

Dear Nolan Catholic Families,

I hope everyone is well! Thank you for the positive feedback regarding the Nolan Catholic *Return to Campus* document. The general expectations in the document are meant to be an overview and serve as a guide in how we will make decisions on the day-to-day details. Over the next several days, information will be shared and adjusted accordingly to the most recent restrictions. As stated in the communication on Wednesday, I am providing more information on the academic side of returning to school for the fall. Included in this communication, please find a sample of an on-campus block schedule, an attachment with frequently asked questions for distance learning, and a link for a survey to choose the best mode of learning. Also included, is the *Return to Campus* document with a few revisions. The *Return to Campus* document will be updated regularly and posted on our website.

Overview for on-campus instruction:

Our goal is to continue the excellent Catholic school experience focusing on faith, academics, and student life while adhering to the most current restrictions and continuing the Nolan Catholic tradition in offering our students a safe and exemplary educational experience.

As we plan to have our students on campus, we are excited to continue engagement in fine arts, athletics, leadership teams, Life Team, Christian Ministry, and clubs along with our new engineering, culinary arts, and aquatics program. The new natatorium and IDEA building are ready for students! We can't wait for our broadcast students to experience the new green room and editing suite, art students to create in the open concept setting overlooking the city of Fort Worth, and the engineering classes to have an entire floor for hands-on experiences with our new Project Lead the Way program. We now have more than six different courtyard areas offering options for instruction and learning in an outdoor setting. Breathtaking statues and art have been placed throughout the indoor and outdoor areas of our Nolan Catholic campus to offer beautiful spaces for prayer and reflection during the school day. We will continue working to provide our students with a sense of beauty to continue learning and exploring with truth and intention.

In providing our students a beautiful place to learn, we are strategically working through logistics, partnering with sanitation companies, and setting up disinfectant and cleaning schedules both commercially and locally, while assuming our own roles in keeping every environment safe and usable for all of our students to experience. Listed in the *Return to Campus* document, it was stated that desks in all classrooms will not be distanced for students to be 6-feet apart. However, desks are positioned in most classrooms to allow students to be distanced 4-5 feet apart. Some of the larger classrooms will have enough room for 6-foot distancing. Additionally, according to the most recent orders, students will be required to wear masks throughout the entire school day. Next week we will send more detailed information about lunches and day-to-day procedures along with a revised *Return to Campus* document to reflect the most recent restrictions and guidelines to support on-campus learning.

In regard to academics and the actual school day, the expectations of the Nolan Catholic classroom encouraging students to think critically, discuss, research, plan, present, discover, and explore will continue in every subject area. Students on-campus will be working through courses with a block schedule in classrooms allowing for an extended time to truly engage and connect to learning. The block schedule will also allow for fewer transition times with four classes per day on a rotating schedule throughout the week. An example is attached to show a sample block schedule that will be similar to what we will use in the fall.

Overview for Distance Learning

Some families may need to continue with the distant learning option due to health concerns. Administration will work with families and students individually to develop a specific plan to assess adequate technical support to continue learning from home. A Distance Learning Team member will offer attention to developing and delivering high-quality online instruction with the teachers assigned to each student's schedule. Both On-Campus and Distance Learning will be aligned with instruction, assignments, and assessments. Teachers will

distribute the same weekly communication with an overview of the week's lessons and assignments for both On-Campus and Distance Learning students. Expectations for turning in assignments on time will be aligned with the course syllabus and guidelines set for each course according to the teacher for students on campus and at home. Intentional feedback and grading will be similar for both modes of learning.

Students learning at home will work with the teacher to schedule instruction, which may be during the actual class-time on the schedule. Students learning at home will be expected to participate in weekly Mass and continue earning service hours with the many virtual options available. Learning support will be available to all students learning on campus and at home. Counselors and staff members will be assigned and serve as advocates to each family requesting Distance Learning to monitor progress throughout each quarter. Advocates will work with the family to assess student-teacher communication, overall productivity, and consistency of tracking school work and assignments.

Please find the attached ***F.A.Q. Distance Learning*** document specific to the Distance Learning option at Nolan Catholic.

Overview:

- All students will receive a weekly overview of instruction, lessons, assignments, and assessments according to each course whether students are on campus or home.
- All students are expected to turn in assignments. Guidelines set by the school handbook and teacher syllabi will be shared with students on the first days of school. Class participation, engagement in learning, turning in assignments on time, and attendance are expected in both models for learning.
- On-Campus and Distance Learning will have instruction, lessons, and assignments that are aligned to help with fluidity in transitions throughout the school year.
- As a rule of thumb, students are expected to be available and actively engaged during the hours of the school day.

Link for Learning

We look forward to seeing our Vikings in the fall! Administrators, learning support staff, counselors, and the Distance Learning Team will work with all families as we maneuver through these times of uncertainty. We are aligning Distance Learning work with what is expected in the classroom to help with fluid transitions. Our goal is to keep expectations as similar as possible for On-Campus and Distance Learning in the event that we have students who become ill or need to transition from one mode to the other due to extenuating circumstances. Please use this [link](#) to answer questions for each child attending Nolan Catholic for the 2020-2021 school year by July 23, 2020. We understand the uncertainty of choosing an option at this time. This information will help us in preparing for student learning and instruction for both On-Campus and through Distance Learning. Families may work with administration to adjust decisions as we get closer to August 11th.

Nolan Catholic has excellent support teams to help students and families throughout this journey. We will continue to partner and work together to provide opportunities and nurture the natural love of learning while being open to the gifts of God.

Many prayers for a restful weekend!

Leah Rios