



HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL

BE IN THAT NUMBER

Frequently Asked Questions from the Parent Survey

1. What is the difference between the Virtual At-Home option and CASE learning?

Virtual At-Home is for families who must keep their children at home to prevent possible exposure. This is an option for families with students or family members who are high risk and cannot return to the building. Families who need the Virtual At-Home option will still be Holy Spirit families and will have a spot in the classroom to return to the building after the first or second semester. CASE learning refers to the remote learning program that will be implemented in the event that groups of students or the entire student body must remain home for a period of time. CASE learning is temporary at-home learning until students who were on campus are allowed to return to campus.

2. If I am not comfortable with a Tier 1 or Tier 2 opening, when will we know more about the Virtual At-Home option? When do I have to decide?

With the best interest of our students and teachers in mind, we have decided to offer a Virtual At-Home option in conjunction with the Diocese of Birmingham through Catholic Virtual, a fully virtual Catholic program taught by certified teachers following the curriculum of the Diocese of Birmingham and Holy Spirit. We have a meeting with Catholic Virtual on Tuesday, July 21 to finalize details of the Virtual At-Home option. We will send full details on Wednesday, July 22. A decision deadline will be included with those details.

3. Will students at school and students in the Virtual At-Home program have the same learning experience?

The students in the Virtual At-Home program through Catholic Virtual and students coming to Holy Spirit campus will follow the same curriculum. The programs, however, will be distinct. Students in the Virtual At-Home program will have Catholic Virtual teachers, assignments designed for at-home learning, and a schedule appropriate for at-home learning. Students in the Virtual At-Home program will be in classes with other students from around the Diocese of Birmingham. Grades will be reported to and issued by Holy Spirit. Families will have to commit to the Virtual At-Home program by semester.

4. If I send my child to school under a Tier 1 or Tier 2 and decide that it is too risky, can I change my mind and enroll in the Virtual At-Home option?

Decisions made prior to the start of school, whether opting into the Virtual At-Home or in person learning, cannot be changed until the first semester is over. This will maintain the

continuity of both programs and will allow for a smooth transition either way at the semester mark.

5. If the school transitions from a Tier 1 or Tier 2 to a Tier 3, will CASE learning be similar to last spring? Will there be improvements?

It will be similar, but yes with improvements. There will be increased time on Zoom with teachers at the elementary school level with more structure to the day. This will mean that students will have to treat the day more like a regular school day. The elementary school will continue to use Google Classroom. Middle and high school students will follow a schedule of Zoom classes. There will be more class meetings with teachers via Zoom. Students and teachers will use the FACTS LMS for assignments, projects, and grades. This system will provide a more streamlined and functional platform for communication and assignment submission, for instance. We will provide professional development and additional planning for teachers prior to the beginning of school.

6. If students are quarantined due to a positive case, what will be the mode of instruction for those 14 days?

At the elementary school level if the student is home due to a positive case, their classmates and teacher will be home as well, and learning for that class will become CASE learning for those 14 days. In the middle and high school, students at home will move to CASE learning with access to all material and in-class lessons.

7. What are the plans for attending mass?

Two to three grade levels a week will attend mass in person with social distancing while wearing masks. The rest of the school will watch via livestream in their classrooms. We will rotate grade levels every week.

8. Will face shields be allowed?

Face shields will not be allowed for students as they do not provide the same level of protection for the wearer or their fellow students.

9. What else can you tell us about face masks?

Given the current rates in our community, we will require face masks for all students at the beginning of the year. Students in grades 4-12 will be required to wear face masks at all times in the building. PK3-3rd will be required to wear face masks when social distancing cannot be maintained and when moving through the building. While we view the ear loop mask as the safest choice, PK3-K will be allowed to wear neck gaiter style masks; all other students must wear masks with ear loops or straps that tie behind the head. Solid color masks are preferred. Masks that are a single solid color with a light pattern are acceptable. Masks may not have writing or images.