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*Christ Our Cornerstone*

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**NEWMAN CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

1101 WEST 23RD STREET  
STERLING, ILLINOIS 61081-9002

August 6, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians, Staff and Students:

Welcome back to school!

With Governor Pritzker's announcement on August 4, 2021, masks are required in all schools, public and private. Although this is not what we all hoped, we are blessed to be opening our school with minimal adjustments to our schedule. Our plan can be found here [Newman Opening Plan 21-22](#). Please know that this is a fluid plan; meaning it can change at any moment.

Here are a few of the requirements:

- Masks will be required to be worn by all who enter inside the building regardless of vaccination status. This includes indoor athletic events. Masks are not required for outdoor activities.
- Masks are required on buses.
- We will have an A and B lunch with 2 lunch areas for both. We will utilize the cafeteria and the commons near the concession stand.
- Desks and tables will be placed 3 ft. apart.
- The school day will run from 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- Cleaning of the school building will be conducted on a daily basis.
- Staff and students should not attend school if they are ill.

Any student without a COVID-19 vaccination card on file, who is determined to be a close contact, will immediately be quarantined until proof of vaccination is received. Vaccination information will be kept confidential as with all other student records and medical history.

***Lastly, providing proof of vaccination will be extremely helpful for contact tracing purposes and to ensure that vaccinated students, if exposed, are not included in any quarantine requirements.***

Newman would like to welcome our new staff members! Mrs. Denise Ewers who retired from Dixon Public School last year will be our Choir teacher. Ms. Karla Nagy comes to us with a lot of experience and she will teach English. Mrs. Sue Bontjes, who will be a familiar face to our St. Anne students, will be teaching Math. Mr. Justin Stevenson will be teaching Consumer Economics as well as taking on the role of Athletic Director. Please welcome all our new staff to Newman!

Here are few things for you to be aware of:

1. Student schedules will be out next week.
2. Plaid skirts are no longer a part of the school uniform.
3. Cell phones will not be allowed in classrooms. They must remain in your school locker.
4. Supply list - Students should bring a notebook and a writing utensil to class. Teachers will inform the students of what they will need those first few days of class.
5. All students who will drive to school must purchase a parking pass reserving your parking spaces.
6. Seniors - Please make sure you received your meningitis shot. It is required.
7. Freshmen - Please make sure you have your school physical completed prior to October 15th. This will count as your athletic physical as well. A dental exam must be completed prior to May 15th.
8. Students participating in athletics need a sports physical prior to the start of the first practice.

9. WACC Students - In-person learning with restrictions will begin August 18th.
10. CEO Students - Please park in the front circle.
11. All students - Pictures will be on August 19th. Please look for the form coming in the mail.
12. TGIF Tickets - Please turn in your tickets prior to September 1, 2021.
13. Lastly, gentlemen remember to have your hair well-groomed and be clean shaven.

Each student will be provided a school issued Chromebook. To find out when you may pick up your Chromebook, please read the attached letter.

Also, attached to this email is the Student Handbook for the 2021-2022 school year. There have been some changes made to the handbook and teachers will be reviewing those changes with the students on the first day of school.

We are excited to return to school and to establish a routine. We feel confident that our plan addresses the safety of our students and staff. If you should have any questions or concerns, please contact me via email at [joetting@newmancchs.org](mailto:joetting@newmancchs.org)

God Bless,

Jennifer Oetting  
Principal