



Saint Anthony's High School

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August 30, 2021

Dear Students and Parents:

We are excited to welcome our students back to campus next week, and especially eager to inaugurate our freshman class of 2025. After careful consideration of the guidance from the Governor's Office, the Suffolk County Department of Health, and in consultation with all of the Catholic schools in the Diocese, we have determined the guidelines outlined below.

As we stated earlier this month, protecting our students' physical, social, emotional and spiritual health is our foremost priority in every decision we make. The St. Anthony's Administration, Faculty, and Staff strongly believe that the most crucial factor in fostering our students' health and well-being is having them present in school. Our mission this year, and always, is to provide a dynamic on-campus experience that cultivates all aspects of our students' academic, artistic, athletic, and spiritual lives. Therefore, we are implementing the following guidelines for welcoming students back next week:

Masks

The Suffolk County Health Department Guidelines state that students properly wearing masks will be eliminated from contact tracing quarantines. Since only a small fraction of quarantined students last year actually tested positive for COVID-19, this new guideline update should make a significant impact in keeping our students in school.

Therefore, for the start of the school year, all Faculty, Staff, and Students will be required to wear masks indoors, and masks will be encouraged for all outdoor and physical education activities. Students will be required to wear masks to orientation. Additionally, uniform masks will be distributed at orientation. Beginning on Monday, September 13th, uniform masks are required indoors for all students until further notice. It is our hope that as infection rates decline and vaccinations rates increase we will be able to adjust or potentially alleviate our mask requirements.

Vaccinations

At this time, vaccinations are not required for students. However, any vaccinated students will also be removed from contact tracing quarantines. We continue to encourage families to seek advice from your family physician regarding vaccinations. If your child is vaccinated, please complete [this form](#).

Contact Tracing

Mr. Ed Modica will continue to serve as the COVID Response Coordinator to consult with the Administration regarding health and safety protocols and contact tracing. As stated above, students properly wearing masks will be removed from contact tracing quarantines.

However, students should be aware that if they are unvaccinated and come in extended close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 in the Cafeteria, during an afterschool activity, or in a setting outside of school, they may be subject to quarantine. Therefore, we reiterate that families should consult with your physicians regarding vaccinations as added insurance against your children being pulled out of school.

Remote Instruction

Multiple campus options and simulcasted classes were offered last school year out of necessity. With the change in guidelines for this school year, we are confident that we can safely return all students to school and maintain traditional classroom sizes. Furthermore, teachers will not offer any simulcasted classes for students who are absent or quarantined. Any students who are absent due to illness, quarantine, or any other reason, should contact their teachers and refer to Google Classroom to stay abreast with any content they missed in class.

We understand that there continues to be much volatility in our society over these topics. However, we are praying that our unified mission of providing our students with a Franciscan education can keep things in perspective. Let us follow the example of our beloved Ralph Silvestre, who always focused on the light and not the shadows, and whose faith in God guided him always.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

In St. Anthony Our Patron,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brother David Anthony, O.S.F." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brother David Anthony, O.S.F.
Principal