

Catholic Controls Coronavirus Spread

BETHANY HARDAWAY
Staff Reporter

Thanks to COVID-19, our school year is looking very different from those we have experienced in the past. Students and staff are working together to make sure that we are doing our best to be safe by wearing masks, socially distancing ourselves and keeping our spaces in the classroom clean. Students and staff have been advised to wash their hands or use sanitizer frequently as well as clean the desks they use before or after each class.

Despite these measures, a few members of the Charlotte Catholic student body have unfortunately contracted the virus. The school, in collaboration with the Health Department of Mecklenburg County, is working on contact tracing and further prevention. Around 50 students that were within six feet of the infected students have been sent home to participate in remote learning and are undergoing a 14 day quarantine. If the number of cases continues to rise, the Health Department and the school will determine the best course of action. The health of students is the school's main priority.



Currently students have the option of attending school in person or attending remotely from home. Senior Sadie Ehrenberg said, "I feel safe here, and I prefer being in

the classroom over remote learning."

Most students agree with Sadie. In a recent polling of students, the consensus is that attending classes on campus benefits students more than remote learning.

For students to maintain in-person attendance they must be vigilant in protecting their own health and take every precaution to prevent the spread of the virus. The phrase "better safe than sorry" has never been more apt, and students have been asked to monitor their behavior outside of school and avoid large gatherings.

Nurse Lorraine Maslanka advised students to "hold each other ac-

countable" and to take personal responsibility for social distancing and wearing a mask properly. Students have been encouraged to be extra cautious and respectful of those around them. They have been instructed not to congregate in common areas. This is extremely important because contact tracing cannot be done in places such as the cafeteria.

For the foreseeable future the coronavirus will be a threat and the fate of our school year lies in the hands of Mecklenburg County Health Department. The current safety measures will remain in place and observed by students as well as staff. While this year will be unconventional, administrators are doing everything possible to make sure students continue learning.

Photo Credit: Google Images

New Year Leads to New Schedule

ABIGAIL HAHN
Staff Reporter

For the past six months students have suspected that the 2020 - 2021 school year would be like no other. What they perhaps did not anticipate was this year's change to a block schedule.

This year, rather than having seven 47-minute classes a day, students will have five 67-minute classes that rotate on a seven-day schedule.

In addition, student lunch times are now based on which floor their fourth-period classroom is located.

According to Dr. Maria Leahy, there were a handful of factors that led to the decision to switch to a new schedule, one of which was the addition of remote learning to this school year. "When we switched to remote learning last year, it did not work well on a seven-class schedule," she said. Many students and parents found it difficult to keep up with.

However, the school's switch to a two-day block schedule partway through the second semester didn't work either, Dr. Leahy added. There was too much time allocated for

each class, and the asynchronous schedule wasn't ideal. The current five-class schedule is a compromise between these two options.

Dr. Leahy also said that this schedule makes it easier to comply with the CDC guidelines. The new schedule means students spend less time in the halls, and there is more time to clean between classes.

Like any system, there are pros and cons to this year's schedule. Along with the safety benefits, Dr. Leahy said the longer class periods allow for more flexibility for teachers to teach in different ways. It also provides more structure in the day for virtual students.

There are some difficulties with the new schedule as well. "There are lots of new things to adjust to," Dr. Leahy said. For teachers, it can be challenging to adjust from teaching 47-minute classes to 67-minute classes. It is also difficult not to teach all of their classes in one day, which results in different classes getting different lessons in one day. It

can also be hard for students to focus in class for over an hour without physical and mental breaks.

Student opinions about the new schedule are mixed. Some students like the schedule's longer class periods. Bea Brenes, a sophomore, said, "I appreciate that we get more time in class to get prepared for tests and quizzes." She also enjoys this year's longer lunch periods.

However, other students think the new schedule is disorganized and confusing. Madalyn Schmitz, another sophomore, believes the new schedule makes planning the week difficult because you don't always know what classes you have on what day. "Also, lunch changes every day, and becomes very confusing to keep up with," she said.

It's too early to know whether this new schedule will remain in the future. "If we all woke up tomorrow and everything was normal, I think we'd revert to the seven-class schedule," Dr. Leahy admitted. But for now, it seems that the COVID-19 pandemic will continue into the foreseeable future, and the five-class schedule will continue to be part of students' lives as well.

