

We're Ready to Welcome You Back!

Garces Memorial High School's

Re-Entry Plan 2020-2021 School Year





PRE-OPENING GUIDELINES

The Diocese of Fresno Office of Education provided the following re-opening guidelines to their diocesan schools. All of the guidelines are required prior to a school being allowed to open for on-campus instruction. Below is a synopsis of the requirements:

Supplies

Every school is required to have the required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) on site and available each work-day for staff and students. In addition, the following must be available in classrooms, offices, and work areas:

- Hand sanitizers
- Cleaning disinfectants
- Infrared thermometers

Physical Space

Every school must set up for the required social distancing both inside and outside of classrooms which includes marking where students stand in line to enter classrooms and campus, arranging desks six feet apart in all instructional spaces, developing a “circulation flow” for transition between classes, and establishing a safe area for students who test at or above the 100.4 temperature check or who become sick during the school day. Prior to opening, all areas of the school must be thoroughly cleaned with approved sanitation products and devices.

Communication of Changes

Every school must communicate the school policy changes to parents which includes safety protocols agreement, distance learning option, student drop off and pick up, and changes to meetings and assemblies on campus.

Training

Every school must train all employees, including substitute teachers, on:

- Safety protocols
- Proper use, removal and washing of cloth face coverings
- Confidentiality surrounding health recording and reporting (FERPA)
- Preparedness training if someone gets COVID19 or in the event of a shut down.

OUR PLAN IS IN PLACE

In preparing for the start of the 2020-21 school year amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Garces Memorial High School created new policies and procedures to meet the guidelines set last spring to allow for our students, teachers and staff to be back on campus. We worked tirelessly over summer to ensure students and staff could safely return to school in August based on recommendations and guidelines issued by Governor Newsom, the Diocese of Fresno COVID-19 Task Force, the Diocese of Fresno Office of Education, and multiple governmental agencies.

On July 17th, the guidelines from the state changed. Governor Newsom issued a “Pandemic Plan for Learning and Safe Schools” with a mandate stating no schools could open unless the county they are located in has been off the state’s Covid-19 County Monitor List for 14 consecutive days. Due to Kern County’s high numbers, we had to pivot back Distance Learning while continuing to prepare for students being back on campus.

On August 28th, the Governor issued a new plan for dealing with COVID-19 in our state titled “Blueprint for a Safer Economy”. The new plan has four tiers and currently Kern County is in the bottom tier, or the purple tier. The next level up is the red tier. To get to the red tier, Kern County must meet two metrics: COVID-19 new cases must not exceed 7 per 100,000 residents and positivity case rates cannot be above 8%. The new metrics are based on a seven-day averages released every Tuesday. Under the new plan, Garces may not open to on-campus instruction until the County has met the red tier metrics for about a month.

Garces leadership and staff continue to work to identify best practices for both Distance Learning and On-Campus Instruction. Our plan is to be back on campus as soon as we are allowed. We will be ready on Day 15 to welcome your child back on campus.

Crafting the best policies is a complicated affair given the changing guidelines that continue to emerge from the various agencies. Undoubtedly, some of the policies and procedures may need to be altered as circumstances change and guidelines are revised as we learn more about the virus. That being said, we are confident that we have developed the best plan for our campus, one that will allow students to return safely to campus five days a week.

Since 1947, Garces Memorial High School has been part of the fabric of the Kern County community. During that time, our school ministry has encountered many challenges and overcame them with deep faith and conviction in our Gospel values. The pandemic caused by COVID-19 has been the most disruptive event we have faced as a global society in modern times. For our school, it represents an existential threat to the sustainability of our mission. Yet, over these past several months, we have collectively demonstrated who we are during this moment of great crisis. Through our resiliency and commitment to our students and their families, we have shown the very best of ourselves and our ministry. Last spring, we were able to quickly pivot from in-class instruction to on-line instruction without sacrificing the rigor of our curriculum. Our standards remained high and our students were successful, earning quality letter grades for their transcripts.

We are using that same resiliency to ensure our school environment will maintain a high standard of health and safety for students and staff. We remain in a fluid and dynamic situation and will need to be flexible as public health circumstances change. Thank you for your faith, love, and labor through this extraordinary time. We are committed to journeying with you through this school year.

