

St. Cecilia School

O A K L E Y

July 10, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We hope that you and your families are staying healthy, as active as possible, and are enjoying your summers. This letter serves to outline St. Cecilia's plans for the upcoming school year. It takes into consideration Ohio's Planning Guide issued by Governor DeWine on July 2nd, recommendations from our local health department and input from school personnel and families. Most importantly, the education and well being of students and their families serves as the compass for our decision making. Because the Covid-19 science and data are not settled and more is learned about the virus daily, guidelines and policies outlined in this letter are subject to change. When and if these changes occur, we will communicate them to you. **For the upcoming 2020-2021 school year, St. Cecilia School is planning for five full days of in person instruction PK-8, beginning Thursday, August 20th.** We feel that you will find our plan and options reasonable and effectively allow teachers to instruct and students to learn.

Should you have any questions at any time, email me at mgoedde@stcecieliacincinnati.org or call me at 513-533-6060 Ext. 130.

SCHOOLWIDE STANDARD COVID-19 POLICIES

- All school personnel will be required to wear face coverings *unless it is unsafe to do so or where doing would significantly interfere with the learning process* or when such practice is deemed unnecessary
- It will not be mandatory for students to wear face coverings unless there is a mandate in place (such as the one that is presently in Hamilton County). However, if parents desire their child or children to wear a mask or other appropriate face covering, they may do so. In these instances, the face covering must meet safety standards and have no images and or wording on it.
- Signage and messaging promoting cleanliness, good hygiene, and healthy social practices will be posted schoolwide
- Visual Cues such as floor markings will be added to promote distancing and directional routines throughout the building
- Water Fountain use will be discouraged; parents are encouraged to provide their child with an individual water bottle (filled with water and child's name on it) daily
- Surfaces within classrooms and common areas throughout the building will be cleaned frequently throughout the school day with approved products for use against Covid-19
 - *Parents interested in assisting with cleaning during the school day should contact the school office; any volunteer must be VIRTUS trained and up to date on all Child Protection bulletins; a working schedule with set times and tasks will be established; parents may not simply show up*
 - A plan for daily cleaning of all key touchpoints will be created with Scarlet and Gray, St. Cecilia's contracted cleaning company
- All unnecessary visits to the school office should be avoided. However, when it becomes necessary for parents to visit for school business, prior to being admitted into the main office, a temperature check will take place in the entrance vestibule. Parents must have a temperature below 100.4°F to secure admittance to the main office

ARRIVAL

All staff and students will be required to receive a temperature check prior to the start of the school day.

Anyone with the following symptoms should stay home: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

- *All members of the school community are expected to take into consideration the health and well being of all individuals. Parents should never knowingly send their child to school with a suspected illness.*

Car Riders

For any parents dropping off their children, several staff members will be outside to take the temperatures of your children while they are in your automobile. Any student with a temperature below 100.4°F will be permitted to report to their homeroom. Should a child have a temperature reading over 100.4°F, parents will be asked to park in the designated area of the parking lot where your child's temperature will be taken an additional time. Should the temperature reading be over 100.4°F, you will be required to take your child home. Parents should call their child's pediatrician to receive guidance from their pediatrician's office as to next steps. The child will not be permitted to return to school until he or she has been fever free for three days. Staff are to report to the school office each day where their temperatures and similar protocol will take place as well.

- Anyone with the following symptoms should stay home: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

Bus Riders

Cincinnati Public Schools Transportation will establish procedures for all bus riders and their parents. These have yet to be shared with the school. When they become available, we will share them with you. However, a temperature check for these students will have taken place prior to their arrival at school. Should additional precautions need to be put in place above and beyond the bus protocols, St. Cecilia will do so.

Walkers

All students walking to school will receive a temperature check prior to entering the building. If the temperature threshold is not met, parents will be required to have their child picked up. See Car Rider section for additional details and requirements.

MORNING ROUTINES

At the initial start to the school year, all students should report immediately to their homerooms to unpack and prepare for the school day. Students will be expected to follow all classroom procedures that take into consideration safe distancing, classroom routines and rules, etc. Once students are settled, they may quietly begin their morning work. If a student is eating breakfast, he or she will be dismissed by their teacher to pick up their 'grab and go' meal and return to their homeroom where they will finish breakfast, follow all cleanup protocols and proceed to morning work and or the start of the day routines.

