



## Q&A

### **Are teachers going to be teaching differently in the classroom after the Virtual Learning experience of the past three months?**

The sudden closure of schools in March required all teachers to adapt their teaching with little or no notice. Our schools utilized, reallocated, and when possible expanded their resources to meet the challenge. Teachers learned and embraced new approaches to how they teach and assess student learning, often with significant use of technology. The best practices that supported Virtual Learning will continue to be of value during face-to-face instruction.

### **How will my child's academic progress be monitored this fall to assure that "gaps" that may have occurred because of the sudden move to Virtual Learning are covered?**

Principals and teachers have been engaged in collaborative discussions since May to identify gaps in instruction that resulted from the move to Virtual Learning. Work will continue throughout the summer to identify content and skill gaps for grade levels and individual students, and plans for how those gaps will be addressed at the next grade level this fall.

### **When school resumes, how will teachers determine what is taught to make sure that critical learning in each grade level is covered, regardless of how instruction is delivered?**

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has identified critical content and skills for each grade level in the form of priority standards. Those standards appear on the report card for core content areas in grades 1-8. We are blessed to have made those important decisions as an archdiocese prior to Virtual Learning so all schools are able to make instructional decisions that assure a strong academic foundation is in place, regardless of how learning is experienced.

### **Will there be differing tuition rates if instruction would at some point need to be provided to students virtually vs. in-person?**

The delivery method of the instruction has little impact on a school's cost to provide the instruction. The tuition amount charged in exchange for this instruction is determined at the local level and should be clearly communicated to parents.

Policy 3240.1: Rules for the Collection of Tuition states: *Every school must have a tuition/enrollment contract that specifies tuition, fees, and other terms and conditions for student enrollment and parent/guardian involvement. The contract must identify if and when tuition and other fees are nonrefundable.*

## **Who has the authority to determine whether our school will be open in fall and what it may look like?**

The decision on whether or not to open for in-person instruction, and what safety protocols will be in place, will be made at the local school level. This is a complex decision, and each school should consult with its local health department and local public school district in making its determination for how school will function in the fall. Important factors to keep in mind:

- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has the statutory authority to close schools during health emergencies. The current DHS order closing schools, which was upheld by the Wisconsin Supreme Court (*Wisconsin Legislature v. Palm*), expires on June 30, 2020. There is currently no expectation that DHS will issue a new order impacting schools.
- The local health department, which may be either at the county or municipal level, has the authority to issue local orders or guidance. There must be an underlying local enforcing ordinance in place to allow the health agency to issue an order, otherwise the health agency can only issue guidance.
- The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction will issue guidance for the local public school district to consider when the district decides what is best for its community in the fall. DPI will not tell the local public school district what to do in this regard.
- While we encourage consultation and collaboration with the local public school district for the benefit of all students, our schools are not bound by the decision of the local public school district.

## **How will busing be handled?**

The local public school district has a legal obligation to provide transportation to eligible private school students in its district. When this obligation is met through the use of a school bus, the district has the authority to establish the route the bus will use, including pick-up and drop-off times. Within this authority, we anticipate the district will work with its bus company to establish the guidelines for transporting students, including, but not limited to, the number of students per bus, seating restrictions, and whether the use of a mask is required by student riders. The district should provide this information to parents, either directly or through the private school.

## **How will lunch be handled?**

Each school will need to determine how to provide lunch for its students in the safest way possible. This may include options such as staggering lunch times so that fewer students are in the cafeteria at any one time, providing pre-boxed lunches instead of the traditional hot lunch, or having students eat in their classrooms.

## **Will there be elementary school athletics?**

Athletics in our elementary schools by necessity involve multiple schools and leagues. Due to this configuration, the decision to proceed with, delay, or cancel, athletics, and under what precautions, will be made by the Office for Schools in consultation with the leadership of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and the Athletic Advisory Board. The Athletic Advisory Board is comprised of the directors of each sanctioned league, three elementary school principals, representatives for the Seton

and Padre Serra tournaments, a representative for game officials, and a representative from the Catholic Mutual Group.

High schools in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee will follow the guidelines of the WIAA, which is the governing body for high school athletics in the state. We will consider the WIAA's guidance and adaptations in determining if, and under what precautions, there will be elementary school athletics when school resumes in the fall.

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