



Nativity Preparatory School: Fall Reopening Plan 2020

Introduction

Dear Nativity Families,

We pray that you are all safe and well during these very challenging times. As a community and world, we continue through this pandemic to be faced with an unsettled situation and very difficult decisions. Through information gathered in family and faculty surveys we can see that there is a desire to return to school in some form, if it can be done safely. Using guidance provided by local and national leadership in government, health, and education, we have determined that a limited return to school in a hybrid approach of both in-class and remote learning is the current best course of action at this time. We know that no plan is perfect and that it is impossible to eliminate all risk. We also stress throughout this document that our plans will continue to evolve as the situation with COVID-19 changes in our local area. Our intention is to provide you with the information that you need in order to make an informed family decision.

Of course, reopening schools responsibly involves implementing a whole host of health and safety practices from the wearing of masks to keeping physical distancing to practices for cleaning and disinfecting our facility. You'll find those practices described in detail in our reopening plan. We intend to implement them with rigor and discipline, and they will become a defining part of our school culture in the months ahead. Our decision is also rooted in the conviction that our approach to reopening--establishing limited but meaningful, in person educational and formational experiences--is the best way forward to serve our boys within our school.

Lastly, our decision to reopen is rooted in our Jesuit mission of education and formation. Our mission statement challenges us to promote the intellectual, spiritual, social, and physical growth that inspires boys from Boston to be men for others. We have every intention of keeping to that promise. As Pope Francis reminds us, doing this work requires that educators *accompany* our young people. Our faculty and staff have worked hard to come up with a system and schedule that allows us to accompany our boys as we rebound from a period of six months of near isolation from one another. The journey will not always be an easy one but our team is ready to do everything we can to provide a meaningful educational experience for your sons. Of course, if circumstances or government mandates require us to return to fully online, remote learning, we will be ready to do so as well.

We wish to conclude by expressing our utmost gratitude to you, our families. Your patience, support, and feedback have been instrumental in keeping us going as we prepare for a year that will be unlike any other in our lives. Together, we will create an environment where students are engaged, and families are supported.

With Gratitude and appreciation,

Brian Maher - President

Gadisa Goso - Principal

The Plan-*First Draft*

There are 3 things that will remain true as we reopen this fall.

1. Our decisions will be guided by science. We will only open and stay open if local and state health commissions deem it safe to do so.
2. Things can change quickly! As we know by now, knowledge about the virus changes often and conditions on the ground in Boston may change quickly as well. Therefore, we must all be ready to adapt quickly.
3. Your voice will be heard. We simply cannot do any of this without your input. Together, with our faculty and partners, we will communicate directly and continuously to ensure decisions are not made without feedback from our community.

As we work to reopen Nativity Prep in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are committed to ensuring that all of our students return to safe and joyful learning environments where our students can thrive. This first draft of the Nativity Prep Reopening Plan, like all subsequent drafts that will follow, will change as the circumstances continue to evolve.

That said, in the fall of 2020, families will have the option of choosing either a Hybrid In-Person/Remote or a 5-day remote-learning option.

The #1 goal in coming up with this plan was working to answer the following question:

How can we ensure all students can access meaningful learning experiences both remotely and in person while maintaining the highest levels of safety for our community?

To achieve our goals of safety, community engagement, and student learning, we identified that a hybrid model is the best approach. This will allow students and teachers to continue learning together in the classroom in a way that is as safe as possible while also offering the choice for students to continue learning remotely.

Hybrid Learning

- Each grade will be made into 2 learning pods (i.e. Pod A & Pod B) and will be present in the building 2 days a week for the full school day. One pod will be in the building for in person learning on Monday and Tuesday, while the other pod is at home. Both pods switch for Thursday and Friday. No students will be in the building on Wednesday, however, there will be asynchronous work, office hours for teacher follow up, Social Emotional Learning with our Guidance Counselors, whole grade community building activities and time for teachers to plan and prepare for the transition between pods.
- Families will have the choice of attending school under the hybrid model (2 day in person learning, 3 days remote), or remaining home for the full five-day week. This choice will remain in place until the end of the first term on November 8th. **Students whose families choose to opt out of the hybrid plan and remain in remote learning**

for 5 days will still be included in a learning pod and will participate in class via Zoom or Google Meet.

