

Austin Catholic High School
COVID-19 Shut-Down
School Building Closure Q&A
(April 4th, 2020)

Are there any changes to the Distance Learning Plan?

The Distance Learning plan as presented and posted will remain in effect until the end of the academic year [see modified calendar]. Attendance requirements will remain and students will earn scores/grades for work completed. Students are responsible for checking in with teachers, asking for help, and submitting work as assigned.

What if my student needs additional support or help?

We have various plans in place to assist students through this time. Parents and/or students need only to reach out to Mr. Baker or Mr. Juday to put learning supports in place. In addition, NHS members are available for virtual tutoring sessions. Overall, majority of a student struggles arise from not having a routine or not setting a good learning plan for themselves. Time management is very important and will be one of the biggest lessons for many students.

Will the School Calendar be Modified?

Yes, we have modified the calendar. Please see attached [or website]. All students, including seniors, will now follow the same schedule for exams and last day of instruction. Students last day of instruction/exams will be May 21st. The modified calendar will have two small breaks (Easter weekend and a mental health break) to divide the instructional time and allow for review and catch up.

With a shortened calendar are we eligible for tuition refunds?

No, we will actually be attending classes/instruction just under the number of days we are required to have because we did not use all of our snow days, we work in 6 extra days into our calendar each year that we can play with (i.e. reward days), and we have given up 4 teacher/staff days therefore we are within our obligation to families. As mentioned in previous messages, families that are experiencing financial hardships and struggling to make the final payment or incidental bills should contact Mrs. Linsley to work thru arrangements. As always, Austin will work with each family to find a plan that fits your needs. Do not be discouraged, where there is a will, there is a way.

Will Students be taking Exams?

Yes, students will still be required to take an end of course assessment that will count 20% of the semester grade. This may be a test, a project, an essay or another form of assessment of learning or mastery. All students, including seniors, will take exams the week of May 18th. More information will be sent in regards to exams as we progress.

What about service hour requirements?

Service hour requirements will remain the same as students can be completing projects and tasks of outreach and service while at home. Think outside the box and use the ideas sent. In addition, summer hours count toward totals. If students have not turned in hours yet for this year, it is in his/her best interest to do so ASAP so we may process them. Seniors with less than the required for graduation will need to contact Dcn. Tim ASAP to discuss options.

How and when can I get things out of my locker?

Until the stay at home order has been lifted, we must observe what is best for the safety and health of everyone – students and staff. Once the ban has been lifted or reduced, we will have a schedule to clean out lockers. Nonetheless, we understand that some students may need medicines or books that are necessary for the remainder of the school year. If you are one such student, please contact Mr. Baker to make arrangements for restricted access to the building.

How will we be returning school items, books, etc.?

In the same manner as the locker question, we will be working to schedule a time that is appropriate and safe. We will work to have a controlled system for sports uniforms still in your possession, school issued locks, books, materials, etc. to protect everyone's health and safety.

What about Special Events, Prom, Graduation, etc.?

All special events have been either cancelled or postponed until the group size limit has been lifted/expanded. Prom, Senior Awards and Graduation are all postponed until a later date and the Administration will continue to review the situation as we progress. We are looking at doing various events virtually (i.e. blessing of gowns, awards, etc.) while others like Graduation we would rather pray and plan for the time we can be together again to celebrate.

How are we going to schedule for next year?

The course catalogue and quick guide will be up on the website and in FACTS Portal by Wednesday 4/8 for students to review and select courses. An email will be coming around the 8th with selection forms. Students and parents that would like to discuss schedules for next year can schedule a Zoom chat with Mr. Baker, Mrs. Coppens or Mr Juday for 4/14 thru 4/24. There is a Zoom chat on 4/6 at 7pm for sophomore parents and students to discuss Pankow and Dual Enrollment options.

What about Registration & Tuition Assistance for Next Year?

We understand the uncertainty many of you have right now, but please do not make any rash decisions without first discussing options with us. We have never turned a family away due to finances and keeping an Austin education affordable for all is central to our mission. Please contact Mrs. LaPerre to finish registration.

Please log into your parent portal and complete your re-enrollment. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. LaPerre.

Tuition Assistance applications are thru FACTS and the AOD has extended their **deadline until May** (instead of April 10th). This is very important as we anticipate additional funds next year from the AOD to support families. **To be eligible for Austin Aid, families must also apply for AOD funds.** Our team is currently reviewing applications this week to discuss first round awards. If your circumstances have changed since you applied, you may return to the application to edit.

What about Zoom safety? Are my kids secure?

We continually encourage our teachers to utilize all the safety features on their Zoom calls -- With new links each week, waiting room that people have to be allowed in, passwords, closed chats, etc. We also have at least one administrator on each chat moving forward to support teachers and also follow appropriate "protecting God's Children" protocol. We are working closely with the AOD Office of Catholic Schools to monitor and use this tool in the safest and best way possible moving forward.

What if I still have questions?

We will be hosting two Zoom chats for students and parents on April 7th @ 9:00am and 7:00pm.

SENIOR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

What about Kairos? Will we be held to that requirement? What about a Refund?

We are sad that you are missing out on this experience and understand it is out of your control [ours too!] therefore, no you will not be held to the Kairos retreat requirement for graduation. In addition, those who were supposed to attend as seniors will receive a refund for payment made.

What should I do about my senior Caritas project?

For most of you, you only have to complete the post project write-up, so get that turned in to Dcn. Tim as soon as possible. All others should be communicating regularly with Dcn. Tim to complete your project and make arrangements.

Senior Events?

We are still working as a team to review each event and determine how we can give you the best possible outcome we can within the confines of the shut down OR post pone until we can congregate again.

Final Transcripts and Diploma?

Final transcripts and diplomas will be issued the same way we do every year. Transcripts can be requested through Parchment to be sent to your college/university and when final grades have been posted (May 29th) we will upload. Diplomas will be issued to you at graduation. Note: *school policy has been that all transcripts and diplomas will be withheld in the event a student's account is not paid in full and/or requirements have not been met or student still has school property. Even with this unprecedented situation we will continue to abide by this policy but will work extra to help families.*