



Holy Family School – Learning for today, preparing for tomorrow.

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August 11th, 2021

Hello HFS families,

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year! We are looking forward to kicking off this school year in the next few weeks. It is going to be a great year with many new families joining us and a large group of families we have known for years. I am excited to view this year from my new perspective and get to know all of you!

We proudly made it through last year with no COVID cases here at Holy Family, and with God's blessing this year will be successful and healthy as well! Unfortunately COVID is not over as we had hoped it would be at this point, however, things are looking up as far as some requirements. We will need your help and flexibility to do this though.

The current Washington State DOH [guidance](#) states the following:

- **Masks Indoors:** All students, teachers, and visitors must wear masks when indoors at all K-12 school buildings regardless of vaccination status. We do ask that students in our Preschool and Transitional Kindergarten classrooms wear masks inside as well. At this age, though, we do understand that they may need some help and grace to keep masks on correctly. Teachers will give gentle guidance and reminders while inside, emphasizing those times when the kids are in close proximity to each other.
- **Masks Outdoors:** A new update to the state guidance this year: Students may remove their masks when outside! This will be a welcome change for all I am sure!
- **Health Screening:** The current guidelines don't require health questions or temperature checks. We do want to continue with our no-contact drop off procedures as last year by having volunteers and staff greet students and check to make sure they are feeling well. They will then ensure students get safely to their classrooms. **In order for our school to stay open and healthy, it will be essential that families monitor their child's health and keep kids home if they are developing symptoms or have been exposed to COVID.** Here is a [link](#) to the Thurston County COVID Student Pathway to help you decide when to keep your child home.

During the school day we will continue to have our classes be in "cohorts". This means kids in the classes will stay with their class for recess, lunch and specialists. This is not a requirement for the current DOH guidelines, but if we were to have a case reported and we don't take this precaution it could result in the entire school being shut down for a quarantine period versus just the one class who had been exposed. I think this is an important precaution to keep in place. We are excited to be able to go back to having "specialist time" with Mrs. Lewis teaching TK and K PE, Mr. Myers teaching 1st-8th grade PE and Mr. Smith teaching K-8 Music, Art and some Spanish culture (primarily 7th/8th graders) this year.

Lastly we would like to invite all families to our **Back-To-School Teacher Meet & Greet on Wednesday September 1st!**

We are going to have this be simply a “meet the teacher” night where you can visit your child’s classroom and meet some of your child’s peers. I will be in the gym with some of our planned extra curricular programs if you want to say hi or check out our band and sports programs. If you have a talent and want to sign up for volunteering with a current program like soccer club, or start a new club, you can do that there! We have created a [sign up genius](#) with times to sign up from 3:00-3:45, 4:00-4:45 or 5:00-5:45. Please note that you do need to keep to your chosen time frame so we have time to empty the parking lots between each group.

I am looking forward to a wonderful school year at HFS!

Sincerely,
Ms. Thompson
Principal, Holy Family School