



SAINT AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

1421 "V" Street, Northwest
Washington, DC 20009

"Love to Learn ~ Learn to Love"
Father Patrick A. Smith, Pastor

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Theme 2020-2021:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart." – Proverbs 3:5

Dear Parent(s) and Guardians,

Thank you all for replying to our school reopening survey. Our School Reopening Plan has been approved by the Archdiocese of Washington. Your replies have helped shape our school's reopening plan, and allowed us to move forward with the reopening of Saint Augustine Catholic School.

We have taken into account all of your responses and concerns regarding the reopening of Saint Augustine Catholic School. As a result Saint Augustine School will reopen on September 8th using a Hybrid System for the middle school and junior high clusters (3rd-8th grade) which, after tallying the results of the recent parent survey, indicate that the majority of our parents would prefer for their children. The Hybrid (or Blended) Learning Model combines in-school and online virtual learning through a two day cohort system. In this system students are divided into two cohorts (Cohort A and B) where each cohort receives in-school instruction every week for two days (e.g., Cohort A - Monday and Wednesday and Cohort B - Tuesday and Thursday). On Fridays all students will have a half day of virtual learning. Teachers will have professional development and staff meeting during the afternoons on Friday.

Since teachers for all grades will be on site daily, individual families may also opt-in for full-time in person instruction for their child. Likewise, for those that may prefer, families will also be given the option to receive full-time virtual instruction from home.

To accommodate the uniquely critical learning need for in-school instruction among our youngest students, Saint Augustine School will be offering full in-school learning (non-cohort) for the elementary school cluster (Pre-K through 2nd grade) while strictly adhering to all of the procedures and protocols for social distancing (e.g., utilizing more than one classroom space if necessary). As is the case with the other two clusters, parents will, if they choose, have the option for full-time virtual instruction from home.

I understand that many parents have concerns about how the ongoing pandemic will affect classes and children. Let me assure you that Saint Augustine Catholic School is taking every possible precaution to minimize risk and make sure that our children and staff will remain safe. Instruction will focus on the required standards for all subjects.

The following social distancing policies and procedures will be practiced in the Saint Augustine Catholic School building:

- Classrooms will be set-up for social distancing.
- Hallways and doors will be labeled for distancing and directional flow.
- Face Coverings will be required.
- Temperatures will be taken upon arrival (staff) and before entry (students).
- Temperatures will also be taken midday upon re-entry from recess.
- Cohorts will not mix with other students.
- Lunch will be eaten in the classrooms.
- Outdoor breaks will be taken by each cohort at least three times per day.
- Sanitization stations with hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, and disinfecting sprays will be on hand in each classroom and common space.
- Recess areas will be marked with spacing of at least 30 feet.
- The Art room will be repurposed as an isolation area.
- Window air conditioning units will be utilized, and windows will be opened to allow for optimum airflow, as weather permits.
- Students will not be allowed to share personal school items.
- All common surfaces (e.g., sinks, doorknobs, and computers) will be sanitized throughout the school day.
- Parents dropping off students must wear face masks and remain near premises until their child's temperature is taken.
- Selected staff members will be identified as the COVID response team members. This team will be led by a school nurse or CNA. They will be responsible for taking temps, monitoring sick students, and documenting symptoms.
- Plastic shields in the administrative offices will be installed to separate desks and the front counter.
- Plastic shields and cloth face coverings will be provided for teachers to wear.
- Desk dividers will be purchased for use in the class rooms.

- Hand sanitizers will be installed at both ends of hallways on all floors.

We have attached a COVID-19 Acknowledgement Form which the Archdiocese of Washington requires be filled out by all parents before students will be allowed to return.

We are in the process of assigning the student cohorts and planning virtual learning. Please reply to the email to inform us of your preferred method of schooling. If we do not hear from you we will be in contact next week in order to confirm schooling preferences.

Thank you once again for your patience through these unprecedented times.