

Butte County Waiver Application Cover Form

(for use by a Local Education Agency or equivalent)

Instructions:

Please submit one application for each local educational agency or equivalent. If applying on behalf of a school district please submit one application for elementary schools in the district that are seeking to reopen for in-person instruction. If applying for an independent, private, faith-based, or charter school, please submit an application for each school.

Background Information:

Name of Applicant/District (Local Educational Agency or Equivalent):

Marci Johnson

School Type: Traditional Public School
 Charter School
 Private, Independent, or Faith-Based School

Number of Schools: 1 Enrollment: 171

Superintendent (or equivalent) Name: Lincoln Snyder

Address: 435 Hazel St

Address Line 1 & 2

Chico, CA, 95928
City State Zip

Proposed Grades Reopening: TK K 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th

Proposed # of Students per Grade: 21 27 27 20 23 24 21

Proposed Reopening Date: August 31, 2020

School Website Link where the Reopening Plan is Posted:

ndschico.org

Name of Person Completing Application: Marci Johnson

Phone Number: 530-342-2502 Email: mjohnson@ndschico.org

Signature:  Date: August 14, 2020

■ **Parent and Community Organizations**

CSAC- The Notre Dame Advisory Commission (NDCSAC) met on August 4, 2020. The Return -to- School- Plan was presented to the CSAC commission.

The CSAC team had the opportunity to ask question regarding the plan.

Questions were asked and answered. The committee was informed that the parents would be receiving the plan on SchoolSpeak.

The Parents of Notre Dame received the Return -to -School plan on SchoolSpeak on August 7, 2020

Each parent had the opportunity to respond to the plan and ask questions via email or on the phone.

The Pastorial council held a special zoom meeting on August 7. The Return-to School Plan was shared with the group prior to the meeting, The plan was reviewed at this meeting and then the meeting was opened up for questions. There were no formal minutes taken for this meeting. The

following were the questions asked: How is the hired cleaning crew being trained to meet the protocols?

Do the students have to wear masks all the time? How did the staff feel ? Did they feel safe?

The hired cleaning crew is trained to clean according to the COVID guidelines. Students in grades 3rd- up are wearing masks. The staff felt very safe if we were to reopen our doors.

Please see the the letter from our Pastor, Father Mike Ritter who represents the pastoral council.

II. **Elementary School Reopening Plans**

Please confirm that elementary school reopening plan(s) addressing following, consistent with guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the local health department, have been published on the website of the local educational agency (or equivalent):

■ **Cleaning and Disinfection:** How shared surfaces will be regularly cleaned and disinfected and how use of shared items will be minimized.

■ **Cohorting:** How students will be kept in small, stable, groups with fixed membership that stay together for all activities (e.g., instruction, lunch, recess) and minimize/avoid contact with other groups or individuals who are not part of the cohort.

■ **Entrance, Egress, and Movement Within the School:** How movement of students, staff, and parents will be managed to avoid close contact and/or mixing of cohorts.

■ **Face Coverings and Other Essential Protective Gear:** How CDPH's face covering requirements will be satisfied and enforced.

■ **Health Screenings for Students and Staff:** How students and staff will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and how ill students or staff will be separated from others and sent home immediately.

■ **Healthy Hygiene Practices:** The availability of handwashing stations and hand sanitizer, and how their use will be promoted and incorporated into routines.

■ **Identification and Tracing of Contacts:** Actions that staff will take when there is a confirmed case. Confirm that the school(s) have designated staff persons to support contact tracing, such as creation and submission of lists of exposed students and staff, including contact information, to the local health department and notification of exposed persons. Each school must designate a person for the local health department to contact about COVID-19.

■ **Physical Distancing:** How space and routines will be arranged to allow for physical distancing of students and staff.

■ **Staff Training and Family Education:** How staff will be trained and families will be educated on the application, enforcement of the plan, and information related to testing and contact tracing requirements.

■ **Testing of Students and Staff:** How school officials will ensure that students and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 will be rapidly tested and what instructions they will be given while waiting for test results. Describe how staff will be tested periodically to detect asymptomatic infections in accordance with CDPH guidance.

■ **Triggers for Switching to Distance Learning:** The criteria the superintendent will use to determine when to physically close the school and prohibit in-person instruction.

■ **Communication Plans:** How the superintendent will communicate with students, staff, parents, and the local health department about cases and exposures at the school, consistent with privacy requirements such as FERPA and HIPAA.

