

The Catholic Community of *~La Comunidad Católica de*
SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL PARISH SCHOOL
Beaver Dam, WI

August 17, 2021

Dear SKDS Family,

The success of any school year depends on a close partnership between families and schools. This partnership was essential to our ability to hold classes in person last year, and it will be key to minimizing students' time out of school due to illness and/or quarantine this year. Success in this effort requires that everyone understand the guidelines and protocols for this school year. As we saw last year, it also requires a high degree of flexibility, as the situation may change, sometimes rapidly.

After guidance from the Dodge County Health Department, the CDC, the SKDS Covid Committee, and the School Advisory Committee, the decision has been made that face masks will be required indoors for students and staff to start the school year.

We did not come to this decision lightly and we understand we have families who feel strongly one way or the other. We will continue to monitor all the information, consult with local experts, and make changes to protocols, as the year progresses and circumstances continue to evolve, striving to ensure our students' spiritual, social, academic, and physical needs are being met and protected.

Recent and sharp increases in COVID cases in Dodge County factored strongly into the decision for masking as a way to increase our ability to maintain in-person instruction at the start of the school year. Currently, Dodge County is above the CDC threshold for "high" levels of community transmission (over 100 new cases in the past 7 days per 100,000 people), and stands at 138.9, compared to 33.0 only three weeks ago. Once our County returns to moderate levels (fewer than 50) as was the case in June and July, for a period of 10 days, we will seek to remove the indoor masking requirement.

Church
511 S. Spring St.
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

Parish Center (Office)
408 S. Spring St.
920-887-2082
www.stkatharinedrexelbd.org

School
503 S. Spring St.
920-885-5558
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Other things to note regarding the Open House:

- Our Open House is set for Thursday, August 26, from 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- We will NOT have the Family Meeting in the gym prior to visiting the classrooms.
- Masks are required inside during the Open House.
- Please see the "Safe Return to School Plan" for more information.

Please continue to pray for our school as the year starts, and pray that we have another successful year within this ongoing pandemic. Our Lady, Health of the Sick, please keep us safe and close to your son always!

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Crombie

Principal/Administrator

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