

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Will Holy Child require testing before the return to school?

- We are following the CDC's recommendation that does not support surveillance testing as this kind of testing reflects only one point in time and may give a false sense of security and safety.

What is Holy Child's overall mask policy?

- Masks must be worn by all students, faculty and staff throughout the day. Students must wear solid color masks (not face coverings or gaiters) or masks purchased in the school store, cloth or disposable. Removal of masks will be considered a significant infraction and as such, there will be firm consequences in place.

Will there be mask-free time during the school day?

- Yes, opportunities will be available throughout the day, specifically when students are outside. Physical distancing would be enforced during these times.

Where will a student with COVID-19 symptoms be isolated?

- Holy Child has established an isolation room for any student displaying COVID-19 symptoms, located next to the School Nurse's Office. The isolation room has its own exit into the mansion circle so she will remain in this location under adult supervision until she is picked up by a parent/guardian.

What precautions will be taken for a child with risk factors and/or health issues?

- A family with concerns about an at-risk child or family member is encouraged to communicate with [Kim Calhoun, Dean of Student Academic Affairs](#), as soon as possible. From that point, individual options can be discussed in partnership with the family.

How does Holy Child plan to communicate a positive COVID-19 case?

- Following a report by School Nurse, Lila Smith, RN to the Westchester County Department of Health, communication from Holy Child to the entire school community will take place upon confirmation of a positive COVID-19 case, along with any plans implemented by the School. Proper cleaning and disinfection of the school will subsequently take place, according to CDC guidelines.

Will contact tracing take place?

- Multiple members of the faculty and staff, including School Nurse, Lila Smith, RN are completing a contact tracing training program and will serve as contact tracers for the Holy Child community. They will work in conjunction with the Department of Health to reach out to anyone who has been exposed.



Do students, faculty, and staff need to quarantine if they travel?

- Holy Child requires that all members of the community who are currently in a state or country that requires quarantine by New York State, to begin a quarantine two weeks before the date of orientation or the first day of school (depending on new or returning student status). A list of restricted states can be found on the current [NYS COVID-19 Travel Advisory](#).

Do students need a new physical examination for the 2020-2021 school year?

- Yes, please make sure that your daughter is up to date with her annual physical and vaccinations and that they've been emailed or sent to Lila Smith, RN, School Nurse.

How will student well-being be addressed?

- The School will partner with families to ensure the safety and well-being of Holy Child girls. Our counseling model has additional resources, the Health and Wellness curriculum has been revised to address the changing world and additional support sessions will be organized through Advisory Meetings and lunch hours to provide forums for students to discuss their experiences.

What does classroom sanitization look like?

- Each classroom contains a COVID-19 Kit that includes cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, extra masks, gloves and band-aids. Desks will be wiped down between class changes, where this applies. At the end of the school day, the classroom will be sanitized by the maintenance staff.

How often will cleaning happen in restrooms and other heavily touched areas?

- All high touch surfaces (bathrooms, railings, etc.) will be sanitized regularly throughout the school day, with personnel on rotation to ensure regular cleaning of these areas. As many interior doors as possible will be propped open to limit frequent door handle touch points. All facilities will be cleaned thoroughly after school hours, with deeper sanitization on Wednesdays. Hand sanitizing stations have been installed throughout the buildings, and bathrooms have been equipped with touch free faucets, soap dispensers and paper towel dispensers. Also, bathroom capacity will be limited for social distancing. Water fountains will not be able to be used, but the bottle filling stations will still be available.

What adjustments were made to the school's HVAC system?

- Following best practice recommendations, air filtration systems have been changed to MERV 13 filters and AC units in the Upper School will have filters sanitized as part of the daily cleaning schedule.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

What instructional formats will exist this year?

- On-Campus Learning: This format encompasses a modified schedule with in-person classes four days per week with safety protocols in place, and at-home learning one day per week. Wednesdays will be used as a deep cleaning day and students and faculty will work from home. This day will primarily be focused on asynchronous work, yet it will remain flexible to meet the needs of individual students, classes and the community.
- Distance Learning: This format is designed to serve students and faculty off-campus, working from home, should campus need to close for a period of time. The schedule is designed to transition to distance learning if needed.

What will happen if a student is unable to be on campus to attend class?

- At-home learning will be available on a case-by-case basis. Families with concerns about on-campus learning should contact [Kim Calhoun, Dean of Student Academic Affairs](#), as soon as possible to discuss alternative options.

What are the on-campus hours for the fall?

- School buildings will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; however, there are specific start and end times depending on division (see drop off and pick up question below). All school buildings will be closed to students at 4:00 p.m.