ONCE GARCES CAN RE-OPEN WHICH WILL BE RIGHT FOR YOU?

In surveying our parents in the Spring, it was clear that the majority of our parents prefer to have their child on campus. We are happy to share that we will be able to offer both on-campus and on-line learning to accommodate our families. Once we have a re-opening date, we will set a deadline for families to let us know which option will be right for them.

OPTION 1 ON CAMPUS CLASSES

Garces Memorial High School will provide complete academic instruction in all classes with students meeting on campus, 5 days a week. Students will be held to our grading standards. One of our goals is to prepare students for college and we will continue to maintain our high standards during the pandemic. Teachers will adjust curriculum to accommodate the required social distancing - such as small group classroom assignments moving to virtual group assignments.

OPTION 2 REMAIN IN DISTANCE LEARNING

Students have the option of enrolling in our Distance Learning program. Once enrolled in Distance Learning, all classes will be taken on-line. Distance Learning students will not be allowed to attend classes on campus and will need to make an appointment to safely test on campus. In addition, they will need to work with teachers to schedule an appointment via Zoom for assistance during Enrichment.

Students may move to Distance Learning at any time during the first semester. To move back to on-campus learning, there will be designated enrollment windows and a re-enrollment form.

Distance Learning will be different from what students are currently experiencing. They will be on Zoom with their teacher who will also be teaching students who are physically in the classroom. This will be new for our faculty and students. It may be more difficult to ask questions or participate in discussions, but our teachers will adapt and work with all of our students to provide an engaging and challenging learning environment.

Our Distance Learning students will be held to the same standards as our on-campus learners. They will be held accountable for the class syllabus established by each instructor and will be required to submit homework assignments and class projects as per instructor deadlines.

Tests/quizzes will be given at teacher discretion. If a student is required to be on campus during testing, a safe and sanitized environment will be provided at all times.

In the event that Garces closes temporarily after we re-open, the school will immediately pivot back to Distance Learning.

GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 INDUSTRY GUIDANCE: SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL- BASED PROGRAMS

Updated August 3rd

Garces has plans in place to meet all the guidelines outline in the most recent update for safe school opening.

- ✓ General Measures
- ✓ Promote Healthy Hygiene Practices
- ✓ Face Coverings
- ✓ Ensure Teacher and Staff Safety
- ✓ Intensify Cleaning, Disinfection, and Ventilation
- ✓ Implementing Distancing Inside and Outside the Classroom
- ✓ Limit Sharing
- ✓ Train All Staff and Educate Families
- ✓ Check for Signs and Symptoms
- ✓ Plan for When a Staff Member, Child or Visitor Becomes Sick
- ✓ Maintain Healthy Operations
- ✓ Considerations for Reopening and Partial or Total Closures

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

1. Everyone entering the school must do daily health checks.
2. If someone experiences symptoms while at school, they will be sent home.
3. Masks are required for all staff and students 3rd grade and above.
4. Staff members must maintain 6ft distance from each other and students.
5. Students should maintain 6ft distance as practicable.

CONTACT TRACING

In an elementary school, it's fairly easy to "cohort" students - keeping them with their entire class and only allowing them to have recess and lunch with their classmates. At Garces, we face challenges to minimizing contact between students but we will put the following in place and will explore other ways to limit the cohorting of students.

Class Transitions

Our students move to a new classroom each period and we need to limit how they interact while walking to and from their classes. We have established transition patterns by placing directional arrows and posting informational signs. Students will be informed of the requirement that they walk to a classroom one way and walk from a classroom another way.

Seating Charts

Every teacher will record a seating chart for each period. If a student is diagnosed with COVID-19, we will be able to see which students may have come into close contact and notify the families.

Break and Lunch

Senior Hill, Junior Curb, Sophomore Benches and Freshman Alley take on a new meaning now that we need to limit contact. We will establish "pods" of students for each class and students will meet and eat in designated areas, sitting only with students in their "pod". The pods will be limited to a certain number of students and we will work with our students to make sure they are with a group that they socialize with outside of campus.