- On the days that students are not physically in the school building, they will have a remote school schedule for classes and work that will be assigned by their teachers. Morning assembly will be held from 8:30-8:45 AM virtually each morning for all students. Attendance for both in-person and remote learners will be taken at this time.
- Students will remain in one classroom with their learning pod throughout the day for morning exercises, morning assembly, academic classes, snacks, and lunch. Smaller class sizes will guarantee that safe distance is possible within this space for students and teachers. We have incorporated ample time for hand washing and bathroom breaks between transitions throughout the school day.
- After arrival and before morning assembly, students and teachers will participate in morning exercises to continue to develop their mental and physical health at the start of their day. Each grade will have recess twice a day and there are other periods of downtime to take mask breaks and for handwashing. We will make use of the gym, chapel, and outdoor spaces when possible to ensure students have time and space to exercise, bond, and have fun with each other safely.

Remote Learning

The Nativity Prep Remote Learning Plan is not merely required by state regulators, it is critical to the success of our ability to continue to meet the educational needs of our students for two specific reasons:

1. Given the ever-evolving nature of the virus, Nativity Prep will initiate and/or be ready to pivot to fully remote learning if and when public safety requires it. We will not make that decision in a vacuum: we will make it in reliance on the Boston Public Health Commission's constant monitoring of the infection rate and other COVID-specific metrics within our community. If the Boston Public Health Commission advises that schools not reopen for in-person learning due to the current state of the COVID-19 virus, Nativity Prep will start the fall with remote learning for all students.

If the public health guidance allows Nativity Prep to open its buildings and serve students in a hybrid model including some in-person learning, we will do so. If at any point the public health guidance changes and indicates in-person learning is not safe closed - we will change course immediately by offering high quality remote learning to all Nativity Prep students until such time as it is safe for us to return to our school buildings.

2. No matter what the Boston Public Health Commission directs or what level of public health and safety measures are put in place, not all Nativity Prep families will decide it is safe to send their son(s) back to school buildings at the beginning of the school year. Whether to protect elderly household members from the possibility of asymptomatic community spread of the disease or for any other reason, some families will choose to keep their son(s) home and engage in remote learning. At Nativity Prep, we will honor

that choice: any family that chooses to have their son(s) continue in the remote learning model offered by Nativity Prep will be considered fully enrolled and progressing toward grade completion throughout at least the first quarter of school year 2020-2021.

The Nativity Prep COVID Educational Planning Committee, along with school leadership and faculty are in the process of fine-tuning and adjusting our remote learning schedule. We will send a link with that information when it becomes finalized.

Orientation

Orientation for students begins on August 31st. We will use this time to assess students academically, socially and emotionally, as well as do a technological assessment to address any technology needs of our students. Final details for schedule and programs are currently in the works and will be forwarded as soon as possible.

We will also have an orientation for parents to answer questions and provide guidance and support. We will also provide any training that may be required for parents.

Start of School

The academic school year will begin on Thursday, September 10th, 2020.

The state has provided flexibility with regards to the start of the school year, however, we did not determine a need to make that adjustment at this point in time.

Daily schedule, Drop-Off/Pick Up

The doors of Nativity Prep will open at 7:30am. However, to help organize the start and end of the school day, we will be implementing a new drop off and pick up procedure. This will help reduce congestion in front of the school and provide for a more orderly and safer process of drop off and pick up. Due to safety requirements, we cannot have students entering in groups or congregating at or near the entrance and exits as they wait for rides.

