



Dear Bishop Hartley Families,

This letter serves as a continuation of important announcements regarding the opening of the 2020-2021 school year. It addresses what each potential instructional model will look like in addition to some exciting updates in technology at Bishop Hartley.

You will recall that the Diocese sent out an Executive Summary explaining the three tiers in reopening:

Tier 1 – Normal operations, face-to-face instruction

Tier 2 – Blended Learning – partial in-person attendance and partial remote instruction

Tier 3 – Full Distance Learning – all instruction provided in a digital format.

Given the current pandemic, we will most likely begin the 2020-2021 school year in Tier 2 or Tier 3. We will adhere to six feet for social distancing to keep everyone in the building as healthy and safe as we possibly can. Given the size of our student population and instructional spaces, we must be at 50% capacity to maintain six feet of separation. We all want school to be as normal as possible; however, we will not compromise the health and safety of our faculty, staff, and the students we are charged to love and educate.

Technology Update - State-of-the-Art Classrooms

As we prepare for the 2020-2021 school year and each of the three tiers for reopening, we have been investigating different ways to improve our ability to provide quality instruction and assessment in what, no doubt, will be a challenging year ahead. We have invested in technology to make each designated learning area a state-of-the-art classroom that comes equipped with a 65" 4K interactive touch screen display, a video conferencing camera, a microphone system, and a mobile cart.

Beyond the current challenges we face, this bundle of technology will benefit our learning environment in the long term through its adaptability and multiple capabilities. For example, the interactive touch display has several features such as a touch screen, whiteboard, capturing and wireless casting.

Tier 2 – Blended Learning – partial in-person attendance and partial remote instruction

If we are in Tier 2, this will be a hybrid plan where 50% of students will be in school every other day. We prioritized the need to keep siblings/households together in our decision to divide students alphabetically.

Students with last names beginning A-K (Red Group) will attend school Tuesdays and Thursdays each week.

Students with last names beginning L-Z (Blue Group) will attend school Wednesdays and Fridays each week.

The Red and Blue Groups will rotate being in school every other Monday.

Our curriculum will remain the same as it has been in previous years. Students who cannot attend in-person instruction for an extended period can stay on task with their learning. However, this is not a true online learning experience as it is not self-paced. Students will be expected to follow the traditional school schedule while at home. Direct instruction recordings will be uploaded to class sites for students to refer to when necessary to aid in the learning process. **Grading and learning expectations will follow our traditional grading scale for college prep, honors, and AP courses. The Pass/Fail model will not be utilized.**

Tier 3 – Full Distance Learning – all instruction provided in a digital format

Full distance learning will not look the same as it did during the 4th quarter of last school year. Online learning will be more structured and follow a consistent schedule. Students will be required to follow this daily schedule to take advantage of synchronous learning opportunities. Attendance and participation in both synchronous and asynchronous activities will be tracked.

Students will be expected to engage in class discussions and presentations and complete all learning activities/assignments/assessments. **Grading and learning expectations will follow our traditional grading scale for college prep, honors, and AP courses. The Pass/Fail model will not be utilized.**

Full distance learning will follow a Block Schedule during the typical school day schedule. We will have a RED DAY and a BLUE DAY. Instruction will vary between synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities.

RED DAYS will contain periods 1, 3, 5, and 7. BLUE DAYS will contain periods 2, 4, 6, and Flex. The Flex period will host our holistic learning opportunities led by our house director/deans, school counselors, and campus ministry team. Office hours will occur at the end of each academic day. This will provide opportunities for students to attend SEEK (Students Extending and Enhancing Knowledge) with teachers and get extra help and/or clarification on assignments.

Bishop Hartley Return to School Plan 2020-2021 School Year

I invite you to view our entire Bishop Hartley Return to School Plan 2020-2021 School Year for a summary of all the information shared over the past month. This plan is available for view this week on the school website. This plan will be continually re-evaluated based on the data concerning the pandemic and the recommendations, guidance, and mandates from Bishop Brennan, Mr. Dufault and the Office of Catholic Schools, the Ohio Department of Education, Governor DeWine and the public health authorities.

In the weeks to come, we will provide additional information about Student Orientation Week (August 31 – September 4), student technology devices, visualizations of Bishop Hartley's campus to ensure safety and social distancing, and updated handbook policies due to COVID-19. An update on extra-curricular activities and athletics will also be shared once final decisions have been made.

Bishop Hartley's mission is to transform lives through the teachings of Jesus Christ within the Catholic tradition. No matter what model of instruction we are in during the 2020-2021 school year, our administrators, faculty, and staff will find ways to adapt and innovate while striving to overcome any obstacles in our way to teach students. We will provide meaningful learning opportunities for students to ensure there is holistic development and opportunities to build relationships that are life-giving and lifelong. Every member of the Bishop Hartley family will be encouraged to rely on our faith to persist and persevere despite any challenges we will face together.

May God bless every member of the Bishop Hartley family and keep us safe and loved in the coming days.

Christopher Kowalski
Assistant Principal – Academic Dean