



NOTRE DAME
OF BETHLEHEM SCHOOL
Building Faith, Minds, and Spirit.



NOTRE DAME SCHOOL OF BETHLEHEM TOWN HALL MEETING FAQs

Attendees raised the following questions during and after the webinar:

- 1. If a student is doing in-person classes and doesn't feel well, can he or she do Live Connected Learning for 1 or 2 days and return to in-person learning without a two-week notice?**

If a student is sick, he or she should rest and get well. Work will be available upon his or her return to the chosen modality. Students should only switch from in-person to Live Connected Learning if they will be out of school for two weeks or more.

- 2. Why isn't a hybrid option being offered?**

Hybrid options were created for larger school districts that cannot safely distance and need to reduce classroom and building densities. This option is not necessary at Notre Dame at this time. Our current enrollment numbers and the layout of our campus, allow all students to be physically distanced. Providing families the choice of an in-person or entirely virtual learning environment supports a level of structure for which a family can plan. Students enrolled in an entirely virtual option can embrace the learning environment without the constant disruption of moving from in-person to online instruction.

- 3. Can my family switch between in-person and Live Connected Learning?**

Families can switch from in-person to Live Connected Learning at any time. Families who wish to return to in-person learning must contact the school's

administration as there is a minimum 14-day waiting period before returning to in-person instruction.

4. Is Live Connected Learning an option just for the fall, or is it a year-round option if a vaccine still does not become available?

We anticipate that the Live Connected Learning option will be available as needed.

5. What is your contact tracing plan if a child or family member of a child tests positive?

Contact tracing is done by the Bethlehem and PA Departments of Health and adheres to CDC guidelines. Once it becomes known that a person with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 was present at the school while infectious, the school will follow the DOH guidelines that include risk assessment, isolation and quarantine recommendations, and other infection control recommendations. This process would include notification of a confirmed case; anyone within the established guidelines would be notified directly.

6. Can a sample schedule be made available to help parents make a decision?

A Live Connected Learning schedule will mirror a typical day in the classroom. All students, whether in-person or virtual, will learn together at the same time and be provided time to work independently. Unless there is a need to transition to Distance Learning, where all students will be virtual, lessons will only be presented live and will not be recorded or asynchronous. We are also working to identify opportunities for safe collaboration between in-person and virtual students.

7. Will an iPad work?

To participate in Live Connected Learning classes, an iPad with an internet connection will work. However, depending upon the apps on the device, students may or may not be able to complete assignments.

8. What if my child needs to be absent from Live Connected Learning due to sickness or a doctor's appointment?

The procedure for reporting your child's absence will be the same whether learning is Live Connected or in-person. Parents or guardians should call the school office [610-866-2231] between 7:00 and 8:15 AM to report an absence or notify the school of an appointment. Teachers should also be sent an email, preferably 24 hours before a student will be absent from class due to an appointment.

9. Regarding masks – is this all day or does a child remove his or her mask while in the individual partition? (updated August 18 – new mandate August 17)

On August 17th, we received an update from the Department of Health (DOH) in regard to face coverings. Schools may allow students to remove face coverings when students are:

- Eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart; or
- When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task; or
- At least 6 feet apart during "face-covering breaks" to last no longer than 10 minutes.

10. Will Notre Dame have a hot lunch program?

Pro Lunches will continue to provide hot lunch, and monthly menus will be posted on the school's website. Lunches will be pre-packaged in disposable containers and delivered to classrooms.

11. What should my child bring to school daily?

Each student who attends school in-person should plan to bring a face covering [and an extra one], a small, personal bottle of unscented hand sanitizer, individual pocket packs of tissues, and a water bottle. Water fountains will not be available for use. Additionally, students should bring their backpacks with all the necessary school supplies. Sharing of materials such as pencils, art supplies, and learning manipulatives will not be permitted.

12. Do you know about busing yet?

The busing policies are dictated by the district in which you reside.

13. Can students leave for a doctor or dentist appointment during the day?

We do not and have never encouraged this practice but understand that there are times when there may not be an alternative. Temperature screening will be done upon a student's return to school. A parent or guardian must accompany the student to the vestibule space at the front entrance and then may leave.

14. What will parent pick-up look like?

Parent pick-up at the end of the day will be staggered. We cannot provide exact times until we have our busing schedules and know how many families have chosen in-person learning. Thank you in advance for your patience.

15. How will students be prepared for their sacraments if we choose Live Connected Learning or if the school should need to close?

Sacramental preparation will continue in all modalities.

16. Will families be sent information about homeroom teachers and supply lists?

Homeroom teacher assignments will be mailed to families before the start of the school year. An updated supply list will be included in the letter and posted on the school's website.

17. A clarification regarding 7th & 8th-grade homerooms – this will be based on where the child's placement is? What will the criteria be based on?

Students will be placed in homerooms based on math groups to minimize movement within the school.

18. Will Mass also be open to the public?

The celebration of the Mass is an integral part of our Catholic faith along with the religious identity of our school. To maintain physical distancing of at least six feet within the Church, classes will rotate to attend Mass in-person weekly. Mass will not always be celebrated on a Friday, and safety precautions already in place for weekday and Sunday Masses, which include wearing a face covering, will be followed for all liturgies.

19. Is the laptop [grades 5-8] to be brought home or kept in school?

At this point, the laptop will remain in school. Students in grades 5-8 who choose Live Connected Learning will be permitted to take their device home, provided that they sign off on the school's acceptable use policy beforehand.

20. What platform will be used? Chromebooks?

The devices are Windows 10 Pro; they are Acer devices that are part of the Microsoft Education program and include Office 365 O.

21. Understanding is that there will not be a full-time nurse in school – is this correct?

The nurse's schedule will remain unchanged; a Bethlehem Area School District nurse will be in the office one day a week. In the past, we have also utilized a retired nurse who has volunteered her time.

22. What do we do if we have more than one child in different grades? Do they have to be in different rooms to be able to focus? Are their schedules the same or different?

That may depend on the size of the room in your home. If both would need to have their microphones turned on at the same time, there may be interference and noise interruption.

23. Will we be awarding perfect attendance awards this year?

While we expect students to be in class each day, we do not want to risk our entire school community's health and safety. While statistics prove that students are more likely to succeed academically with consistent attendance, it is equally vital that we encourage wellness and prevention strategies to stop the spread of COVID-19. These actions are critical to ensure a safe reopening of our school and keep our doors open. As such, perfect attendance will not be awarded this year, and families are encouraged to make decisions driven by mitigation and prevention.