Ride Sharing

Students will need to let the Dean of Students know if they regularly car pool with other students so we can include them if we need to do contact tracing.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Physical Distancing in the Classroom

Garces is following the guidelines from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) which state "Maximize space between seating and desks. Distance teacher and other staff desks at least six feet away from student desks. Consider ways to establish separation of students through other means if practicable, such as, six feet between desks, partitions between desks, markings on classroom floors to promote distancing or arranging desks in a way that minimizes face-to-face contact".

Garces has set up classroom spaces to allow for teacher desks and student desks to be six feet apart. Additional functions of the classroom environment may include markings on classroom floors to promote distancing, desk arrangements to minimize contact and increased ventilation. Garces does not want to undo over 70 years of progress in moving away from lecture models of education toward student-centered, collaborative learning. However, restrictions for in-person instruction in the classroom make the latter a challenge. Our teachers will look for ways that students can collaborate digitally, whether in the classroom or at home.



Use of Other Spaces for Instruction

To accommodate physical distancing needs, Garces is using building spaces that are not typically used for classroom instruction – the chapel, student learning center, gym, and music building. Weather permitting, outdoor spaces may also be used for classroom instruction.

Cohorting of Students

In addition to limiting the spread of the coronavirus, the point of cohorting students is to make contact tracing easier in case a student or teacher tests positive for COVID-19. By cohorting students, schools might be able to limit the impact on in-person instruction. For high schools, keeping students in the same space in consistent small groups is a challenge. Garces will keep students from intermingling as much as possible.



Physical Distancing Outside the Classroom

Floor and ground markings along with signage will be used to reduce congregating of students in hallways. During break and lunch, signage and markings will be visible at the cafeteria and student store. At this time, outdoor assemblies and large gatherings of any type are not allowed.

Physical Alterations to Campus

Garces has made physical alterations to classrooms, hallways, pathways, and common spaces as appropriate to support physical distancing. These are temporary alterations that include signage, taping pathways, clear plastic barriers, etc.

ENTRY TO CAMPUS

Health Screening at Home

Parents are strongly advised to monitor for symptoms at home and to keep children who are sick at home until they are fever and vomit free (without medication) for 24 hours. Daily health checks will be performed at Garces consisting of temperature check and health screening and students will be monitored for signs of illness throughout the day. In the past, because we have hard-working employees and hard-working students, it was not uncommon to have people on campus who did not feel well. It is important that all of us be overly cautious this year regarding coming to school if we are not feeling well.

Caring for Someone with COVID

If someone is known to be caring for someone with the symptoms of COVID-19, he or she may not be on campus until such care is completed and they have quarantined for 14 days.

Temperature Checks

Throughout the school day, temperature checks will take place before entering any classroom on campus. All students will have their temperature checked via no-touch thermal scan thermometers. If a student has a fever of 100.4 or higher, he/she will be sent to the office for a second test.

Health Checks at School

Before entering the first class of the day, all students must respond to a brief health screening. If a student responds with an affirmative to any of the screening questions, he/she must not enter the classroom and will be sent to the office. Screening will include questions concerning cough, shortness of breath, fever, and any other abnormal symptoms the student may be experiencing.

Student Drop Off and Pick Up

Parents can continue to drop students off and pick them up at the front parking lot and the back parking lot. We ask our parents to remain in their cars. Students will need to self distance and wear masks.

Student Learning Center

The Student Learning Center has been converted to a classroom and will NOT be open. Students will NOT have access to printers on campus.

Enrichment

Teachers will be in their classrooms during enrichment to provide assistance and clarification on lectures, projects and homework assignments. Social distancing guidelines will apply.

Supervision

Staff will be stationed throughout common areas before school, break, lunch, and after school to monitor for masks and social distancing.

Attendance

There are no changes to the attendance policy. Students are expected to be in class every day. Absences must be cleared with Mrs. Burns.

Daily Schedule

Garces will follow our established Bell Schedule.

Discipline

Please see the Parent Student Handbook to review student behavior expectations. Students will continue to serve detentions in designated classrooms.

Visitors

All visitors must have an appointment as we need to limit visitors on campus. Visitors need to report to the Office, wear a mask, properly social distance, and will be temperature and symptom checked.

WHAT IF SOMEONE TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19?

