



SAINT ALBERT THE GREAT
At
Assumption Academy

State of School Update September 29, 2020

When we opened our doors to students on August 26th we did so with confidence. It had been about 6 months of not having students in the building due to COVID-19. During those 6 months many people from many different schools, agencies, and even the Diocese helped inform decisions on our opening plan. The old saying "2 heads are better than 1" rang true. Our partnership with Saint Albert the Great played a crucial role (and still does) in providing a clear path to achieving our vision. That vision was to open our school safely, with options for parents to choose between remote, and in-person learning.

To achieve remote learning we purchased SWIVL robotic camera systems for each classroom. These devices allow students at home to view and participate in live classes during the school day. Initially we had 8% of our students learning from home with 92% in-person. Currently we have 5% remote learning with 95% learning in-person.

We have made many changes to the policies/procedures of our daily routines to maximize our efforts to remain as healthy as possible. All students' temperatures are taken daily with new infrared touchless thermometers. Hand sanitizing stations are at every entrance. The cafeteria underwent a makeover which included new plexiglass shielding and the removal of half of the chairs to allow for social distancing. All students and staff are wearing masks indoors and outdoors when a distance of 6 feet or more cannot be achieved. Even our Mass schedule changed to permit only half of our school celebrating in the church at a time. Drinking fountains are for filling water bottles only, and all of the hallways are lined with one-way arrows to make sure students do not cross paths. These are just some of the highlights of our COVID plan. Our COVID plan was created over the course of months (March-August) with recommendations from the CDC, State Board of Health, Diocese of Cleveland, and Cuyahoga County Board of Health, and parent COVID Task Force, all being taken into consideration. The final seal of approval of our plan (and Saint Albert the Great's) was given by the Diocese of Cleveland, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, and University Hospitals. The board of health even paid the school a visit the first week of September and said that we not only meet their expectations but exceed them in many categories.

All of the hard work of the faculty, staff, maintenance crew, rectory staff, Parent CORPS, and parents has been paying off. In June Saint Albert the Great at Assumption Academy was recognized as a Top Workplace for 2020. This recognition, combined with a new tuition incentive program, and word of mouth marketing has led to an increase of enrollment. In the 2019-2020 school year, we had 136 students in grades Kindergarten- 8th grade. This year we have 180 students in Kindergarten-8th grade. If you factor in our preschool program we are over 200+ students! The total building



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capacity for Saint Albert the Great at Assumption Academy K-8 is 225 students. That means we are operating at 80% capacity. We are still growing, but are keeping to our limit of 25 students per class. This growth is occurring at a time where many schools are losing enrollment, truly a testament to the outstanding program that we have built.

To be able to share our Catholic faith and Catholic education with so many new students and families is not only invigorating, but is part of our mission. We have been "Anchored in Faith" for many years. The prayers of the Assumption community continue to be answered on a daily basis. The partnership with Saint Albert the Great sparked new life at Assumption last year. Now that we are in year two, we look to make improvements and continue to provide a high quality Catholic experience in school. Under HIS guidance we continue along the path HE has chosen for us!

Anchored in Christ,

Mr. Rick Kaliszewski
Principal