



MR. JAMES MCNEANY
PRINCIPAL, GUERIN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



SEPTEMBER 4, 2020

Today's Guerin Catholic update outlines many changes that will be implemented next week. Some are mandated to us from the Indiana State Department of Health, such as the new return to school policy from illness or symptoms, and others are our decisions to try and find the best educational plan given our current situation.

The greatest benefit of our blended instruction model is that with only 50% of our students in the building, it will allow for greater social distancing. Each time we get a confirmed positive COVID case we are mandated to place into quarantine any student who has been within six feet of them for fifteen minutes or more. With everyone in the building at the same time, spacing our students six feet or more in the classrooms and lunchroom was not possible and so the number of students who had to quarantine was becoming unmanageable and creating an unhealthy environment for our students. The new blended instruction model should greatly reduce the need to quarantine due to the close contact caused by classroom or lunchroom seating arrangements. Certainly, there will still be close contact quarantining because of sports practices, sharing rides, or contact outside of school, but those are all optional activities the students enter into knowing the risks involved during this pandemic.

As part of this transition to blended instruction, I also want to explain why we are beginning with a one-hour delay schedule. In consultation with other schools that began the year using a blended model, they have advised us there will be challenges. One of those challenges is providing time for office hours and makeup work, both virtually and in-person. We still anticipate that many students will be ill or away from school due to illness and although they may remain engaged online, the need for them to see their teacher for help will be greater than ever. Teachers will also need more time for daily support from our technology specialists and time to collaborate with each other. Overall, we feel that giving teachers the extra hour in the morning to meet with students and collaborate with each other will improve the overall effectiveness of the blended learning experience. Parents can still drop students off as early as 6:30 and we will have areas available for them to study.

Finally, thank you to our community for their understanding and support throughout this time. Things are changing at a very rapid rate for everyone and it takes patience from our teachers, students, and parents. With trust in each other and trust in God our creator, we will navigate our way through this.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J McNeany". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mr. James McNeany
Principal, Guerin Catholic High School