Off Campus

Any person testing positive for COVID-19 will be required to quarantine at home for at least ten days (as determined by local health officials) and have a negative test, as well as a “release” from health department officials, at the end of that period, indicating that the student or staff member can return to campus.

Quarantines & Siblings

Family members (siblings, parents, children) of those who test positive for COVID-19 will be asked to self-quarantine and monitor themselves for possible symptoms.

Privacy

The privacy of all persons who test positive for the virus will be maintained in accordance with Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requirements.

Contact Tracing

Any person in close proximity to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be notified of possible exposure and instructed to self-monitor for the onset of symptoms.

Possible Closure

A positive test may result in a class and/or campus closure up to five days in length, allowing health officials to determine the actual impact/exposure and conduct proper contact tracing. Closure is not the sole responsibility of our administration but will be enacted in conjunction with local health officials. The breadth (number of students) and length (number of days) of closures will depend on the safety measures (masks and shields) that were in place at the time of the transmission of the virus as well as the social interaction that took place between the positive student and others.

ON CAMPUS HYGIENE

Sanitation Stations

Sanitation stations with hand sanitizer have been placed in every classroom and throughout the campus. Students will be required to sanitize their hands upon entering and exiting the classroom. Each station is located by the classroom door for easy access.



Restrooms

Restrooms will be used at designated times, limiting the number of students admitted to the number of sinks available. Restrooms will be cleaned after lunch and at the end of the school day.

Classrooms

Teachers and students will wipe down high use items and teachers will sanitize desks after each class.

Reducing Touch Points

In addition, we are implementing measures to reduce touch points. We are exploring ways to keep classroom doors open so that door handles do not have to be touched. Faculty will be working to reduce the need to use paper. Electronic submission of work, for example, will minimize the need for teachers and students to share commonly touched surfaces.

Water Bottles

Drinking fountains will not be available. Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottle.

PPE Availability

Garces has sufficient stock of personal protective equipment on hand, including a sufficient number of no-touch thermal scan thermometers for symptom screenings. We will maintain a supply of masks for students, teachers and staff who need a replacement mask during the school day due to loss or damage.

Cleaning Supplies

Garces has sufficient cleaning supplies on hand to continuously disinfect the school site in accordance with CDPH guidance.

Cleaning & Disinfecting

Prior to reopening campus, Garces will be completely cleaned and disinfected.



NIGHTLY SANITATION PLAN

A comprehensive cleaning and disinfecting protocol will be executed 5 nights a week by a trained facilities team. High traffic areas throughout the day will be given special attention to mitigate the spread of the virus. All desks, hard surfaces, and “hot spots” will be thoroughly wiped down and cleaned with EPA approved disinfectant or germicidal bleach. All rooms will be sprayed down using an electric static sprayer (Clorox 360 machine). The Clorox Total 360 Spray Disinfection System pairs electrostatic spray technology with a portfolio of Clorox disinfectants and sanitizers to reach, disinfect, and sanitize out of sight surfaces for a much cleaner and healthier facility. The machine is EPA approved for use against SARS-Co-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

COVID-19 TESTING FOR STAFF AND FACULTY

Once Garces is re-opened to in-person instruction, the California Department of Public Health recommends that surveillance testing be implemented based on the local disease trends. If warranted, Garces will test staff periodically, as testing capacity permits and as practicable. The recommended frequency includes testing all staff over 2 months, where 25% of staff are tested every 2 weeks, or 50% every month to rotate testing of all staff over time.

IF SOMEONE ON CAMPUS TESTS POSITIVE

As part of the Governor’s Pandemic Plan for Learning and Safe Schools, he mandated the following procedure for all schools:

Following a confirmed case of a student who was at school during his or her infectious period, other exposed students and staff should be quarantined for 14 days. The school should revert to distance learning when multiple cohorts have cases or 5 percent of students and staff test positive within a 14-day period. The district should revert to Distance Learning when 25 percent or more of its schools have been physically closed due to COVID-19 within 14 days. Closure decisions should be made in consultation with local health officers. After 14 days, school districts may return to in-person instruction with the approval of the local public health officer.

If there is an outbreak on our campus, we will close and immediately revert to Distance Learning until we can return to on-campus instruction.

