

St. Augustine School
381 North Highland Avenue
Ossining, New York 10562

July 28, 2020

Dear Parents,

Many of you have called or emailed with questions regarding the opening of school. Let me assure you that the health and safety of our students, teachers, and staff are our primary concern. To that end, I want to state that St. Augustine School will be following all CDC guidelines as well as those published by the New York State Department of Education. The following procedures will be put in place when school reopens on September 8.

1. The temperature of every student, teacher, and staff member will be taken before entering the school building.
2. Masks will be required for all students, teachers, and staff.
3. Social distancing will be practiced in all classrooms as well as in the hallways and on the staircases. All desks will be placed 6 feet apart in all directions.
4. Students will be placed in "cohorts". Approximately 13 students will be placed in each classroom. These students will stay together for the entire day. Special teachers (Art, Music, Library, Physical Education) will push into the classroom. For Middle School students who have a different teacher for each subject, the teacher will travel to the various classrooms.
5. Lunch will be eaten in the classroom. Lunch may be brought from home or purchased from the cafeteria. If purchased, it will be delivered to the classroom.
6. Recess may occur outdoors, weather permitting, but cohorts will remain together socially distant outside. Cohorts will not mingle.
7. Ventilation is of the utmost importance, so windows and doors will be left open as much as possible. We do have an air conditioning system and we are awaiting word on the feasibility of using the recommended MERV-13 filters.
8. In the event that we cannot accommodate all students who want 5 days of in-person learning, we may need to resort to staggered days. With the purchase of new SMART Boards, students at home will be able to participate in the same lesson being taught in the classroom. Half the students in a class will attend on Mondays and Wednesdays and the other half will attend on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students will alternate on Fridays. We have worked very hard to assure that all children from a family would attend school on the same days.
9. In the initial phase of reopening, there will be no after-care program and no extra-curricular activities.

I hope this helps to answer some questions that you may have and hopefully allay your fears. If, however, you still have questions or concerns, please call the school (Mon – Fri 9AM – 1PM) or email myself or Sister Mary Elizabeth. Stay well and stay safe and may you enjoy the last few weeks of summer.

Mrs. Debbie Fessman
Sister Mary Elizabeth, O.P.