Additional Resources:

CDPH and Cal/OSHA Guidance for Schools and School-Based Programs

<https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-schools.pdf>

California Department of Education Stronger Together: A Guidebook for the Safe Reopening of California's Public Schools

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/strongertogether.asp>

CDPH COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Framework for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Schools%20Reopening%20Recommendations.pdf>



Notre Dame School

Notre Dame Advisory Commission (NDCSAC) Agenda

August 4, 2020

General Meeting - 5:45 PM

Zoom meeting

Present: Scott Pfeiffer, Maisie Jane Hurtado, Sara Leete, Alicia Hayes, April Whitley, Theresa Carrio, Trinity Hillard, Paul McGowan, Ann Barnes, Fr. Mike Ritter, Marci Johnson, Kari Bertagna

Not Present: Shelly Brown, Allison Ward

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Opening Prayer – Trinity
 - b. Read Mission Statement - Scott
 - c. Introduction of members and committee they will serve.

- II. Preschool Report – not present

- III. Committee Reports
 - a. School Reopening Plans - Marci - Catholic school will reopen with the theme Faith/ Community/ Growth. We will start on August 17, 2020 school will be on Distance learning and meeting in small groups for prayer meetings and mass. All procedures and protocols for reopening were discussed. Butte County is on the state watch list so we can not hold direct instructions but we can still be a community as a school doing church activities different activities. If we are off the state watch list, school can resume with the added procedures and protocols. If a student becomes ill, the class will be on a 14 day guarantee and will do distance learning from home. The Sacramento Diocese has applied for the state waivers to have the student body back on campus up to 6th grade. We need Butte County covid numbers to go down before the state will approve our waivers. Parents on campus will be limited - The diocese has also stressed that no outside groups can use the school. This includes RCIA, CCD, church groups and so on.
 - b. Parent Engagement - Maisie - We have all new board members this year. Maisie Hurtado- PTO president, Nelle Peterson - V. P., Marie Hurtado-Secretary, Kaitlin Mollath - Secretary.
 - c. We are hoping to plan some events to help bond as a community. We will have a new family get together at DeGarmo Park on August 8th. Looking for some dates for our Hot August night event. We can make large squares for families to sit in on the parking lot. We might need to have two nights so many families can participate. Fall Festival, no more than 100 people at a time, date is October 14, We might have a drive thru dinner in place of the Saturday dinner. PTO is looking for a few more parent volunteers for some jobs.
 - d. Enrollment Update - See enrollment table - Deadline to register will be 4:00 on August 6th in order to be on the blended schedule. Applications, inquiries and registration changes every day.

e. Development/Public Relations

- i. Communication/Community – Ann - Thank you notes from SCAC members to community members.
- ii.
- iii. Marketing – Scott Pfeiffer -will continue with Faculty Fridays and NDS tidbits. Will work on getting Covid -19 school plan on the website for parents and prospects.
- iv.
- v. Annual Fund – Theresa Carrio - we hope to have a mass for our graduating class of 2020. Mass was not an option at the time of graduation.
- vi.
 1. Newsletter – Alicia Hayes - Fall newsletter will be sent out to our current donors. Moving toward an electronic newsletter and donation site.
 2. Development - Allison Ward - not present

f. Finance – Marci - no report available

Curriculum/Staff - Marci - Serena, TK teacher, has decided not to return to NDS. TK program will take place at NDS preschool and Ms. Shelly will be able to teach them in the mornings. Extension for TK and K will be at the preschool. Kindergarteners will be transported over to preschool from the main campus. Currently we have 6 students registered for TK.

- g. Mission Effectiveness/Catholic Identity – Trinity - looking for ways to build school/ parish relationships, suggestions are always welcome.
- h.
- i. Strategic Planning – April Whitley - leaning more about strategic planning on Diocese Base camp site. I will review what is in place now and move forward.
- j.
- k. Facilities/Safety –Paul McGowan - getting a quote from the company that is doing the remodel. I am hoping to get started this year on replacing doors.

IV. Old Business

a. New Business

- V. Next meeting - September 1, 2020
- VI. Correspondence - Preschool Landlord
- VII. Closing Prayer - Theresa



Notre Dame School

Faculty Meeting

August 8, 2020

3:00pm Zoom meeting

Present: Marci Johnson, Kari Bertagna, Kami Smith, Caroline Howard, Macy Lincoln, Christy Schaefer, Celeste Shults, Macy Lincoln, Monica Harrigan, Nicole Meyers, Maureen Matthews, Ruth Heskett, Cindy Stickney, Marie Corley, Andrew Mitani

Covid-19 Protocol and procedures: Marci read the Covid-19 protocols to the staff and sent the booklet to all faculty and staff members.

Question and answers:

When will training for cleaning and disinfection take place.- Training will take place August 10th and a follow up video will be released on Friday August 14th for the staff to watch.

If a waiver is granted can 7th and 8th graders be on site?- No the waiver is for K-6

Staff was informed that the parents would be receiving the latest version of the Return-to School plan tonight. The plan will also be posted on the Notre Dame website.

