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## 2021-2022 STCS Reopening Plan

1 message

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To: k.mccarty@sttheresa.cc

Fri, Jul 30, 2021 at 9:18 PM

Good Evening St. Theresa Families!

We are about two weeks away from the First Day of School!! We are so excited to see all of our returning students again and to meet so many new students who will be joining us for the first time this school year. I know many of you have been awaiting the release of our finalized reopening plan for the 2021-2022 school year, so please find all the details below or attached in this link [2021-2022 STCS Reopening Plan](#).

We all witnessed the many challenges our students and families faced due to COVID-19 throughout the last year and a half, especially all the struggles with Distance Learning as campuses were forced to close and as students were forced to quarantine.

The Administration and School Board of St. Theresa Catholic School firmly believes that it is our primary responsibility to keep "students safe and physically present in school" ([American Academy of Pediatrics](#)).

This is the driving force of our planning and decision making, as we want to make choices that allow students to start resuming a more "normal" school day this year, while still minimizing risk enough to ensure that students are able to stay on campus and in classrooms for learning. Per the [CDC](#), "students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority."

After thoroughly analyzing all factors and considering the concerns of all stakeholders, it was found that we are best positioned to attain our goal of safely keeping students on campus by continuing to require all staff and students to wear masks while indoors, at least for the beginning of the school year. The rising threat level of COVID-19 in our county and the rapidly increasing spread of the Delta variant among vaccinated adults and young children, seriously jeopardizes this goal. Maintaining this one critical safety protocol will allow students to maximize their participation and enjoyment of many other school activities that might otherwise need to be restricted out of safety, such as: flexible grouping among cohorts (electives, recess, buddies), middle school athletics, youth sports program, and more.

Our STCS School Board will continue to review this decision at each board meeting to determine if the number of cases in our area diminishes or the threat level decreases, so that this decision can be updated. The first Board meeting review will be on August 24th.

In more exciting news, St. Theresa was approved for a whopping \$1,383,229 through the [EANS Grant](#) which we applied for in May 2021. EANS provides funding for costs associated with safely reopening schools, continuing instruction, addressing learning loss, supporting educational technology, and reimbursing for certain coronavirus-related expenses. We have been working fast and furiously since our award notification on July 12th, to plan for all the additional purchases. We look forward to the enhanced educational technology that we will be able to add to the classrooms, as well as the new space-saving furniture which will allow for optimal social distancing between students. I look forward to sharing frequent updates with you as we put all those funds to good use, for the benefit of our students!

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

2021-2022 School Year

# REOPENING PLAN

St. Theresa  
Catholic School  
*in Memorial Park*

Yours In Christ,

**Melissa Ilski | Principal**

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**St. Theresa  
Catholic School**  
*in Memorial Park*

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