CCHS Daily Schedule

Time	Rotation 1	Rotation 2	Rotation 3	Rotation 4	Rotation 5	Rotation 6	Rotation 7
7:40 - 8:50	A Period	F Period	D Period	B Period	G Period	E Period	C Period
8:56 - 10:03	B Period	G Period	E Period	C Period	A Period	F Period	D Period
10:09 - 11:16	C Period	A Period	F Period	D Period	B Period	G Period	E Period
All students report to the Next Period. Students will be dismissed to Lunch or have Class.							
Lunch/4th Class Period (3rd Floor and Gym/Band Area)							
First Lunch							
11:22 - 12:02	Lunch						
12:08 - 1:15	D period	B Period	G Period	E Period	C Period	A Period	F Period
4th Class Period/Lunch (2nd Floor, 1st Floor of 500 Building and Rm. 110)							
Second Lunch							
11:22 - 12:29	D Period	B Period	G Period	E Period	C Period	A Period	F Period
12:35 - 1:15	Lunch						
1:21 - 2:28	E Period	C Period	A Period	F Period	D Period	B Period	G Period
Prayer and Dismissal from 2:28 - 2:35							

Photo Credit: CCHS Communications

CCHS Welcomes New Teachers

JOSEPH FLYNN
Staff Reporter

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused a chaotic start for the school year, but Charlotte Catholic has a strong lineup of new teachers ready to take it on. There are eleven new teachers in all, teaching various subjects.

Due to the number of teachers who left the school last year, the school has more new teachers than usual. Mr. Telford said, “we had several teachers who when we went back to in-person learning didn’t feel comfortable and left because of that. They said ‘for my health, for my family’s health, I’ll have to resign.’”

He continued, “I hope that all will be patient, with the students, with the administration, with the teachers. The challenge of Covid is being able to quickly adapt to an ever changing landscape. That’s everyone, not just teachers, not just students, that’s everyone.” Despite the challenges ahead, Mr. Telford is confident in every teacher, new or not, to guide students through this year.

New in the Social Studies department are Mr. Blankemeyer, teaching Ancient and regular World History, and Mr. Morgan, teaching US History.

Mr. Blankemeyer considers himself multi-talented, both a musician and a cook on top of being a teacher. Having last taught at Belmont Abbey, he noted “there’s a lot more personal responsibility and you have a lot of time out class in college, so it’s been a bit challenging with a lot more planning on my end this year.” Aside from this, Mr. Blankemeyer hopes that everyone will stay safe and healthy, and that the school can soon return to a more normal learning environment.

In contrast, Mr. Morgan came from Holy Trinity, hoping to see and teach some of his former students again. He said, “it’s certainly a

challenging year like no other, but we have no choice but to rise to the occasion, right?” Mr. Morgan is very proud to be a part of a school that is making this year work despite its challenges. He added, “I’m sure my students will also begrudgingly tell you that my mask has not yet disrupted my speaking enough!”

The new theology teachers are Mrs. Kent and Mr. Garland, teaching Mystery & Redemption and Faith & Revelation, respectively.

Mrs. Kent last worked at a college too, UNC Charlotte, teaching classes how to use rare books and primary source materials for research. Her undergraduate major was archaeology, which she thinks she could teach just as well as theology. She said, “I think it will be difficult to remember faces and names with masks on, but I have hope that I’ll get to know the kids better. I’ve always wanted to teach theology, so it’s really a joy to be here.”

Mr. Garland was a professional actor before teaching in Maryland, and loves martial arts and books. He said “My old school had a similar rotating schedule, so it was fairly easy to get adjusted to it. So far, I have mixed up any classes.” He hopes to inspire his students to a greater love of Jesus Christ this year.

There are three new foreign language teachers, Mrs. Carrillo, Mrs. Baker, and Mrs. Juredieu-Cole. Mrs. Carrillo teaches Spanish 2 and AP Spanish Literature, Mrs. Baker teaches Spanish 1, and Mrs. Juredieu-Cole teaches French 1 and French 3.

Mrs. Carrillo was born in Uruguay, came to the United States to study in New York City, taught at Winthrop University, and finally came to Charlotte to teach this year. She enjoys Charlotte because it reminds her of her country. She said, “It is hard when you have

both in person and remote learning, definitely, but I understand that they do this for the safety of students.” Her goal and expectation for this year is to get to know the students at Charlotte Catholic and to adjust to the highschool level.

