



*Through our Catholic lens: Building Relationships...Getting the Highest Student Achievement...Creating the Greatest Culture & Climate!*

July 20, 2020

Dear Sacred Heart Families,

Thank you for your flexibility and communication as we continue to evolve our back-to-school plans for the 2020-2021 school year. We are still having ongoing conversations regarding a virtual program being available for those families who choose to stay home for reasons related to COVID-19, but we feel comfortable sharing some of the broad strokes of that plan today.

### **Virtual Learning Option Philosophy**

We believe that the purpose of the SHS Virtual Program is to maintain the student's & their family's Catholic identity, keep them integrated in our community of faith, continue their academic growth, and maintain their social-emotional health. A student's and/or their family's health concerns or any related anxiety either way should not be a barrier to any of those purposes. We believe God is in all things. Your children will be provided with a focused education from a Catholic perspective - rooted in virtues and focused on God's love for us. This is true no matter whether that education is taking place in-person or virtual.

### **Virtual Learning Option Details**

- As we partner, we will need your understanding and cooperation in supporting students learning from home. This program will have a pace commensurate with that which happens during a normal school day. It will not have a Wednesday/Saturday release as we did at the end of last school year.
- If choosing the virtual option, the commitment is for one grading period. As we approach the next grading period, families will have the opportunity to continue the virtual program or join the in-person program.
- Assignments & opportunities will start to be posted by 9am each day the school is open. The goal is to mirror what is being done in the classroom as much as possible.
- We are working on strategies to record and post teacher lessons.
- Students will need to show evidence of work each school day between 9:00 and 2:00. Attendance will need to be recorded daily and students will need to check in throughout the day. Work cannot all be done in the evenings or at night. This is important as we seek to keep virtual program students integrated with their school community of faith.
- It is important students adhere to assignment due dates unless there is an illness.



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- Teachers will provide weekly feedback in a narrative form for K-2 and on assignments in 3-8.
- Teachers will have “office hours” on certain days and times to video chat with students at home.
- At times, students may need to come to the building for key assessments and assignments.
- Students in the virtual program will have the opportunity to attend Mass live with the rest of the school or watch the livestream of the Mass.
- We plan to offer opportunities for students to use Google Meets to interact with their classes at times.
- There will be opportunities to pick up/drop off supplies.
- Books and materials will be made available for pick up to be used at home.
- Devices may or may not be available to lend out as they may be needed in the classrooms.
- Tuition agreements, policies, and practices will remain in effect and binding during any virtual learning period.

We recognize that every family has a unique situation and a choice. We appreciate your commitment to providing a transformative Catholic education for your child. We are committed to partnering with you during this unprecedented time.

**If you are interested in the virtual program for the first quarter of the school year, you will need to contact the office via email ([office@shswarsaw.org](mailto:office@shswarsaw.org)) or phone and indicate that you wish to enroll your child in the virtual program to start the 2020-2021 school year by the end of the day on Friday, July 24th.** In the meantime, know of my prayers for you and your families as you discern and prepare for the 2020-2021 school year. We will continue to send out back to school information next week regarding our back-to-school nights from 3-7 pm on August 10th & 11th.

Please know of our prayers as we all discern what is best for our families. If you have any questions regarding the program, feel free to contact the school (information at the bottom of this letter), and please keep our school leaders and teachers in your prayers as we prepare to provide the best experience for our Scholars!

Sincerely,

Mr. Mike McClain,  
Principal