The daily schedule was designed to ensure all students receive their core classes (Reading/Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science) plus one elective (Religion, SEL, Art, Test Prep) with ample time for movement, enrichment, cleaning, washing and sanitizing each day. The changes required to mitigate the risk of Covid-19 have greatly changed the look of our day. Unfortunately, Nativity will no longer offer Afternoon Activities in its traditional form between 3:30-5pm and we are no longer offering Dinner Program/ Evening Study as well. The school day will end at 4pm for everyone. We will reevaluate our program and schedules at the end of the first term.

Constantly Evaluating

We are in a fluid situation that calls for continuous and transparent evaluations of our program including operating procedures, academic scheduling, and other important practices that will ensure the smooth and safe operation of in person schooling.

While we will be constantly monitoring and adjusting, it is our intention to officially reevaluate the Hybrid model in the first week of October as well as the conclusion of the first term on November 8th. The evaluations will be conducted by the Nativity Prep COVID Educational Planning Committee and recommendations will be made as needed.

Health and Safety

As we prepare to return to our school buildings, all members of the Nativity community must do their part to ensure the health and safety of students, families and staff by strictly complying with the following public health requirements.

Home Health Screenings

Every day - before sending their students to school or allowing them to board public transportation in order to get to school - parents/guardians must complete a home health screening checklist for your son. The draft home health checklist can be reviewed below.

Although the written results of the checklist do not need to be submitted to the school, if the checklist reveals that a student has any COVID-19 related symptoms the parent/guardian must:

1. Keep the student home; do not send the student to school.
2. Report the absence to their school administration, noting if the absence is COVID-related.
3. Call the family's primary care doctor or community health center to schedule testing for COVID-19.

If positive, this will allow Nativity Prep to advise the family on how to work with the Boston Public Health Commission to determine the risk to others through any advised contact tracing.

Testing

COVID-19 Testing Not Required for Initial Return. Because the COVID-19 virus can be contagious from carriers who do not yet have or feel any symptoms, fever is not always the first indicator of infection. Current guidance from the CDC and BPHC does not recommend testing of all students and staff prior to their initial return to school or even temperature testing of all students. Nativity Prep will be testing and checking students' temperatures prior to allowing them to enter our school building. This is in addition to the health screening identified above. Should the public health guidance change, Nativity will immediately update its requirements.

Handwashing

The most effective way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is for everyone to wash hands often and thoroughly with soap and water or to clean hands using a sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Using ample time provided in the schedule, all Nativity Prep students and staff will be expected to engage in frequent handwashing and/or hand sanitation throughout the day and specifically in the following situations:

- After nose blowing, coughing, or sneezing
- Before entering or exiting a yellow school bus or public transportation
- Before entering or exiting the school building
- Before putting on or removing a face covering/mask
- Before and after eating and/or preparing food
- Before touching one's eyes or face
- After using or assisting someone in the bathroom
- Before putting on and after removing gloves
- After touching garbage

Appropriate hand sanitizer will be available every school entryway, hallways, and classroom.

Wearing a Mask

Public health experts agree that people should wear face coverings (masks) whenever they are within six feet of another person in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Everyone is expected to wear a mask whenever inside our school building or vehicle, or outside on school grounds when others are within a distance of six feet or less. Accommodations will be made for our youngest learners, students with sensory issues and for our most vulnerable and medically fragile special needs students, as appropriate and necessary.

Nativity Prep expects all students and staff to bring and wear their own cloth masks whenever possible and appropriate. Anyone who forgets their reusable mask will be provided a disposable mask to wear within the school building. Staff will be provided written protocols on how to teach appropriate mask wearing and storage, to aid them in teaching their students how best to protect themselves and their classmates and teachers.

Physical Distancing

Physical distancing - defined for purposes of this document as staying at least six feet apart from any other person - keeps everyone safer by minimizing face-to-face interactions and limiting the spread of COVID-19. When Nativity reopens, all students and staff are expected to maintain six feet of physical distance at all times possible.

We will implement this directive as follows:

- School entryways and hallways will be marked with traffic flow lanes and/or signage to ensure that students maintain physical distancing when traveling through the school.
- Signage will be posted throughout each school building reminding all occupants to physically distance themselves from others.

