home will have access to daily in-class instruction as they livestream through Zoom and submit work through Google Classroom. Students who are participating in distance learning will be expected to attend all classes during the regular school day.
3. **Full-Time Distance Learning** - Instruction will be completely online and will follow a modified version of our daily in-school schedule. Students will be expected to participate in all classes following the regular school day schedule. Learning will be both synchronous and asynchronous and will include direct instruction, teacher-student collaboration, student-student collaboration, and independent work.



The three academic reopening plans share the following:

1. A return to rituals and routines that are safe, consistent, and welcoming.
2. Connectedness- meaningful and frequent teacher-student, student-student, and parent-teacher interactions and connections.
3. Clear and consistent communication between administration, faculty, students, and parents through our website, social media, email, and phone calls.
4. College preparatory curriculum and rigorous standards-based instruction.
5. Inclusion of social emotional learning to support the well-being of students and staff. Emphasis will be placed on social emotional well-being in order to create an equitable and inclusive academic learning experience.

As we wait for final guidance from the New York State Education Department (NYSED), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), please know that our planning committee is meeting on a regular basis to plan for all three models of academic continuity and all necessary precautions will be made to our school to help keep our students, faculty, and staff safe. We are committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment in order to hold in-person classes in September.

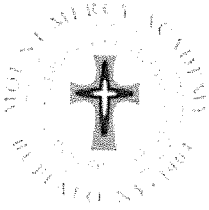
Our final plans will include, but are not limited to, the following areas to ensure safety:

Attendance: Unless otherwise instructed by the NYS Governor, we will begin school in September with 100% in-person classes every day. Attendance will be taken every day, as it has in previous years. Should we have to change our continuity of learning to distance learning, attendance will be taken as well.

Health Monitoring: Plans are being made as directed by the CDC and NYSDOH:

- A quarantine area has been created for students with a fever. Students will rest there until they are picked up by a parent or guardian.
- Face coverings will be worn at all times on buses, entering and exiting the building, travel in the hallways, classrooms and whenever social distancing can not be maintained.
- Mask breaks will be permitted throughout the day.
- Families with concerns due to health-related issues should contact the school nurse after September 1st, (716) 825-8796 x.104.

Sanitization and Disinfection: We are updating our sanitization protocols as recommended by the CDC and NYSDOH:



- Our plans include the sanitization of desks, tables, and chairs between each class; hand sanitizer units installed throughout the buildings and in classrooms; frequency of the sanitization of restrooms will be increased.
- We request that students use their own books and supplies; sharing will not be allowed.
- Proper disinfection of Chromebooks will be taught at the beginning of school.

Social Distancing: Plans are being made to our school to facilitate social distancing in the following ways:

- We are reconfiguring classrooms to meet or exceed the 6-feet of distance requirement.
- We are adjusting flow patterns throughout our buildings to minimize unnecessary contact; including markings throughout the school to help streamline traffic.
- Clearly marked seating will be arranged in large rooms to maintain safety.
- Rooms will be ventilated in order to promote airflow throughout.
- Physical Education classes in addition to other classes and activities will be encouraged to take place outdoors when feasible in order to allow for mask breaks, social distancing and opportunities for maximizing air capacity.

*Please note that this document is our reopening plan based on guidelines we have been given thus far from the State Office of Religious and Independent Schools (SRIS). As additional information becomes available, we will update, modify and continue to evaluate per the recommendations and guidelines given from NYSED and the CDC. Enclosed is our reopening documents that include in-school, hybrid and distance learning models. We will continue to monitor and assess the plan as necessary as we navigate through the future of education.

Margaret M. Cronin

President

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Principal