This year is Mrs. Baker’s first year teaching, having previously been a missionary in Colorado. She said, “it’s been great. I’ve really enjoyed teaching and the time spent with students has been a lot of fun.” She hopes to foster a sense of community in the classroom and interact with and engage her students, but in a safe way with Covid. She added, “the number one priority is that they grow closer to God and have a safe place to be.”

Mrs. Juredieu-Cole goes to France with her family every summer, and her goal is to have her students speak French as well as her kids. She said, “I hope that my students learn a lot of French, know more than when they entered the school year, and that they enjoy my class.” She also hopes that school can stay in person over the year, because it is especially important to be able to interact face to face when teaching a foreign language.

The Mathematics, Science, Art, and Learning Support departments each welcome one new teacher this year too.

Mrs. Culicerto is teaching biology this year, having previously taught at Holy Trinity. She said, “the rotating schedule definitely keeps me on my toes, and my brain is constantly working. I’m worried about thinking the schedule is different and being unprepared.” Despite this, she hopes that we can put all the unique circumstances of this year aside and focus on learning and the values of Charlotte Catholic. Mrs. Culicerto also met her husband here at Charlotte Catholic.

Mrs. Katz threw a dart at a map seven years ago, which led her to Charlotte. She taught at a CMS middle school before coming to Charlotte Catholic to teach Algebra I. “The challenge is going to be remembering what periods I saw the day before, see that day, and see tomorrow. I have to find a way to easily know what periods I see for each day,” she said. She also wishes to see her students play in their favorite sports again.

Mrs. Crickenburger teaches a variety of courses, including Art 1, Ceramics 1, Photo 1, 2 and 3, as well as Intro to Digital Media. She’s been a traveling teacher for the past 10 years, going to different schools to teach art to students of all ages. She said, “I have had the opportunity to build some really interesting and impactful art projects with my students, and I look forward to bringing those types of projects to Charlotte Catholic in the years to come.”

Mrs. Hager is beginning her first year as a teacher in Learning Support, and before teaching she did direct therapy with developmentally challenged children. “With it being such a crazy year, I just hope to be able to help students interact, get their accommodations, be comfortable with school, and to make this a safe place for them.” Mrs. Hager also sings in a band called Melody and the Notes (from her first name, Melody), which plays around Charlotte.

All of the new teachers have high hopes for this year, and are doing their best for their students in these uncertain times. Despite multiple new challenges this year, Charlotte Catholic is continuing to pursue the education of its students, with the help of all of its great teachers.

New Chaplain Comes to Catholic

MAC SIZELAND
Staff Reporter

When Charlotte Catholic transitioned to remote learning in March, school chaplain Father Joseph Matlak still made an effort to stay active in the school community-- yet once the new school year began, he was nowhere to be found. Charlotte Catholic was left without a chaplain for the first few weeks of the school year, but by the end of September the bishop had appointed Father Timothy Reid and Seminarian Robbie Bauman as chaplain and assistant to the chaplain respectively.

Father Reid has had an extensive dedication to service in the Diocese of Charlotte, beginning with his appointment as pastor of St. Ann’s Parish and chaplain of St. Ann’s Elementary School 13 years ago and further proven by his new role as Vicar of Education for Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Charlotte. Seminarian Robbie Bauman, however, has only taken two years of pre-theology courses as part of his seminary education and just moved to Charlotte from Tennessee last Sunday.

Despite the gulf of experience in the position or in the Charlotte faith community between the two, they share a kinship as converts to the faith and, in their own words, “instruments of God’s love

and encouragement for his children to trust Him.” Both also aim to fill the need for “priestly guidance” in these “fragile times”, as not only have the lay functions of the school changed dramatically in the face of COVID-19, religious duties such as all school Mass have transformed as well. Seminarian Bauman especially hopes that to emphasize a “culture of prayer” by finding ways to provide opportunities for students to worship together safely-- such as celebrating the Mass religion classes instead of as a student body and future extracurricular activities that might allow students to explore their spirituality.