Meeting ended: 3:33pm

August 12, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as Parochial Administrator of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Chico and St. James Mission in Durham in support of Notre Dame School's application for a waiver to begin in-person instruction.

Supported by the Catholic School Department of the Diocese of Sacramento, our school's principal, administration, and staff have been working tirelessly to ensure we are well trained and equipped to begin onsite instruction in the current environment.

We have adopted strict guidelines in compliance with public health directives and have modified our daily schedule and the use of space on campus to facilitate social distancing. In addition to training, signage, masks, and thorough disinfectant protocols, students will follow a cohort model, meaning they will only interact with students who are members of their own small cohort while on campus. All registered families have been required to sign a written agreement to follow strict guidelines and submit to screening when dropping off or entering campus.

At Notre Dame School, we are committed to providing a safe environment for our staff, our students, and their families, as well as a supportive community in which we strive to educate the whole child in the spirit of our Catholic faith and in continuation of our nearly-100-year history of Catholic education here in Chico.

We believe in the need to take serious steps to protect against the spread of COVID-19 and are committed to maintaining the highest standards for health and safety on our campus. We also believe in the importance of being on campus with our students in order effectively address their needs academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually.

Thank you for your kind consideration. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Mike Ritter". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rev. Mike Ritter
Parochial Administrator
St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish, Chico

Ms. Marci Johnson
Principal, Notre Dame School
435 Hazel Street Chico, CA 95928

Ms. Johnson,

As parents of a Notre Dame School kindergartener I am writing this letter to voice my support for the opening of Notre Dame School for full time in-person instruction of students for the 2020-2021 school year. In-person instruction is vital for the mental, physical and spiritual health of our children.

With a thorough, regularly updated plan that follows State and Federal COVID-19 health and safety guidelines for social distancing and cleaning, the safest place for our children is in school. Research shows in-person education for children is the most effective and the CDC is recommending children attend school.

Notre Dame School has small class sizes and strong parental support, both of which are necessary in order to return to in-person instruction. With a clear, concise safety plan and an open line of communication between parents, teachers, and administrators Notre Dame School will be able to provide a safe and clean environment for our children to learn from their teachers and alongside their peers.

Our family looks forward to providing whatever support is necessary to re-open Notre Dame School for full time in-person instruction for the health and safety of our children.

Sincerely,

Jeff and Janet Rabo
530-219-9838
Janetarabo@gmail.com

Ms. Marci Johnson
Principal, Notre Dame School
435 Hazel Street Chico, CA 95928

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf on Notre Dame School in Chico California. We as parents, support the waiver that would allow for in-person instruction for our students. Returning to school is important for the healthy development and well-being of children. It is our belief that Notre Dame is able to pursue in-person education in a way that is safe for all students, teachers and staff.

They have developed a thorough plan to implement changes and adhere to state and county regulations regarding COVID-19. They have also clearly designed and communicated a plan to reduce exposure and risk of transmission. A few examples include the following: They will perform daily temperature checks of the child (performed from the child's car while the child and family are wearing facemasks). If a child does not pass the temperature check they will not be allowed on campus. They also have designed arrival and pick up times and specified locations to allow for this screening model to be successful.

They have altered play/recess schedules as well as lunchtime activities to reduce exposure between children from other grade levels/classrooms and allow for proper social distancing throughout the day.

Each teacher has modified their classrooms to avoid shared work stations, and they have personalized cubbies for each child that houses their personal school supplies to reduce shared contact with pens/scissors and markers. Each child has also been provided with their own personal lap desk and color-coded carpet to help the students maintain social distancing in the classroom. They have also adopted appropriate sanitization procedures that are frequented throughout the day by staff and students to reduce the risk of transmission.

Notre Dame has a school wide communication system where information is readily available and disseminated for ALL students, parents, and staff. This school has remarkable parent and family support and their smaller class size allows them to adhere to CDPH guidelines and update their plan regularly as appropriate.

Research supports in-person education for children. The American Academy of Pediatrics put out a statement in July advocating that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with the goal of having students physically present in school. It was also reported that returning to school is important for the healthy development and well-being of children. The CDC also stated returning to in-person instruction is in the best interest of the students.

Notre Dame school is prepared to work closely with our local and state health agencies and has adapted safety protocols to make in-person learning safe and possible for students and staff.