- Large group interactions will be eliminated or reduced when feasible.
- Restroom use will be limited to the number of students required to maintain physical distancing.
- Cubbies will not be used, and students will be asked to keep their belongings in a bin at their desk in the classroom. Nativity Prep will provide bins for students to use.
- Desks will be arranged in such a manner as to provide appropriate physical distancing. All layouts will be designed to maintain six feet of physical distance between all persons present at any one time, including markings on the floors.

School Nurses

Nativity Prep will be staffed with a full time, professionally licensed, school nurse. Within the school setting, our nurses are our first responders when it comes to keeping our community as healthy and safe as possible. To aid them in doing this critical job easier, the following supports have been put in place.

- As necessary, an isolation space will be created to deal with potentially sick students. This space will be located on the Catwalk space and the isolation area will have access to the Chestnut St. entrance for a safe exit and pick up. This will better protect both the health of the school community and the medical privacy of students.
- Nurses will be provided personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriate to their role as health care professionals.

COVID-19 Protocols

School nurses will be provided training on all COVID-19 health-related protocols. In turn, Nativity nurses will provide appropriate training to the staff in their buildings so all adults in the school community are equipped with the information they need to help ensure the health and safety of our students and staff.

Response to a Symptomatic Person

If a person becomes symptomatic while in our school building, our nurse will follow the protocol for medical evaluation, potential isolation in our designated isolation space, follow-up and return to school. Working through our reporting structure, our nurse will collaborate with the Boston Public Health Commission to report any suspected cases of exposure or transmission of COVID-19.

Testing

Current guidance from the CDC and BPHC recommends testing in the presence of symptoms, and/or when an individual has been exposed to someone with COVID-19. If unable to obtain testing through their own health care provider, families may be able to access COVID-19 testing through mobile sites located throughout the City. We are prepared to assist Nativity families who cannot find adequate testing.

Response to Positive COVID-19 Test

If an individual in a school is confirmed, suspects, or has been in contact with someone confirmed to have COVID-19, Nativity Prep will notify the BPHC Infectious Disease Bureau to receive direction. Next steps may include quarantining a group of students/faculty or the whole

school; providing necessary information for Boston Public Health Commission Infectious Disease to conduct contact tracing; and providing direction regarding when individuals can return to school or work.

Social Emotional Learning

The Nativity Student Services Team, made up of faculty, administrators and our guidance counselors, will be providing training for families, staff and students on dealing with trauma, supporting the social-emotional needs of students during this public health crisis, creating trauma sensitive classroom environments, and creating optimal learning environments at home. Training opportunities will begin during student orientation and will be a foundational component of support for our boys as we work towards a successful reopening.

Operations and Procedures

Transportation (MBTA, Rides, and Carpooling)

Students will continue to qualify for free M7 T-passes to enable them to ride the MBTA to and from school. Students will continue to pick these up on the first day of in-person learning. All students riding the MBTA must comply with public health requirements, including by wearing a mask.

Students arriving by car will be asked to follow a specific drop off and pick up procedure that will ensure a safe and organized manner of entering and exiting the school building. This will include possible drop off times and using designated lanes to drop off/pick up. More information will be provided as the procedure is finalized.

If you plan on carpooling with other families, we ask that you provide that information to us when you choose an option for your son. We will design our student pods based on such information.

Facilities

We have spent the summer months getting school ready for students to return safely in the fall. As with everything else affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, our school sanitation processes, classroom layouts, offices, and overall school operations have all been altered to ensure we can keep students and staff physically distanced and compliant with all other public health guidelines.

Visitors-Not Allowed

As a means of keeping students and staff healthy and safe, visitors - including parents or caregivers - will not be allowed to our school building for any purpose. This prohibition does not apply to vendors necessary for providing school services, like cleaning services. Meetings and discussions between parents and faculty/staff shall be conducted via Zoom. If a parent needs to drop something off or conduct other business, a faculty member will meet you outside of the front door to assist you.