Father Matlak’s sudden disappearance is not out of the ordinary for Charlotte Catholic, who has seen three different chaplains in the space of five years. This is not for lack of interest in the students or greater faith community, but because of a “shortage of priests in Charlotte and the diocese at large,” according to Father Reid. The Diocese of Charlotte has had difficulties filling vacancies in parishes across western North Carolina for over a decade, and the Charlotte Catholic chaplaincy is a top offender.

Even after leaving Charlotte Catholic, Father Matlak will still be juggling both his chaplaincy at Holy Trinity Middle School and pastorship of his Eastern Orthodox parish St. Basil the Great, and Father Reid will also serve as both Vicar of Education and pastor at St. Ann’s and part-time duty at Charlotte Catholic-- which the bishop asked him to do because they “didn’t have any other available ordained priests.”

Unlike previous chaplains, Father Reid will not just be serving as a spiritual leader of the school community, but also inhabiting a major role in the administrative hierarchy. Father Matlak was the first chaplain to receive such overarching powers as “becoming automatic head of the Theology Department... [and] Campus Ministry” and “ensuring that all employees [have] an understanding of the philosophy of Catholic education... and exercise vigilance to protect the Catholic identity of the school”, in part by

“reviewing resumés of Theology teaching candidates... and calling attention to any activity or aspect of campus life that is inappropriate to Catholic morals”, as decreed by the bishop last October.

Father Reid is happy to “point the direction” towards an “authentically Catholic” identity for students and teachers alike but stresses that he plans to “just let the faith breathe” with his presence while he learns the nuances of the school community. “When you spend time with people, you learn their needs,” said Father Reid. “And I am going to take the time to learn the needs of this faith community so I can tend to them as well as I can.”

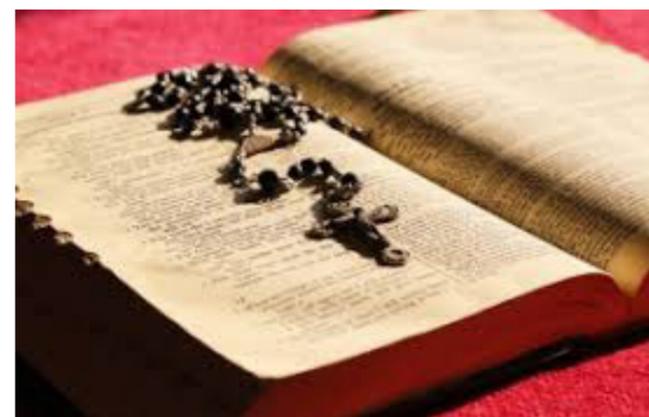


Photo Credit: Google Images

Students Choose How They Learn

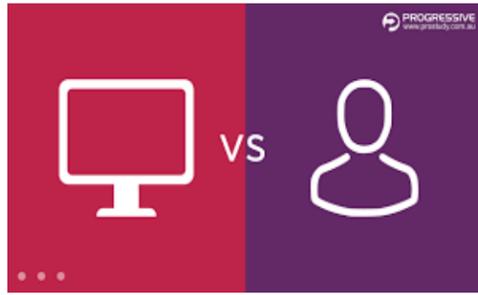
PJ O'CONNELL
Staff Reporter

During these uncertain times, students and teachers have changed the way that they learn and interact with their peers, such as using Zoom to join their class virtually. At Charlotte Catholic, students were given the opportunity to decide whether to do the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year online or in person.

Over the summer, the Charlotte Catholic staff didn't come to a conclusion on if they wanted to return to campus or continue with off-campus education. Then, the superintendent of MACS, Dr. Gregory Monroe, delayed the start date of the 2020-2021 school year by two weeks.

This choice did require the school staff to do a lot of preparation before the start of the year. Red tape lines were put in all of the hallways and staircases in order to make sure that students were staying on one side of the hallway and were also practicing physical distancing.

In certain classrooms with tables that fit two students, plexiglass was installed onto the desk to adhere to



physical distancing guidelines. In between every class, the teachers spray and wipe down classroom desks with a sanitizer spray. The school additionally hired a professional cleaning staff in order to clean every classroom and the hallways after every school day.

To get a better understanding of the difference between online and in-person learning we asked two different students from each side what their opinions were. Junior Patrick Story, who is learning online this semester, said "I don't want to be doing online schooling, but if I can stay safe and healthy at home, then I will have to do what's best for my health."

