



Saint George Independent Catholic
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July 16, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of Saint George Independent School,

The summer vacation is almost half over. I cannot believe how fast these days are flying by and it is not because we are having fun! A great deal of work is being done to get ready for the 2020-2021 school year. Throughout these weeks I have participated in the Task Force set up for the elementary schools in our archdiocese. As I mentioned in my letter of June 25th, which is posted on the website, the members are principals, business managers, health professionals and board members. Many of the members also have children in elementary school. I set up a Task Force for St. George with parents representing every grade level, our teachers, and members of the executive board. Our first meeting reviewed the guidelines presented for the following categories:

- a. Philosophy
- b. Best Practices Moving Forward
- c. Catholic Identity
- d. Mental and Whole Health
- e. Building Operations
- f. Entering the Building
- g. Travel Through the Building
- h. Recess
- i. Lunch
- j. After School Activities
- k. St. Raphael Room – Staging Area
- l. Classroom Set up
- m. Classroom Materials
- n. Virtual Instruction – Individual
- o. Virtual Instruction – Cohort Instruction
- p. Virtual Instruction – Entire School

Suggestions were given on how Saint George would comply with these guidelines. Yesterday, I met with the faculty and we refined the suggestions. **We are extremely fortunate because of our size that we can comply with the recommended safety measures. More information will be forthcoming as we near September 1st and any necessary updates or revisions will be shared.** What follows is a brief outline of how we will address the need for safety during the school day:

There will be **staggered arrival and dismissal times** beginning at 7:50 a.m. and ending at 2:55 p.m. Three classes (6,7, &8) will arrive at 7:50 a.m. and be dismissed at 2:35 p.m. Three classes (3,4, &5) will arrive at 8:00 a.m. and be dismissed at 2:45 p.m. First and second grade will begin at 8:10 a.m. and dismiss at 2:55. PreK and kindergarten will begin at 8:15 a.m. and dismissed at 2:30 p.m. We realize that parents with children in multiple grade levels will be waiting in the car for the various times, but it is the only way to maintain social distancing. We

cannot rely on the blacktop because of weather and we must be consistent daily. Once all the students are in school, we will pray and do the Pledge of Allegiance as a school.

Teachers will take the students temperature and record it at arrival. If your child has a fever, you will need to come within twenty minutes to get your child. If your child shows signs of being sick during the day, you will also need to come within **twenty minutes**. We will have a designated area for students to remain until you come. To eliminate these scenarios, **you cannot send your child to school, if they are sick or showing signs of getting sick.**

Students will **need to wear masks** upon entering the building and anytime they are out of their classroom. Their classroom will be considered their cohort and they will only be with the students in their cohort. Their desks will be placed in the same direction in the recommended social distancing of six feet. Students will have and be responsible for their own supplies. There will be no shared areas or materials including food. Special area teachers and subject specific teachers will go to the classroom versus the students moving to another classroom or area.

The hallway will be one way. Everyone will enter the building off Venango Street and exit in the back of school. Only two students at a time will be permitted in the bathroom. They will return to their classroom going through the lunchroom to maintain the one-way hallway.

We will be vigilant in providing support for all our students for their **mental and physical health wellbeing**. We are preparing for virtual instruction in the following instances: 1. A student's family must be quarantined, and the student will live stream the lessons with their class. 2. A student in the cohort tests positive and the cohort must be quarantined. The cohort would have virtual instruction for that time. 3. The entire school is closed, and all students will have virtual instruction. Our teachers are developing lessons for both the classroom and if the lesson will need to be virtual. Google classroom will be utilized in the classroom daily so that the adjustment, if virtual learning is required, will be a smooth transition.

We plan to take advantage of the good weather and provide opportunities for the students to be outside for recess and physical education. Their cohort will have a designated area. This will also apply to the lunchroom. We will have three lunch periods to accommodate social distancing. The lunchroom will be extended to include the computer lab.

We are in the process of developing our protocols for CARES.

I cannot emphasize enough the cooperation we will need from you to maintain these guidelines. Our teachers have been adamant about their willingness to make this work. Their safety is also a concern and I admire what they have already done to get ready for September. We are blessed!

I previously mentioned that our size is an advantage. If you have not re-registered or made the June and July payment, please do so. I do not want to take your child's seat for a new registration. We will be capping the size of the classes so that social distancing is maintained.

Thank you for your support and your trust in Saint George!

God be with you,

Dr. Walls