

Important Update from Pius XI Catholic High School

- As you may have read in previous communications from us, our City of Milwaukee address places the school under the jurisdiction of the City of Milwaukee Health Department as it relates to school health protocols that must be in place for the duration of the pandemic.

We are pleased to report the school's re-opening plan for the 2020-2021 school year was **APPROVED** by the Health Department Friday afternoon. We can now move forward with certainty that Pius XI will begin classes on Tuesday, September 8 in the hybrid phase. The deputy commissioner of the Health Department was very complimentary of our plan, stating it was one of the best plans they had reviewed to date. We do feel the plan has the right balance between the health and welfare of students and staff and the benefits of on campus instruction – all while offering flexibility to modify instruction approaches as circumstances may warrant.

- The revised calendar for the 2020-2021 school year is attached. This was also distributed along with the Pius XI Family Newsletter last Wednesday. Prior to the pandemic, the school calendar rarely changed once distributed to the school community. While we do not anticipate substantial changes to important school dates at this time, the calendar remains subject to modification should we need to react to unplanned health events and school closures. **Important upcoming dates over the next two weeks are at the end of this communication. Please make note.**
- **Incoming freshmen families:** for dates and times regarding freshmen orientation please see the information contained in the newsletter sent last Thursday - <https://www.smore.com/152gb-class-of-2024-newsletter>.
- **Prior** to your student picking up their books and chrome books beginning later this week, families **MUST sign the 2020-2021 Student/Parent Handbook. Please refer to the email communication sent August 21 at 11:40 am titled Pius XI Skyward Family Access. If you need Skyward assistance, email data@piusxi.org**
- The school has invested in a state-of-the-art **student integrated attendance and visitor experience** system. In addition to many security and other benefits, these modules will require students and staff to check in to every classroom and space when entering thereby allowing for efficient contact tracing should the need arise. And while we will be limiting visitors to the school, every essential visitor will be required to answer automated COVID screening questions allowing any concerns to be immediately addressed. Dean of Students, Jake Nowak, will provide more information about this new system in an upcoming communication.
- Pius XI teaching staff are busy planning and preparing for a school year unlike any they have ever experienced. Teaching in a hybrid model, becoming accustomed to a new schedule while also providing quality instruction to students who have opted for virtual only learning is a tall task. The teachers at Pius XI have embraced the challenge and are committed to providing our students with an excellent education in this context while working to preserve the Pius XI community. Our fundamental concern is to ensure our students feel connected and cared for as we help them grow academically, spiritually, and socially.

PLEASE READ - Important School Dates Over the Next Two Weeks

Thursday, August 27 - Freshmen COVID 19 procedure training, book and Chromebook pick-up and ID photos:

- Students with last names beginning with the letters **A-K, 9-11am**
- Students with last names beginning with letters **L-Z, 1-3pm**

Monday, August 31 - Sophomore COVID 19 procedure training, book and Chromebook pick-up:

- Students with last names beginning with the letters **A-K, 9-11am**
- Students with last names beginning with letters **L-Z, 1-3pm**

Tuesday, September 1 - Junior COVID 19 procedure training, book and Chromebook pick-up:

- Students with last names beginning with the letters **A-K, 9-11am**
- Students with last names beginning with letters **L-Z, 1-3pm**

Wednesday, September 2 - Senior COVID 19 procedure training, book and Chromebook pick-up:

- Students with last names beginning with the letters **A-K, 9-11am**
- Students with last names beginning with letters **L-Z, 1-3pm**

Thursday, September 3 - Make-up day for any student who missed their assigned COVID 19 procedure training, **9-11am**

All students are required to attend a COVID 19 procedure training session before starting in-person attendance at Pius XI. Students **must** be present at their assigned times. This is important for our planning for the correct number of people we have planned for each space we are using while following the required 6 feet distance between students. Students must wear masks. We will continue to send reminders about important upcoming dates in future communications.

Finally, we know how difficult the current environment has been on all of you. Each family has its own perspective and level of anxiety relating to the current health crisis. Normalcy seems like a far off concept. We all want life to return to “easier” times. And, it will eventually. We thank you, sincerely, for the patience and support you have displayed. You have entrusted us with your child and it is a responsibility we take very, very seriously. During this upcoming school year, which will be one for the record books, the health, welfare and academic growth of our students will be foremost on our minds. While extensive thought has been given to our plans, we have no doubt adjustments will need to be made. Please continue to share your feedback as it is valued. And let us keep one another in prayer. The Good Lord is by our side.

Sincerely,

Jack Herbert, President

Mark Ostap, Principal

Carol Ward, Chair, Pius XI Comes Home Committee