



## **Culture of Community and School Safety – The 5 Pillars**

The following pillars of safety have been recommended by the CDC, PA Department of Health, and others. To maximize the likelihood of continuing in-school learning, we strongly recommend adhering to all safety pillars. While no pillar in isolation is completely effective, a culture that promotes adherence to all pillars in combination provides the safest environment. This is similar to how driving the speed limit, using a seatbelt, and following traffic rules best help prevent accidents when done in combination.

### **Pillar 1 – Masks**

We will promote a culture of proper mask use by children and adults on campus. To start the year, we will be more conservative in our mask policy throughout the day, including during recess and in class. During lunch and mask breaks, we will optimize physical distancing and utilize outdoor space when possible. More mask breaks will be permitted in our youngest classrooms.

### **Pillar 2 – Physical Distancing**

We will promote arrangements and activities that are consistent with physical distancing and discourage or avoid arrangements and activities that require proximity. The school has rearranged desks and added plexiglass barriers to promote physical distancing. Large gatherings and activities will not be allowed until further notice.

### **Pillar 3 – Cohorts**

A cohort is a group of students that functions as a unit. This unit functions separately from other cohorts throughout the school day, avoiding the possibility of cross-cohort exposure. Cohorts will not be combined in any activity. Respecting this system creates a firewall between cohorts, dramatically decreasing the likelihood that any illness can spread across the school. Our Pandemic Advisory Council is still determining whether the cohort will be an individual class within a grade or the entire grade. Ongoing high-level discussions are taking place carefully reviewing the pros and cons of each scenario, and a decision will be forthcoming.

### **Pillar 4 - Screening and Protecting**

We will require a daily screening APP so that anyone entering the school considers possible active symptoms and exposures. Decreasing the numbers of those who are ill in school accomplishes several goals: 1) This decreases the number of potential COVID (+) exposures in school and 2) This decreases the spread of non-COVID illnesses that will contribute to increased concern and absences. Holy Child will provide active daily guidance and recommendations so that our families are clear on when a student and possibly their sibling(s) need to remain home.

### **Pillar 5 – Responsible Home Activities**

Our physicians and advisors agree that the most important factor in limiting COVID positivity in the Holy Child community is responsible behavior on the part of our families. It has been well documented across the nation that large gatherings, parties, camps, vacationing, etc. are the sources that promote local outbreaks. Although we understand the social importance of gatherings, vacations, and team sports, we also believe that in-school learning is critical for students. It is kindly asked that as members of the Holy Child community, you each make the sacrifices of avoiding such activities to promote the likelihood that we can maintain in-school learning. The consequence of COVID spread is a shift to online learning.