



# Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic School

*Be Loving. Be Faithful. Be St. Catherine's.*

Dear Parents,

Thank you to everyone who completed our survey. We obtained a lot of helpful information to inform our decision. Fr. DeBlock, Mrs. Jordan and I met and here is the latest update. We will begin the school year with a 7:45-12:45 schedule. We will not have lunch but we will have students bring a snack. Weather permitting we will eat the snack mid-morning outside. Students will be required to wear masks all day except when outside. If your child has a health condition that doesn't lend itself to wearing a mask or has other health conditions, we will have remote learning for these students. They will be zoomed into the classroom and will follow along every day.

We will be having Spartan Care from 12:45-3:00 every day free of charge. It will not however be a drop in program. You will have to make a reservation a week in advance. If your child stays he/she will need to bring a lunch which will be eaten outside or in the gym. Depending on the number of students they will be divided up to keep appropriate distances between them. The time will be spent eating lunch, completing homework or playing board games.

We will not allow students to jump back and forth from eLearning to in person instruction. Once you start with one of these methods we request you stay with it until the end of the quarter. Students' temperatures will be taken upon arrival to school. If they have a fever, they will be sent home. Students will have bathroom breaks during the day but only one child will go into the bathroom at a time. Once the class is finished, the bathroom will be sanitized for the next group. We will socially distance as much as possible and use hand sanitizer frequently. Daily the school will be cleaned by our cleaning company paying particular attention to common areas and touch points.

With our new schedule we will only be teaching the core subjects. We will not have music, art and technology. We will have Physical Education because it can occur outside and the students can be separated in the gymnasium. There is a reopening committee composed of parents and teachers who are working on arrival and dismissal procedures as well as general practices we will follow while moving around the building.

The PreK 3 schedule will be 7:45-11:00 three days per week. The PreK 4 schedule will be the same time only five days a week. We will keep the students from 11:00 until 12:45 for those who signed up for the afternoon. They will have lunch and activities until they dismiss. We will adjust the tuition for the Prek4 "And More Program".

I have met with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent twice and all of us are following the Illinois State Board of Education, and the Illinois Department of Health mandates. The Governor or our Bishop could mandate that we go back to eLearning at any time and we are preparing to do that if it is required. We all need to be flexible as changes happen quickly.

I know that some parents are fearful of sending their children to school in this climate. I understand your concerns and we certainly can have children zoom with us until you feel safer. We will reevaluate our situation and consider going back to our full day beginning November 1st. Together we can certainly make the best of an extremely challenging situation.

Please email me if you plan on having your child(ren) in the eLearning program. You do not have to email if you are going to have them in the face to face instructional program. For planning purposes, please let me know by Monday, August 3rd.

Please email me your comments or concerns. I am open to your suggestions and hope that you will be able to comfortably choose one of these options. Also, we are reworking "Fee Day" and will let you know soon how we will structure that day. School will resume on Tuesday, August 18th for grades 1-8.

Sincerely,

Ms. Cannon

**What did the reporter say to the ice cream?**

"What's the scoop?"

**What do you call a deer with no eyes?**

"No eye-deer."