

BOT Academic Department Report for 9/16/20

Enrollment Update: 838 In-Person / 47 Virtual

In-Person Learning:

The re-opening plan is working well. The students and staff are navigating the physical distancing procedures well and there does not seem to be issues with the learning environments and the passing times/lunch/beginning and end of day transitions. The mask mandate is being followed without an issue.

We are working with the local health departments when there is a COVID-19 exposure or positive test. To be consistent, we are deferring the quarantine/isolation decisions to the health officials.

Virtual Learning:

Tammy Oneacre, our K-5 virtual learning coordinator is currently working with 25 students. She is doing well with delivering instruction and activities to the students. She also has two Zoom meetings (arranged by grade level) with the students every day. The parents have been actively supporting the students which has helped make the learning platform a success.

At the middle school we have 16 virtual students. The students are scheduled into the classes that they would be in if/when they return to in-person. The teachers upload their lessons into their Google classrooms and also check-in with students multiple times per week via Google Hangout. We are utilizing a full online program for the 7-8 grade German classes due to the staffing challenges.

At the high school we have seven virtual students. The process is going well. They have the same schedules as if they were in-person. The classroom teacher uploads the lesson to their Microsoft Teams class and connects with the students weekly. There is also a staff member (Lori Probst) who is assigned as the high school coordinator to check in with the virtual students weekly to check their progress and provide extra support for those who might be struggling/not completing homework/etc. Lori also schedules the times for the students to come to the high school to take some assessments on sight.

Athletics Update:

We are following the Big East policies in cross country, football, boys soccer and girls volleyball this fall. No decisions on winter or spring sports have been made. Additionally, we are following the Big East policies for fall middle school sports. Two spectators per student-athlete and all spectators will be required to wear a mask.

The Big East Calendar is changing on a daily basis for fall sports. Please make sure you continue to check the Big East website for practice and competitions. Winter and spring sports schedules are also being adjusted at this time because of the WIAA changes to start and end dates.

Transportation – While we are providing transportation to away events for our high school student-athletes, we are encouraging parents to transport (only) their child if attending the sporting event. Student-athletes are required to wear a mask the entire time they are on the bus/van. Parents transporting their child must communicate this with their coach and are not required to submit the

transportation form. If you know anyone interested in driving bus for SMC – please let me know. We need a route driver and special events drivers.

We will be live webcasting most of our home varsity football, boys soccer and girls volleyball events.

We will not be printing paper rosters for events this fall. We are in process of creating rosters online that you will be able view by scanning a QR code that will be posted at our home events.

Team meals – Team meals before home events will not be allowed on the middle/high school campus this fall. We want to discourage large team gatherings outside of practice and competitions. Meals for away games can still be provided to student-athletes but they can't be prepared/assembled on campus and will need to be bagged and handed to the student-athletes prior to leaving campus. Student-athletes will not be allowed to eat while on the bus, as we are requiring masks to be on the entire time they are on the bus.

COVID-19 Screener:

Maryann Slavinski has been doing a great job fulfilling this role for us. She is a great resource for families to contact when they have questions about health department processes and when parents need to report illnesses to SMCS. Maryann also keeps up to date with any changes in the protocols by the health departments and communicates those to the administrative team. Maryann keeps a running record of the staff and students who have been tested and shares the information with the appropriate health agency for their record keeping.

Catholic Identity:

Fr. Mark has been an awesome addition to the St. Mary Catholic Schools family. He is present at the high school each week and has done a fabulous job of leading Mass and prayer times when he is here. He commented to Patti that "SMCS has a strong demonstration of the Catholic faith and has been impressed with the student's expressions of their faith." At the high school physical we rotate the grade level of students who attend Mass live in the FAEC and the rest of the students view it live streamed in their classrooms. After Mass, the other three classes can receive communion in the chapel. Each week the number of students receiving communion has grown. Fr. Mark has also commented to me that he is impressed with how Patti promotes Catholic identity within the high school.

The Director of Ministry position is still posted and we are actively screening the candidates that apply. Fr. Mark is assisting us by taking the lead along with Patti and HR to be the first level of resume review. We may tweak the job title (not job description) to attract more candidates. We are also sending the posting to colleges in the region that offer a degree in theology/campus ministry. It has been good to have Fr. Mark involved in the process, as he was also was a part of the interview team for the candidates we interviewed a month ago. With his guidance, we have been particular about the screening process because we want to find the right person. Fr. Mark believes that finding the right candidate is more important than filling the position on a timeline. In addition, Fr. Mark has communicated with the students and set up a Google sign-up for confession and spiritual advising.

The middle school mass is similar with one grade in attendance at the FAEC and the other two grades viewing virtually back at the middle school or conducting prayer services. The pastors at the elementary schools rotate presiding over the Masses.

Arts/Theatre Department:

Drama Classes - Jessica Wagner, our theatre instructor, has added two new classes on top of her drama class at the high school this year (stagecraft and acting). She has also started teaching an intro class at the middle school. Elementary drama enrichment for second semester is still being discussed.

Music - Teachers met in August to start discussing Christmas concerts. The current plan is to compile a series of videos to showcase our student's work. More details will come later in the semester.

Fall theater - The high school will be pre-recorded and showcased digitally. Zephyrs Theater will continue with their participation in the Fox Cities PAC's Center Stage High School Musical Theater Program this spring.

Booster Update: Both the school budget and Zephyrs Fine Arts Boosters (ZFAB) have been very generous in helping supply special masks for our band students, MacBook computers for a reimagined music production class, new cameras for photography class making it a 1:1 student/camera ratio, and field markers for the band to rehearse the field show. We are continuing to look for new resources to help bring normalcy back to our student's fine arts experiences.