DAILY HEALTH CHECK SCREENING FOR COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

Everyone who comes on campus will be screened for the following:

- Fever above 100.4 F or chills
- Persistent cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea



IF YOUR STUDENT HAS ANY OF THE ABOVE SYMPTOMS, PLEASE KEEP THEM HOME. WE NEED TO BE EXTRA VIGILANT ONCE WE RESUME ON-CAMPUS INSTRUCTION.

Student Quarantined Due to Possible Exposure

If your child is required to quarantine for 14 days due to contact tracing, your student will automatically be transitioned to Distance Learning until the quarantine period is completed and your student can come back to campus.

Student Sick with COVID-19

If your child is sick with Covid-19, they will be excused from classes as will any student who gets sick or needs an extended absence from school. Our counselors and teachers will work with you on a plan to get your student back on track once they are well enough to work at home.

ON CAMPUS CHANGES

Face Masks

Face masks are mandatory. Students must put a mask on before entering campus and must wear a mask while on campus unless otherwise indicated – such as eating lunch, participating in PE, or medically directed. Garces will have masks for sale in the student store. Students are allowed to wear their own masks, however, masks must cover the nose and mouth. Teachers and staff will also be required to wear masks or face shields.

Health Checks Throughout the Day

Teachers will medically screen students at the start of each day and use an infrared thermometers for temperature checks prior to the start of each class. If a student's temperature is above 100.4, he/she will be sent to the office, where he/she will have his/her temperature checked again. If his/her temperature is still 100.4 or above, he/she will be sent home. Teachers and staff will also be subject to health checks at the start of each day.

Social Distancing

Our campus and classes have been reconfigured so our classes can be conducted safely under social distancing guidelines. Desks in each classroom are six feet apart. In addition to using our classrooms, we will have classes held in other buildings on our campus to accommodate social distancing for our larger class sizes. In addition to spacing the desks six feet apart, we have installed plexi-glass where needed, signage and traffic flow markers.

Break and Lunch

The Cafeteria and Student Store will be open for food purchases only. Students must either purchase lunch or bring their lunch. Lunches may NOT be dropped off. Social distancing guidelines will apply during break and lunch.

STUDENT LIFE

Cafeteria

We are reorienting the flow of the cafeteria so that there is a separate entrance and exit to facilitate a one-way path for students. Students will not be allowed to eat in MLH. The cafeteria will have “grab-and-go” items to expedite time spent in MLH.

Student Store

Students will be able to order items from the Student Store through the window. The store will not be open for students to go inside.

Service Hours

The students will not be required to complete service hours on their own for the 2020-2021 school year. Garces will look for appropriate service projects the school can support within the social distancing guidelines.

All School Mass/Formal Dress

During Fall Semester, we will hold Mass once a month. We will stream Mass and instead of dismissing students to MLH, students will stay in their classroom to participate. On those days, students are required to wear formal dress.

Retreats

We will have virtual retreats for the freshmen and sophomore classes in the fall semester. Depending on guidelines, we will work on either in-person or virtual retreats for the junior and senior classes for the spring semester.

Counseling

Counselors will meet one on one with students as needed. All parent conferences and meetings will be via Zoom.

ASB

What the school is able to do in terms of extracurricular activities remains to be seen. We will still have school activities - they will just look differently. The Activities Director, Ms. Witwer, will work with the ASB Leadership Class and we expect they will be very creative in providing extracurricular activities even where social distancing needs to be maintained.

Clubs

Moderators will work with each club to determine how to move forward within social distancing guidelines. Some clubs may need to suspend operations for now.

Competitive Clubs/Teams

Robotics and the Dance Team are “to be determined” at this time. We will have to see if competitions will be scheduled. If so, then we will move forward so our students can compete. Mock Trial has been canceled for the 2020-2021 school year.

Band

Once guidelines permit for large group gatherings, we will be able to hold band concerts.

Theater

Our theater program is beginning virtually and will transition to in-person once we are back on campus. We will be able to tentatively plan for a Spring production.

ATHLETICS

On July 20th the CIF announced that we will have two sports seasons this year. Football, volleyball, and water polo are winter sports. All other sports will be spring sports.