HVAC/Air Filtration

Both current CDC guidance and the July 22, 2020 directives issued by DESE require that schools maximize air movement in school buildings in order to help minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure. In direct compliance with this guidance, we have added window fans in each classroom that will circulate fresh air in while exhausting the air in the classroom. We are also providing each classroom with a HEPA certified Air Filtration unit as an extra measure to meet current guidelines.

Classroom Setup

Generally, each classroom will only contain the amount of desks needed to accommodate each student. Given that the hybrid model allows only approximately half of the students to be present for in-person learning on any given day, it will be possible to seat students at desks so that each student is six feet away from the next nearest student and from the teacher. Since only one group of students is present in the classroom on any specific day, appropriate physical distancing can be maintained.

Bathrooms

The number of students allowed in a restroom simultaneously will vary depending on the size and layout of restrooms in light of the requirement to keep at least six feet of distance between individuals. Toilet partitions provide appropriate separation for individual stalls. Where necessary, signage will direct the use of every other urinal, or restroom sink to allow for appropriate distancing. There will also be a hall monitor on the third floor hallway who will ensure proper usage of the bathrooms and sinks.

Food

Meals, including breakfast, snack, and lunch will be delivered and consumed in each classroom at designated times of the day. Food will be provided by Revolution Foods.

Water

Students are encouraged to bring their own reusable water bottles, filled with water, on all days they report to school buildings for in person learning.

Technology

As it did throughout the spring period of remote learning and is currently doing during our summer learning programming, our staff has worked hard to meet the technological needs of our students. After conducting a technology assessment upon the start of student orientation, Nativity Prep has and will distribute reliable devices to anyone who needs one to ensure they can continue to access online learning.

These are our priorities:

- To provide Chromebooks and hot spots to all students and staff that need them. Each computer will have a camera, microphone and speakers to facilitate online learning and teaching, as needed.
- To ensure all students and staff have reliable internet access to complete their work, including through the provision of WIFI and hotspots.

- To assist our academic team and educators in obtaining, learning to use and utilizing digital learning tools and existing system applications.
- To identify and prioritize a core set of educational tools (i.e. Google Classroom) in order to provide robust support for an overall portfolio of systems that are secure, stable, and effective.
- If a student needs access to a device, internet support, or technology repair, contact Nativity Prep and arrangements will be made.

Communications Plan

Family input and buy-in is critical to the success of any plan. That being said, upon the release of this plan, we want to also communicate that we want to hear from you, our families, on this plan.

- The Nativity Prep Reopening Draft Plan has been emailed as of Friday, August 7th.
- Families should use the next few days to analyze and study the hybrid plan and [answer the Survey](#). This is where you will indicate your preference for either option. **We need 100 percent participation on this questionnaire.**
- On Thursday, August 13th, we will conduct a series of Town Halls and Information Session on our reopening plan. Grades are grouped together and will meet with President Brian Maher, Principal Gadisa Goso, a member of the administration team, and a faculty member. We will be on hand to answer any questions, concerns, or suggestions you may have. Here are the times:

Thursday August 13th

Grade 4 and Grade 5	5pm via Zoom
Grade 6 and Grade 7	6pm via Zoom
Grade 8	7pm via Zoom

Friday, August 14th(Make-Up Date)

All Grades	11am via Zoom
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Of course, you can call the school at any time if you cannot make any of those times next week. We would be more than happy to accommodate individual families.

Choosing the Plan

Families will have the option to choose the Hybrid Model or the 5 Day Remote Learning Option. Upon reading this planning document, [please fill out the Google Survey](#) to indicate your preference for the fall. It should be noted that once you choose an option for your son, you will not be allowed to switch until the end of the first quarter on November 8th, 2020.

We will follow up with families with a direct phone call if we do not hear back by Monday.

FAQ

A Frequently Asked Questions document can be [found on our website](#).