What other non-classroom areas are being used to accommodate instruction?

- Our 18+ acre campus provides numerous opportunities for additional learning spaces as needed. Large indoor commons spaces, such as the Theatre and Dining Hall, as well as various outdoor spaces (weather permitting) will be utilized.

Will students need additional supplies to begin the school year?

- All students should have their own hand sanitizer as well as a personal mask to wear throughout the day. If other additional supplies are needed to minimize shared contact, each division will communicate those needs separately.

Will students have access to the library?

- Library resources will be available for all students. Upper School students who wish to use the library during the school day will need to complete a Library Pass form with Ms. Kat Sanford.

What will the grading model be for the school year?

- Holy Child will continue its traditional grading philosophy for the fall regardless of the instructional format. Teachers will use numerous indicators in their assessment of students. Refer to the 2020-2021 student handbook for specific criteria.

What will hands-on, active-learning look like with shared materials?

- Collaborative work may look different at the start of 2020-2021, but the school remains committed to active learning in the safest way possible. During labs and similar group activities, healthy practices, such as gloves and disinfectant wipes, will be expected. The school will limit the number of shared supplies, providing pre-packaged materials and kits when possible.



What will drop off and pick up look like?

- **Middle School students:** Check-in is from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.; once students are permitted to enter the building, they will head directly to their assigned classroom. Dismissal begins at 2:30 p.m. Limited aftercare is available until 4:00 p.m.
- **Upper School students:** Check-in is from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.; once students are permitted to enter the building, they will head directly to their assigned classroom. Dismissal begins at 3:00 p.m.
- Please refer to the Reopening Plan for Holy Child for specific drop off/pick up locations and procedures.

How does drop off work if you have daughters in different divisions?

- If you have daughters in both divisions, please try to arrive as close to 8:00 a.m. as possible.

Will there be before and after-school care?

- There is no before-school care; students should arrive as close to their assigned drop-off time as possible. Limited aftercare will be available until 4:00 p.m. after which school buildings will be closed. More information about registering for aftercare will be forthcoming.

What faculty professional development has taken place to prepare for the uncertain 2020-2021 school year?

- Faculty and staff at Holy Child are lifelong learners who continue to fine-tune their approaches to classroom pedagogy. Moreover, recent teacher professional development has been predominantly virtual, with teachers attending conferences through Independent School Management, One Schoolhouse, and the National Association of Independent Schools. Additional training on the usage of Veracross in supporting curriculum development was led by the in-house technology team. Resources were created and shared that supported teacher development. The Holy Child faculty and staff will dedicate opening meetings and collaboration time through the year for further training and support to best prepare for the 2020-2021 school year.

Will tuition be adjusted for the 2020-2021 school year?

- Given the comprehensive teaching program we are implementing as described in the reopening plan, we will not be reducing tuition rates for the 2020-2021 school year. However, we are exploring the possibility of rebates due to the possible reduction of services provided, such as lunch, athletics and other activities. Any rebate would be issued only for the appropriate portions of the school year when these specific services are materially reduced. We are looking at this closely in relation to the services we will be providing, and we will let families know what we determine before the start of the 2020-2021 school year.



CAMPUS LIFE AND ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Will the uniform code change?

- Students are expected to wear regular school uniforms, as described in detail in the [Uniform Guidelines](#), while they are on campus. Dress down days and Gryphon Spirit Days will be communicated in advance. *Please note that any solid colored mask is now a daily uniform requirement when on campus.*

What is the current status of bus and shuttle transportation?

- If your daughter has normally taken district buses to school, please contact your local district to determine the status and protocols that will be implemented.
- We continue to partner with County Coach Bus Company to provide our Gryphon Shuttles to and from the Rye and White Plains MetroNorth train stations. County Coach has released safety guidelines that are available on the Parent Portal. The School plans to offer one Gryphon Shuttle each day from the Rye and White Plains MetroNorth Train Station. Capacity on each shuttle is 42 students. As families consider transportation needs, please fill out the transportation form on the Parent Portal.

What are the lunch options?

- We will continue to partner with Flik to provide lunch to students, delivered to their homeroom classes. Our target is to have four options available, including a hot option, although there may be fewer options initially as the new process gets up and running. Flik is providing an app where lunch selections can be made, most likely a week in advance. Students may bring their own lunch if preferable. The specifics for ordering, as well as the process to provide for food allergies, will be determined and communicated in the coming weeks.

How will the Admission Office handle prospective student visits?

- Student visits will be conducted virtually at the beginning of the school year. During the spring and summer, virtual tours were produced for prospective families to view at home. The Admission Office continues to explore creative ways to introduce Holy Child to prospective students and families.