Another student, Corey Brenner, who is also participating in remote learning, said "I would rather be do-

ing remote learning than in-person [because] I can stay in my pajamas all day." When asked, both Brenner and Story said that they don't mind being in Zoom classes all day with their teachers, although they do miss the social part of school such as seeing their friends at lunch and in classes.

In a different perspective for students, in-person classes are a whole different story. Students are required to wear masks in the building as well as practice social and physical distancing guidelines. When asking junior Tom Fahey, he said "I think this year is better than last year because of all the new additions. Yea, [the masks] are annoying but the new snack carts and only having five classes per day is so much better."

The administration is still confident that most students are safe as long as they continue to physically distance and wear their mask at all times in common areas around the school. However, these plans and guidelines are subject to change depending on the health departments decision.

On the afternoon of Monday, September 9th, parents of Charlotte Catholic students received an email from the administration stating that "a student or staff member in our school community has tested positive for COVID-19." This email set everyone at unease.

This email meant that only one person has tested positive for COVID-19, but Principal Telford later admitted on the school intercom that "twenty people were sent home into a quarantine period who were in contact with the student."

When asking 50 students at Charlotte Catholic, about 35 of them say that they still feel safe while at school. On the other hand, the 15 people that don't feel comfortable or safe at school despite the safety measure and guidelines that the school set in place.

Then, on September 11th, there was yet another email sent out to the Charlotte Catholic parents of the second case of COVID-19 within the school community. The administration didn't seem to be worried, but again as one case was discovered, more students were sent home to enter into a quarantine period.

As stated by the CDC, a cluster of five cases or more will force the health department to step in and shut down the establishment. And that is exactly what they did.

On Tuesday, September 15th, Principal Telford got on the intercom at the school to announce the new plans given to them by the local health department. This consisted of the school being shut down for the rest of the week so that the school could be deep cleaned by a professional cleaning staff. After that week, the students will go back to coming back every other day, depending on their last name.

Photo Credit: Google Images

Cougars Part with PlusPortals- Convert to Canvas

ALEX NEWELL
Staff Reporter

With the start of the current school year, students and teachers bid farewell to PlusPortals and welcome Canvas, the newly implemented educational platform at Charlotte Catholic. The administration, responding to student and teacher feedback, took notice of problems during the fourth quarter of last year, as students had trouble locating their work due to teachers not using a single platform to post assignments. Teachers had the choice between e-mail, PlusPortals, and Google Classroom, and students became frustrated since their instructors used different platforms.

The goal of Canvas is to have a single platform where students can find and submit assignments easily when learning remotely. However, at the beginning of the school year students and teachers had difficul-

ty adapting to the Canvas layout.

Gabe Lazcano, a junior that elected to go completely virtual, said, "I had trouble learning it because of complications on both my and my teachers' ends." Gabe also mentioned that when he heard that Charlotte Catholic was no longer using PlusPortals as their primary learning system, he had hoped that they would choose a replacement

that the students had used at least once or twice.

On the other hand, Gabe believes that "online learning this year is more organized than it was last year." The final quarter of the 2019-2020 school year was a frustrating time for all of Charlotte Catholic and schools around the nation as trying to get accustomed to online learning was bound to

lead to mishaps.

When asked if he liked the overall layout of PlusPortals or Canvas better, Gabe stated that he likes PlusPortals better because as soon as he opens the website and logs in, he is able to see his grades. Students are finding that the accessibility of their grades on canvas is much more difficult, and that some teachers have not yet even enabled the ability to view grades on their page. Junior Tom Fahey said that he hates that the only way to view grades for classes that do not have grades enabled is to download an app on your phone. For the most part, the switch to Canvas so far has been a controversial one, but the students trust that anything is better than last spring.

