

St. Bartholomew Catholic Preschool

Pandemic Policies

Peace be with you during this time of trial and frustration. It's a time of uncertainty and of great need for prayer and patience. But, one thing is certain...Christ walks with us each day. We are so blessed to be starting this new school year. St. Bartholomew Catholic Preschool strives to provide the best possible protection to all children, families and staff while attending school. The following policies and procedures will be put in place during possible community epidemic or world-wide pandemics. These policies are based on recommendations and guidelines from local health officials and state licensing agencies. St. Bartholomew Catholic Preschool will adjust and discontinue portions of the policies as things improve and as recommended by local health officials.

Note: Despite all school precautions taken, children, families or staff could come in contact and be exposed to any illness or disease. St. Bartholomew Catholic Preschool and St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church are not responsible for possible exposure or contracting any illness or disease.

School Responsibilities and Precautions

Drop-Off

- The **18-month class and 2-Year-Old classes** will have a **walk-up arrival only arrival**. Parents will enter the front porch area via the ramp. Please social distance during the drop off time (maintain a distance of 6 feet from others) Someone will be at the top of the ramp to take the child's temperature. If the child's temperature is over 100 degrees, they will not be admitted. If the parent has older children that attend our preschool, they can enter with their siblings and have their temperature taken with them, and then proceed to a hand sanitizer station or restroom to wash hands and then be handed off to a designated staff member to take them to their classroom.
- The **3-year-old classes and 4-Year-old classes** will have a drive thru drop off. Parents will pull up in front of the preschool building. The designated staff member will open the car door and take the child's temperature. If the temperature is over 100.0, they will not be admitted. Then a designated staff member will help the child out of the car and send them up the steps to the hand sanitizer station or restroom to wash their hands. A designated staff member will watch them arrive to their classrooms and the teachers will sign them in. Please see Parent Handbook for Pick-up procedures.

Screening

All children and staff will have a visual check for any signs of illness and will have temperature checked.

- Any child or staff with a temperature of 100.0 degrees or higher or shows any signs or symptoms of illness will be sent home and not allowed to return until they meet the requirements under Returning to School (see below). These symptoms include:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Diarrhea
 - Any other symptoms of new epidemics
 - Exposure to someone who has tested positive for illness

Precaution Practices

- All staff will receive additional training about preventing the spread of contagious diseases.
- St. Bartholomew Catholic Preschool will help children learn proper mouth covering when coughing or sneezing, proper handwashing procedures, discourage physical touching and practice social distancing to the best of our ability.
- All classes will maintain low ratios and will refrain from mixing with children from other classes as much as possible.
- Children will not share food, drinks, clothing, or other personal items within the classroom.
- No show and tell or other items from home will be allowed.
- Class parties and other school events might need to be canceled or postponed.
- One-way hallways

Disinfecting

- St. Bartholomew Catholic Preschool will have an additional staff member to disinfect high touch areas bathrooms, community use areas (between classes) and help the teachers with extra disinfecting in the rooms throughout the day.
- Staff will disinfect all toys with proper disinfecting solution at the end of the day.
- Staff will remove any item that a child places in their mouth until it can be cleaned and disinfected.
- Books and materials shared by classrooms will be disinfected before another group can use it.
- Bedding will be sent home daily to be washed.
- Music room and equipment will be disinfected between classes.

Online Learning

- St. Bartholomew Catholic Preschool staff will continue to provide online learning for the children through social media during times of necessary school closures. The children will continue to have the opportunity to interact with teachers and classmates while learning new things. Online learning will begin after 3 consecutive days of closure.

School Closures

- St. Bartholomew Catholic Preschool may be closed at any time due to:
 - Confirmed case or possible exposure within the school
 - Adequate staffing is not available to maintain minimum required ratios
 - A stay-at-home order is issued by local officials
 - Katy ISD issued closure

Parent Responsibilities

Illness Policy

- Parents must verbally acknowledge that their child is well and can pass the screening process each day before dropping their child off.
- Parents must keep their child home if they have a fever of 100.0 degree or higher or have any other signs and symptoms of illness.
- Ill children must be kept home until they complete the requirements for Returning to School.
- Parents must notify the school of any illness
- Parents or another pick-up person must be available to pick up an ill child from school within 30 minutes of a phone call.
- Any child, sibling, parent or staff that has close contact with someone diagnosed with an epidemic/pandemic illness must self-quarantine for 14 days and complete the requirements for returning.
- Any child or staff diagnosed with an epidemic/pandemic illness must have a doctor release to return to school.

Precautions

- Parents need to work on teaching children proper mouth covering when coughing and sneezing.
- Parents need to work on teaching children proper hand-washing procedures.
- Parents need to help discourage children from physically touching other friends.

Exclusion and Return Policies

Ill Child Or Staff

- Any child or staff that develops symptoms of a current epidemic/pandemic illness while at school will be sent home immediately and the following steps will be taken:
 - Person will be isolated, and parents called
 - All parents of the classroom will be notified
 - All areas where the ill child or staff had contact will be disinfected
 - The classroom will be reopened after disinfected

Requirements For Returning To School

- In the case of a child or staff who was diagnosed with a current epidemic/pandemic, the individual may return to school when all four of the following criteria are met:
 - At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (no fever without the use of medication) and

- The individual has improvement in all signs and symptoms of illness; and
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
- The child or staff can provide a medical professional release clearing them to return to school

Exposure To Epidemic/Pandemic

- Children or staff who have known close contact to a person who is confirmed to have a current epidemic/pandemic must self-quarantine for a period of 14 days.
- The individual must monitor their health for any signs or symptoms of the illness during the 14-day quarantine and follow the criteria for returning if any signs or symptoms appear.

Confirmed Case Of Illness At School

- If any child or staff test positive for a current epidemic/pandemic the following procedures will be followed:
 - Local health officials will be notified, and the school will follow all their recommendations which could include closing a classroom or the whole school for a period and online learning will begin after 3 days
 - All school parents will be notified
 - The area where the ill person had contact will have deep disinfecting
 - Classroom or school will reopen as directed by local health officials

Epidemic/Pandemic Tuition Policy

Tuition Payments

- Should we need to close for Pandemic reasons, full tuition will be due for 1 month of closure. If we close longer, we will reevaluate the situation. Online learning will begin after 3 days.
- Tuition must be paid as scheduled for your child to remain in the class.
- Previous tuition policies outlined in the Parent Handbook will be followed during non-epidemic/pandemic situations including absences due to illness, vacations, or other school closures.

I have read the copy of the Pandemic Policies, have been given the opportunity to ask question about these policies and agree to abide by these policies.

Name of Child(ren) _____

Parents Signature _____ Date _____