LEARNING SPACES

All classrooms (inclusive of PK) and learning areas will be configured to maximize space, allowing for students to have individualized work areas that take into consideration distance (3 to 4 ft. following the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations), supplies, and personal hygiene. To ensure that small group instruction and safer distancing can be implemented for some grade level classes, the commons (school cafeteria), gym, and other areas within the building will be utilized for classroom instruction and work.

TRANSITIONS

Every effort will be made to limit transitions throughout the school day. However, students will be moving at key times. The use of directional cues, spacing, and staggering will take place.

LUNCH/RECESS

At the start of the year, lunch will be held in homerooms. We are working on the particulars of how this will look with Sycamore Nutrition Services. Free and Reduced Lunch applications can be found on our school website. These can be completed online or turned in to school when the school opens on August 10. Recess will be held each day for students per The American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations.

BATHROOM USAGE/ROUTINES

Routines and procedures will be put in place limiting the numbers of students in restrooms at any one time.

DISMISSAL

Dismissal will be at 3:10PM this year. Parents that pick up their child will be expected to refrain from congregating in front of the school office. Our preference is that parents of older children wait by their car for their children and those of younger children be attentive to social distancing within the parking lot.

LATCHKEY

After school child care will be available until 6PM each day.

LEARNING OPTIONS

Our preferred method of instructing students is in person. However, we do realize that some parents may be uneasy regarding their child's return to school under our plan. With this in mind, policies for a distance learning or hybrid model for grades 4-8 have been established and can be reviewed on our school website. Those interested in one of these models should know up front that if selected, students will be held accountable and must meet all expectations. If they are unable, they will be asked to withdraw from St. Cecilia. Ideally, the policies were created with the thought that parents would select a learning option prior to the start of the year and stick to it for its entirety. However, given the changing nature of coronavirus, parents may feel more at ease selecting an alternate learning model and choose to transition to the traditional classroom setting, but the timing of such a change will be determined by administration once the request has been made. Parents of students in grades PK-3 with reservations regarding our school plan who wish to discuss a potential alternative learning model should reach out to me.

- Parents desiring an alternate learning option to the traditional school setting must contact me no later than August 1st.

OPENING ORIENTATIONS

Information regarding these important parent meetings will be shared in August. Please note that these evenings will look different than those in previous years and the calendar dates are subject to change.

FALL SPORTS

Mr. Koterba, our physical education and health teacher is our new school Athletic Director. Although there will be no fall sports teams representing St. Cecilia solely (unless the amount of interest shown can fill a team), Mr. Koterba can place our students on a team of another feeder school in our district for the following sports:

- Soccer (boys and girls) - Soccer will be combined with Hyde Park soccer, please use the link below to sign up!
<https://www.hydeparkschoolathletics.org>
- Volleyball (girls) - grades 3-8 - sign ups end August 1 (Please email Mr. Koterba if interested)
- Football (boys) - grades 4-8 - TBD (Please email Mr. Koterba if Interested)

Registration fee - \$75

Please direct any and all questions to Mr. Koterba at dkoterba@stceciliacincinnati.org

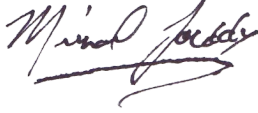

FLARE-UPS/SPIKES/QUARANTINING

Per Governor Dewine's Planning Guide, Ohio schools must *be nimble, flexible, and responsive to ensure the health and safety of all students and adults*. If the need arises to move away from the traditional school setting as the result of signs of a cluster of new Covid-19 cases, the school may require identified grade levels or the entire school to shift to Home Based Learning. Specific policies related to confirmed cases on individual basis have yet to be finalized as the Centers for Disease Control has stated they will be providing new recommendations next week.

SUPPLY LIST INCLUDED

Although the nature of this letter serves to inform families of our school opening plans and not to cover all aspects of the start of the year (which will be shared in future correspondences), 2020-2021 school supply lists can be found on our [school website](#).

I am happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the contents of this letter. It is a lot to digest, and no matter what plans are put in place, there are no guarantees that the measures are fail proof. We have done our best to take into consideration the overall health and well-being of children, adolescents, their families and our school community.



Mr. Michael Goedde
Principal