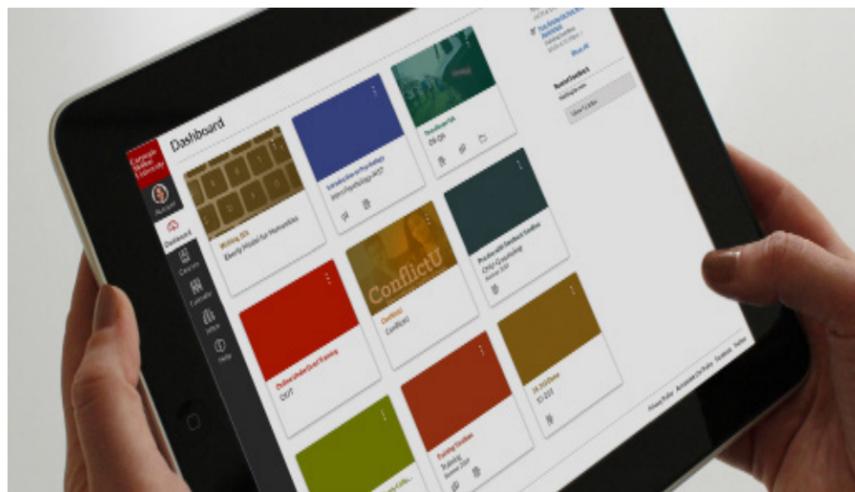


Photo Credit: Google Images

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David Smith

Cougar Cart Caters to Students

TESS VALKOVSKI

Staff Reporter

While students are upset over the loss of the well-liked “break” for the 2020-2021 school year, they are also celebrating the introduction of the cougar cart.

Many students miss having the break and some have expressed their disappointment. During these 20 minutes of break, students had the freedom to do work, talk to friends, and most importantly, eat. Sophomore Glenn Jay Sedam IV said the break was “a good rest in between classes where I could eat food because I like food.”

In support of keeping masks on at all times during the school day and keeping the classrooms sanitary to maintain a Covid-19 free environment, teachers are not permitting eating in their rooms this year. This leaves students with growl-

ing stomachs during class until they get to their lunch period at either 11:22pm or 12:35pm.

To solve this problem, the cafeteria now offers a snack cart accessible to all students called “the cougar cart.” This remote station is located on the second floor Monday through Friday 8:15am to 10:20am. “It’s nice not having to go all the way down to the cafeteria to buy snacks,” said junior Megan Sie.

Breakfast items such as biscuits and french toast sticks are available. Snack items such as chips and

candy as well as a variety of drinks are also available.

Acceptable payment options when buying from the cart include either cash or student accounts.

Only being in business for two weeks as of September 11, 2020, the snack cart’s business is off to a slow but steady start. Cafeteria manager Mary Yarborough said that “not many kids are purchasing from the cart yet,” but she’s hopeful that business will pick up once students get more settled into the new normal of this school year.

The cart is proud to offer the iconic “ooey-goey” chocolate chip cookies

to the school again. Ooey-goeyes can be preordered from flyers with QR codes posted around the school, then picked up from the cart.

If students have any suggestions for the cart, see Mrs. Yarborough in the cafeteria during the mornings before the first period.



Mary Yarborough and Ms. Jesse

Photo Credit: Tess Valkovschi

COVID in Play Causes Delay

ROBERT VERRIER

Staff Reporter

The long-lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic that canceled all 2020 spring sports has now altered the 2020-2021 North Carolina High School sports calendar. All of the sports Charlotte Catholic offers will be played during the 2020-2021 school year, but, under different circumstances and with different schedules.

Some student-athletes have been disappointed with the changes of the schedules, especially with South Carolina proceeding as normal with slight delays, as their football season kicks off in early October.

Que Tucker, the Commissioner of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association resonates with the student’s disappointment but believes the delays are best for the chances of a full season, as she said, “We have delayed the start of all sports for the 2020-2021 school year in hopes that the Virus is more under control in our state, that the chances of having to pause the season are minimized, and in hopes that our student’s parents and other family members, along with their friends will be able to attend the contests.”

Perhaps the most drastic of these schedule changes is the football season, where the Cougars are attempting to capture their fourth consecutive state championship. They will enter the season ranked 200th in the country, and we’re looking to advance that ranking against some nationally recognized football programs, such as Bergen Catholic from New Jersey, and Archbishop Rummel from Louisiana, who are

ranked 25th and 20th in the nation respectively.

Instead of playing their usual ten game schedule, the Cougars will face only seven conference opponents, Monroe, Weddington, Sun Valley, Piedmont, Parkwood, Cuthbertson, and Marvin Ridge, during their season which will begin on February 26th. The season will last until April 9th, and the State Championship game will be played on May 8th.

