

# Blessed Sacrament School

“Act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God.” - Micah 6:8



Dear BSS Families,

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones healthy and energized as we gear up for the new school year! We can't wait to reunite with our Spartan community! As a reminder, our first day of school for Pre-School is Thurs, Sep 3rd. For students in K-8, our first day is Tues, Sep 8, 2020.

## Waiver Application Approved

Blessed Sacrament School is excited to announce that after both the local health officer and California Department of Public Health Review, our waiver request has been officially approved. Blessed Sacrament School is officially gearing up to welcoming our students in K-6<sup>th</sup> for on-campus instruction.

To ensure we open in a safe and organized manner, BSS will start the year with a soft opening. On Tuesday, September 8, 2020, only Kinder – 2<sup>nd</sup> will be invited for on-campus instruction. On Thursday, September 10, 2020 students in grades 3-5<sup>th</sup>, will be invited to have their first day on campus. Sixth grades will then start on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. The waiver is only applicable for grades K-6<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will stay with the Distance Learning program until further permission is given.

The purpose of the soft opening is to allow for safety guidelines and procedures to be properly implemented as students return to school. During the soft opening, the grade levels that are waiting to transition to on-campus will receive their academic instruction via distance learning until their day to return. Which means, if your child is in grades 3-8<sup>th</sup>, their first day of school will be via distance learning on Sep. 8<sup>th</sup>. Below is a brief schedule and some additional information for your convenience:

Tues & Wed Sep. 8 & 9	Thurs & Fri Sep. 10 & 11	Mon Sep 14 <sup>th</sup>
K-2 on campus	K-5 on campus	K-6 on campus
3-8 Distance Learning	6-8 Distance Learning	Only those who opted for Distance Learning
12:30pm Dismissal	2:30pm Dismissal	2:30pm Dismissal
8am Mass K-2 on Tue 9/8/20	8am Mass 3-5 on Thur 9/10/20	8am Mass 6 <sup>th</sup> on Mon 9/14/20

## Blessed Sacrament School – Soft Opening Process

Tues, Sep. 8<sup>th</sup> – 12:30pm dismissal

- Kinder – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade first day of school on-campus
- 8am Mass – we will start our first day on campus with 8am Mass. Families are welcome to attend with their child. For parents/guardians who are unable to stay for Mass, the carline drop off will be required.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> – Distance Learning

Wed, Sep. 9<sup>th</sup> – 12:30pm dismissal

- Kinder – 2<sup>nd</sup> will use carline drop-off only

Thurs, Sep. 10<sup>th</sup>

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade first day of school on-campus
- 8am Mass for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students – we will start our first day on campus with 8am Mass. Families are welcome to attend with their child. For parents/guardians who are unable to stay for Mass, the carline drop off will be required.
- Kinder – 2<sup>nd</sup> will use carline drop off only
- 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> – Distance Learning

Fri, Sep. 11<sup>th</sup>

- Kinder – 5<sup>th</sup> will use carline drop-off only

Mon, Sep. 14<sup>th</sup>

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade first day of school on-campus (pending 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> – waiting for approval)
- 8am Mass for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students – we will start our first day on campus with 8am Mass. Families are welcome to attend with their child. For parents/guardians who are unable to stay for Mass, the carline drop off will be required.
- Kinder – 5<sup>th</sup> will use carline drop off only

Tues, Sep 15<sup>th</sup>

- All students (K-6<sup>th</sup>) carline drop-off only
- 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and students who selected to continue with Distance Learning will continue online

### Wednesday is our New BSS S.T.R.E.A.M. Day and Early Dismissal

Upon all students returning to on-campus instruction, Wednesdays will now be dedicated to supporting our students in a S.T.R.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, Math) program. Rather than teaching the six disciplines as separate and discrete subjects, on Wednesdays, we will use the STREAM approach to integrate the disciplines into a cohesive learning paradigm with a hands-on approach.

In our continuous effort to ensure proper cleaning is taking place, BSS will be moving forward with a 12:30pm early dismissal every Wednesday. The early dismissal will

allow students to go home for lunch and the opportunity to conduct a deep thorough cleaning throughout the school. Although scheduled cleaning will be conducted daily on all high traffic surface areas, deep disinfecting cleaning will take place every Wednesday and Friday after student dismissal.

Here are a few reminders BSS will have in place to reduce the transmission and other adverse effects related to COVID-19 to the best of our ability. We are preparing and implementing the following:

- Additional hand-washing stations
- Hand sanitizing pumps in all classrooms and offices
- Desk shields for all teachers and students as well as administration areas
- Stand-alone HEPA air purifiers for every classroom
- Emergency reusable and disposable masks will be available for all students and staff when needed
- Face shields for all teachers
- New cleaning/disinfecting protocols using Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) approved materials and solutions
- Antibacterial soap in all dispensers
- Signage to promote healthy hygiene habits
- Ground signage designating a modified directional flow to assist with physical distancing in the school building
- Daily temperature checks

#### Pick up of supplies and devices

Because of the soft opening process, BSS is preparing to start the school year for grades 3-8<sup>th</sup> via Distance Learning. As we did on the last day of school, we will host a similar drive-thru event to pick up supplies (textbooks) and devices. The “pick-up” date will be held on Thursday, Sep. 3rd for all students K-8. The schedule will be provided on Mon, Aug. 31st. We will coordinate the event by grade levels. We invite our K-2<sup>nd</sup> students to also drive by and be part of the kick-off celebration for the start of the new school year.

#### First Holy Communion and Reconciliation:

Due to the pandemic and the closure of the schools and churches, our BSS First Holy Communion candidates did not have the opportunity to celebrate and receive their very special sacrament. However, their day has finally arrived. Students who completed their sacrament preparation will be receiving their First Reconciliation on Wed, Sep, 9th at 7pm, and their First Holy Communion on Sat, Sep. 12th at 10am. Our BSS community is cordially invited to attend and celebrate with our candidates on Sat. the 12th at 10am. The event will be celebrated outdoors and live-streamed through the parish’s Facebook page for those who are unable to attend. We are extremely excited to join our students and their families in this beautiful and blessed celebration.

Once again, we thank you for your continued support and patience as the faculty and staff of Blessed Sacrament School works to prepare a successful start to the 2020-2021 school year for students, families, and staff. BSS remains committed to inspiring all students

through rigorous, relevant educational experiences and spiritual growth and, regardless of the model of instruction, I am confident we will do just that.

Yours in Christ,  
Dr. Castillo, Principal

*“The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever.” PSALM 121:8*