As of September 14th, Garces began Phase One of the CIF Reopening Guidelines. During Phase One, student athletes are allowed on campus for workouts under strict guidelines to mitigate any spread of COVID-19. It is up to each head coach to determine when teams will be back on campus for pre-season conditioning.

The Garces Memorial Athletic Department will provide updates on the Garces website and social media sites Twitter, Instagram and Facebook @GarcesAthletics.



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDARS

PRACTICE START DATES

December 14th
Cross Country, Water Polo,
Volleyball, & Football

February 22nd
Soccer & Tennis,
Swim & Dive, Wrestling,
& Basketball,

March 15th
Baseball, Softball, Golf,
Track & Field

SEASON START DATES

December 28th
Cross Country, Water Polo
& Volleyball

January 7th
Football

March 8th
Soccer & Tennis,
Swim & Dive, Wrestling
Basketball

March 27
Baseball, Softball, Golf,
Track & Field

CIF REOPENING PHASES

Phase One

No gathering of more than what is allowed by local county guidelines. Workouts should be conducted in “pods”— the same 5 to 10 students working out together weekly, to limit overall exposures. Small pods can be used for strength training. Athletes and coaches must maintain a physical distance of 6 feet. If maintaining physical distance isn’t possible, the maximum number of individuals to a room must be decreased so physical distancing requirements are met.

Phase Two

Up to 50 people may gather indoors or outdoors unless prescribed by county residents.

Health & Safety Guidelines

Hard surfaces like chairs, furniture in meeting rooms, weight room equipment, bathrooms and athletic training tables must be sanitized and wiped before use. Students should shower immediately after returning home from practice. Use entrance and exit strategies to prevent groups from gathering at entrances and exits to limit crossover and contact. All coaches and students should be screened daily for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 before practicing or competing. All students are required to bring their own water bottles. Water bottles cannot be shared. Hydration stations like water fountains and water cows should only be used for re-filling personal water bottles. Coaches, officials and other game personnel should wear masks, especially when physical distancing isn’t possible.

For sports that cannot be conducted with sufficient distancing or cohorting, only physical conditioning and training is permitted and ONLY where physical distancing can be maintained.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Who is considered a close contact?

A close contact is defined as a person who is less than 6 feet from a case for more than 15 minutes.

What if a student exhibits symptoms?

The student will be sent home.

What if a student tests negative?

Students who test negative may return to school 3 days after symptoms resolve.

What if a student has a confirmed COVID-19 Case Infection?

The infected students must isolate at home and be excluded from school for 10 days from symptom onset or test date. Garces will identify close contacts and contact families. Classrooms will be disinfected. School remains open.

What if a student is a “close contact” with a confirmed COVID 19 Case?

Student will be sent home and asked to quarantine for 14 days from last exposure.

What is the criteria for closing a school once a county is off the state watch list?

Individual school closure may be appropriate when there are multiple cases in multiple cohorts or when at least 5 percent of the total number of teachers/student/staff are cases within a 14-day period.

If a school is closed for in-person learning, when may it reopen?

Schools may typically reopen after 14 days and the following have occurred:

- Cleaning and disinfection
- Public health investigation
- Consultation with the local public health department

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Can I opt not to send my student back to campus once it opens and remain on Distance Learning? You will have the option of returning to On-Campus Instruction or remaining on Distance Learning. Once we are back on campus, distance learning will not be as interactive as it was while campus was closed and all of the students participated on-line. Our teachers will be teaching a room of students while the distance learners will be watching on-line.

If we choose Distance Learning and change our minds, can my student come back on campus for classes? Once you are enrolled in Distance Learning there will be limited options for a student to transfer back to On-Campus Instruction. Garces has to track our students for COVID 19 tracing purposes so every teacher has to maintain a seating chart. To help ensure the safety of our students, we will designate windows for students to opt back onto campus so seating charts and student pods can be updated with the correct information.

If we choose On-Campus Instruction can we opt to move to Distance Learning at any time? You can move to Distance Learning at any time, but the same designated windows for returning to On-Campus Instruction will apply.

What happens if someone in my student’s class is diagnosed with COVID-19? Will I be notified? Will my child need to quarantine?

If a student is diagnosed with COVID-19, Garces will work with the Kern County Department of Public Health to do contact tracing. If it is determined that your student came into close contact, then your student will be sent home to self monitor for symptoms and to quarantine for 14 days. Parents will be notified by email.