When asked about playoffs and a possible location, Que Tucker responded, “We are making plans to contest state championships wherever we can, even on/in large high school venues.”

It appears both cross country and volleyball will lead the charge for sports to resume in the State of North Carolina, as both teams will open their seasons on November 16th. Each team will have 14 game seasons, and their State Championship competitions will both be taking place on January 23rd.

Swim and Dive will then follow suit, as their season will begin on December 7th and will also be held to 14 contests, with the State Championship meet taking place February 10-13th.

Basketball, Charlotte Catholic’s most popular and heavily attended winter sport, will tip off their season on January 4th, and will play a 14 game schedule, with the State Championship game being held on March 6th. Coach King and the Cougars will be looking for revenge during the 2021 season, after a heartbreaking quarterfinal loss against Huss High School

after a 17 game winning streak. They finished their 2019-2020 season with a 24-4 record, with a 2nd place 13-1 conference record, the same conference record as 1st place Weddington.

Men’s Soccer and lacrosse will begin their season towards the end of January on the 25th, playing 14 games, with the State Championship going down on March 27th.

The aforementioned football season will begin on February 26th, playing 7 games, the fewest of any sport.

Golf, Men’s Tennis, Women’s Soccer, and Softball all begin their seasons on March 15th, and will all play 14 games or matches. However, the State Championships will take place on different dates. Golf will play its Championship May 10th and 11th, Men’s Tennis on the 15th, and Softball on the 14th and 15th as well.

Rounding out the calendar, baseball, women’s tennis, track and field, and wrestling will all begin on April 26th, with their seasons continuing into the early Summer. Each

sport will play 14 games, with Championship meetings for baseball, women’s tennis, as well as track and field will all take place June 25th and 26th, with wrestling’s state championship match taking place on the 26th.

And for students unsure if they will be permitted to attend the games, Ms. Tucker answered, “We do not know at this time. We will be mandated to follow the guidance from the Department of Health and Human Services. Whenever we start playing contests.”

Although the upcoming athletic seasons will be unlike any ever played before in Charlotte Catholic’s history, the mission of the Cougars student-athletes will be the same as usual. They hope to capture their respective Championships.

2020-2021 NCHSAA SPORTS CALENDAR					
Sport	1st Practice Date	1st Competition Date	Final Contest Date	Season Contest Limit	Weekly Contest Limit
Cross-Country	November 4	November 16	January 8	10	2
Volleyball	November 4	November 16	January 8	14	2
Swimming & Diving	November 23	December 7	January 30	10	2
Basketball	December 7	January 4	February 19	14	2
Lacrosse (M&W)	January 11	January 25	March 12	14	2
Soccer (M)	January 11	January 25	March 12	14	2
Football	February 8	February 26	April 9	7	1
Golf (M&W)	March 1	March 15	April 30	14	2
Soccer (W)	March 1	March 15	April 30	14	2
Softball	March 1	March 15	April 30	14	2
Tennis (M)	March 1	March 15	April 30	14	2
Baseball	April 12	April 26	June 11	14	2
Tennis (W)	April 12	April 26	June 11	14	2
Track & Field	April 12	April 26	June 11	10	2
Wrestling	April 12	April 26	June 11	14	2

Photo Credit: NCHSAA

Safety Stressed But Not Certain

KARA BIVENS
Staff Reporter

Charlotte Catholic's decision to have classes in-person this year has raised questions about how safe students are in school during a pandemic. I opted for in-person classes for the first semester so I can feel more connected in my courses and see my friends for the first time in months, but like the rest of the student body, I still have doubts about the safety of the situation. Is it inevitable that all students will be forced to move to a remote option in the coming weeks?

At least four students have already tested positive for the coronavirus, with dozens more quarantining at home for 14 days because of possible exposure to the disease. This has made me even more uneasy, because though the contact tracing was rapid and mostly effective, there are likely students still in school who were around those who tested positive in places where contact tracing is more difficult, like the cafeteria or the

hallways.

One of the conditions for the school to remain open is social distancing in classes and in the hallways, as well as wearing masks whenever distancing is not possible. I feel like social distancing has been well observed in the classrooms, and students are obeying the mask requirement around the school, but crowds form quickly in the hallways and are nearly impossible to avoid, prolonging side-by-side contact.