Thank you for your consideration,

Brian and Justine Bernedo
530.321.9338
Larsenj3@gmail.com



Parent Support for Notre Dame's On Campus Learning and Immediate Opening

message

ryan@schohr.com <ryan@schohr.com>

Fri, Aug 14, 2020 at 3:00 PM

to: "mjohnson@ndschico.org" <mjohnson@ndschico.org>

cc: "office@ndschico.org" <office@ndschico.org>, holly <hlwhittaker@hotmail.com>, "ryan@schohr.com" <ryan@schohr.com>

Hello Ms. Johnson and the Butte County Public Health Department,

My wife Holly, an epidemiologist, and I are writing you today to express our full support for all students, in grades K-8 to return to on campus learning immediately at the Notre Dame school in Chico, California. Our son is enrolled in kindergarten there, and we are excited for him to continue his education on campus, with fellow classmates, teachers, other parents, and volunteers to fill the classrooms with the most enriching and rewarding educational experience possible. We are confident that Notre Dame has gone above, and even beyond, in understanding the risks of covid-19 and in designing their risk mitigation strategies. Further, we hope regulators will work diligently to reduce barriers to on campus learning immediately. As the Centers for Disease Control continues to document, the annual flu takes a much greater toll on youth, and the negative impacts to students being out of school and virtual or distance learning has far reaching negative impacts to students in social skills, learning, and overall mental health. Notre Dame has a robust plan for those students who may be most at risk with other more serious health issues should students need to be home for a time.

As you're likely aware current science, and as noted by the California Department of Public Health, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends a return to campus based learning where middle school students are NOT required to wear masks. In fact, the World Health Organization currently lists ELEVEN potential harms and disadvantages to masks being worn by healthy children and adults in the community with covid-19 and can be found in the publication entitled "Advice on the use of masks in the context of COVID-19" at the www.who.int website in PDF form.

In short, we support Notre Dame's reopening for on campus learning and activities, without a mask mandate or requirement for middle school students, without any further delay. In the best interests of science, education and student success, we urge the Butte County Department of Public Health to help facilitate this as quickly as possible and fully support on campus learning wholeheartedly at Notre Dame.

Best Regards,

Ryan Schohr
5350-570-7926

Andrew Milani
Jr. High Teacher

August 12, 2020
Butte County Public Health Dept.
Oroville, CA

To whom it may concern,

I teach 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade History/Social Studies as well as 6th grade English Language Arts and Math at Notre Dame School. I have been part of the Notre Dame family for over 15 years, first as a parent and then as a teacher. Our faculty, support staff, students, and parents work together to create a nurturing environment where academic excellence is fostered and where all students are encouraged to discover and develop their unique gifts and talents.

I am writing in support of our school being granted a waiver to begin in-person instruction. Our Diocese and our school have worked together to create a thorough plan with the safety of our students and staff members at its highest priority. We have made physical, procedural, and schedule changes in order to promote social distancing within our classrooms and throughout the school campus.

I am confident that our school's plan will be rigorously implemented and will work to make in-person instruction possible and successful. We are all committed to providing the best educational experience for our students. We are committed to meeting each child's physical, emotional, academic, and spiritual needs.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Andrew Milani

Notre Dame School
Caroline Howard - Kindergarten

August 12, 2020

Butte County Public Health Dept.
Oroville, CA

To whom it may concern,

I am the kindergarten teacher at Notre Dame School. I have served as a teacher at our school for over 30 years. Notre Dame School is a small, tightly-knit community. The faculty and staff work well as a team to educate and support our students and their families.

I am writing to you in support of our school being granted a waiver to open to in-person classes for our students. Our Diocese and school have worked closely and carefully to write our plan. We have made many changes for the health of our community. For example, all of the student work tables and chairs have been removed from my classroom. The students will be working at individual, personal lap desks while seated on carpet squares. School supplies will not be shared. Each student will use their own personal supplies which are kept in individual cubbies. Students will be required to wear facemasks when they are unable to maintain social distance. (i.e. partner activities, lining up, etc) We will also practice careful hygiene with frequent hand washing and sanitizing of surfaces. Our plan outlines these and many more protocols which will be implemented.

I feel confident, as the adult who will be supervising 20+ small children daily, that our plan is a good one. I am also confident that our faculty and staff are willing and able to carefully implement our plan. As a kindergarten teacher, I believe that my students benefit greatly from in-person school, as their social-emotional growth relies on interpersonal interactions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Caroline Howard

Notre Dame School
Nicole Meyer - 4th Grade

August 12, 2020

Butte County Public Health Dept.
Oroville, CA

To whom it may concern,

I am the 4th grade teacher at Notre Dame School. I have been part of the Notre Dame family for over 10 years, first as a parent and then as a teacher. Our staff, students, and parents work together to create a nurturing environment where academic excellence is fostered and where all students are encouraged to discover and develop their unique gifts and talents.

I am writing in support of our school being granted a waiver to begin in-person instruction. Our Diocese and school have created a plan with the safety of our students and staff members at its highest priority. We have made physical, procedural, and schedule changes in order to promote social distancing within our classrooms and throughout the school campus.

I feel confident that our school's plan will be carefully implemented and will work to make in-person instruction possible and successful. We are all committed to providing the best educational experience for our students. We are committed to meeting each child's physical, emotional, academic, and spiritual needs.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nicole Meyer