Will I be notified of the name the person who was diagnosed with COVID-19? No. Garces will maintain the confidentiality of all of our students, faculty and staff. Parents will be notified that their student was identified as someone who came into close contact to someone diagnosed with COVID-19 but the person’s name will not be released by the school.

Will teachers be available to safely meet with my student during enrichment for academic support? Teachers will be on campus to meet with students during enrichment and social distancing guidelines will apply. Students can also email their teachers for assistance and make arrangements to meet over Zoom if needed.

Once back on campus, will there be Masses and other spiritual activities? How will this be done safely? We will have Mass monthly once we resume. Garces will have an Activity Schedule and Mass will be done virtually and students will watch on-line in their classroom. Other spiritual activities will be determined and organized by the Campus Minister once we are back. The spiritual growth of your student is important to us.

Once back on campus, will there be social activities such as rallies and dances? How will this be done safely? Until we have clearance to gather in large groups, rallies and dances will not take place as we have known in the past. Our ASB class and Activities Director will look to find activities that can be done within the social distancing guidelines to bring our students together and make meaningful high school memories.

Can students interact during lunch?

Yes, but social distancing guidelines will be in place.

Will there be after school activities such as Robotic?

We are waiting to hear if there will be competitions for robotics. Once we know, we will notify the club moderators. In terms of other activities, the clubs and activities that can safely meet with social distancing will have the option of meeting after school.

Will counselors be available to safely meet with my student to help with academic, social, or personal concerns? Counselors will be in their offices and can meet with students one on one. The counselors will wear face masks, have plexi-glass shields on their desks and will sit six feet apart from the student.

What about college advising? The counselors will still meet with the student and the parents, but the parent will have to attend the meeting virtually using the ZOOM app.

Will there be a requirement for letting Garces know if a student is living with a family member who has COVID-19? Yes. Your student will need to self quarantine and move to Distance Learning.

What will lunch time look like and will there be an option to buy a lunch?

Students will be assigned to pods within each class. They will sit with their pods during break and lunch. This will help us if we need to do any contact tracing. Both the cafeteria and the student store will be open for students to purchase food items.

Will seniors get to have the traditional activities this year? We will have senior activities this year - either traditional or non-traditional. It will all depend on the pandemic.

Will we allow fans or family at sporting events? The state has guidelines in place that we will follow as to the number of people who are allowed at a sporting event.

If my child forgets their iPad or lunch can I drop it off to them?

Unfortunately, we cannot allow any items to be dropped off to students when we re-open.

If my child is enrolled in Distance Learning can he or she play sports?

While we want our students athletes on campus and in class, requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

NEW FOR PARENTS

Visitors

Visitors to campus are by appointment only. All visitors must wear a mask, check in at the office and go through medical screening. Temperatures will be checked using an infrared thermometers and no one will be admitted with a temperature above 100.4.

Meetings - DISCONTINUED

There will be NO on campus meetings, except for faculty/staff meetings. All meetings will need to take place on ZOOM. This includes College Planning Meetings with the counselors.

Lunch Drop Off - DISCONTINUED

Parents will not be allowed to drop off lunches for now.

Printer Access - DISCONTINUED

Students will not have access to the Student Center printers. The Student Center has been converted to a classroom to accommodate social distancing needs.

Garces BBQ, Gala and Golf

We are planning on having all three fundraisers during the 2020-2021 school year.

Class Rings

Garces will coordinate with Josten's for a safe, social distancing option for the junior class to view and order class rings this fall. Under current conditions, we will not be able to hold the Junior Class Step Up Mass in the fall semester. If conditions and guidelines change, we will put the Step Up Mass on the school calendar.

Garces Business Office

Garces Business Office will be open by appointment only from 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM during school days. If you have been financially impacted by COVID and need to make adjustments to your tuition payment schedule, please contact Mrs. Laura Lee at llee@garces.org

PSI Hours - DISCONTINUED

Due to social distancing guidelines, PSI Hours are discontinued for now.



Garces Re-Entry Plan for 2020-2021



Garces Memorial High School
2800 Loma Linda Dr.
Bakersfield, CA 93305

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