The main staircases are especially crowded this year because the smaller staircases are one way only. Instead of helping to diffuse traffic, one-way stairs remain relatively empty, since students want to get to class on time without worrying about whether a staircase goes only up or down. Since it is easier to head for the main staircases, the lines near these larger stairs cause traffic buildup and longer exposure to large crowds.



Lunch is another issue. During the first two weeks of school, students tried to sit near the friends they had missed during quarantine, which meant moving chairs in the commons area or sitting on the seats that were marked off for social distancing in the cafeteria. Although understandable after long months at home, being less than six feet apart without masks on could spread the coronavirus more rapidly if someone is positive.

Though the Charlotte Catholic faculty and staff have done a lot to maximize the health and safety of the entire school community, students' choices and behaviors are still putting students at risk for catching the coronavirus. I chose to stick with the in-person learning option after the trial period, but I still believe the cougars could be doing more to help everyone stay safe at school.

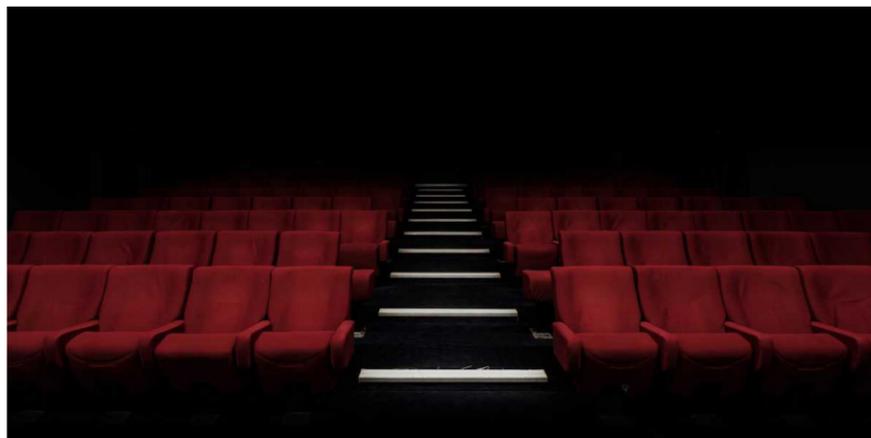
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COVID Crushes Cinema

BILLY HICKS
Staff Reporter

How disappointed would you be if the last movie you ever got to see in theatres was *Star Wars: Rise of Skywalker*? While a situation as horrible as that is unlikely, it still is not totally impossible. Hundreds if not thousands of theatres around the nation have already been forced to shut down because of COVID-19, and with no end in sight, many hundreds more will have to close before the pandemic ends.

Major theatres such as AMC or Regal Entertainment were already struggling with increasing ticket prices and the infamous inflated prices of popcorn and soft drinks, but now they are struggling to stay alive at all. In fact, the biggest theatre chain, AMC, was forced to shut down over 70% of its locations worldwide to stay out of bankruptcy. It was only as of July 15, 2020 that they were able to reopen 400 U.S. locations out of the total 8,000



they possess.

These facts have led to some speculation by film enthusiasts. What does the future hold for theatres? Will they ever be able to reopen? Youtuber Matthew Patrick, AKA Film Theory, gave his own slightly outlandish theory. "It is my guess that to manage the increasing ticket prices and dwindling interest in theatres, that they will become a more exclusive experience. Much like how circus' went from common oc-

currences to expensive and rare occasions, in the future you may only see a movie in theatres once a year for a much higher price." In other words, if you want to see a movie in the future, it better be worth it.

Of course, this is all mere speculation. But if theatres are doing worse than ever, what about the movies themselves? Well, things could not be going any better for them. The first movie to be released during COVID-19 was *Trolls: World Tour*.

This seemingly unremarkable movie skipped the theatre altogether and allowed users to rent it from any service for \$10.99. The movie, bearing lower than average reviews and a bad reputation, smashed all digital sale records ever and climbed to the top of the digital rentals chart. Somehow, this movie became one of the most popular movies in America, and it never even touched a theatre. Dreamworks, the producer of the movie, was very pleased and announced that they would likely be releasing their movies this way from now on.

Several other movies, like "The Invisible Man", followed suit and experienced somewhat similar results. The movie landscape was and has been changing for a long time, but when COVID-19 came along, it undoubtedly kickstarted a large change in how and where we consume our media.

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