

# *Catholic Schools Onward*



*Saint Anthony of Padua  
Regional Catholic School  
COVID-19 Global Pandemic  
School Plan*

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**September 2020 - TBD**

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**Introduction:**

In the Spring of 2020, the world was stricken with a horrific virus called COVID-19. This invisible enemy wreaked havoc on our everyday routine and because of its ability to spread so quickly and cause people to rapidly fall ill, Governor Tom Wolf issued a “Stay at Home” Order and closed schools beginning on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Predicting that schools would be closed for at least two weeks, the Office of Catholic Education formulated a plan instituting Flexible Instruction Days in which Teachers would teach their lessons in a remote setting using the technology we are so blessed to have in today’s world.

At Saint Anthony of Padua Regional Catholic School, students committed to learning from home and parents worked closely with their children’s teachers to ensure that work was completed in a timely and appropriate manner. Teachers were proficient in their daily use of platforms such as Google Classrooms, Google Hangout/Meet, Zoom, and Class Dojo. The physical classroom quickly became a digital classroom and the Saint Anthony of Padua Regional Catholic School Family rose to the challenge.

Despite hope that the COVID-19 Virus would settle, two weeks became thirty days, and as it continued to spread, Governor Wolf made the decision to close schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 Academic School Year. Enduring this unfortunate situation was certainly not easy, however under the guidance of our Lord, and working fluidly together as a school family, we overcame adversity and persevered, just as we always do.

Looking to the future, we are eager to open our school doors once again to our beloved students in September, 2020. The future is unknown, but as our motto states: “Educating our Future, One Child At A Time,” we are confident that we are prepared to embark on these next steps.

With great preparation, Saint Anthony of Padua Regional Catholic School formed a “COVID-19 Task Force” with distinct roles and responsibilities to take on health, safety, precautions, preparedness, and awareness for our school community. The Task Force worked and will continue to work closely with the Pastor and Administration to ensure that our staff and students are kept safe and healthy, both physically and mentally. The Task Force will too, provide updates for school families so that they are kept up to date on the ever-changing situation at hand.

The Saint Anthony of Padua Regional Catholic School Family is ready and willing to embark on the unknown and will endure this most difficult time together, through prayer and under the grace of our Lord and Savior.

**Plan and Philosophy/Faith and Community:**

Saint Anthony of Padua Regional Catholic School’s reopening plan will be made possible, first and foremost in following our school’s mission statement:

*Saint Anthony of Padua Regional Catholic School, a faith-based institution of twenty-first century learners, seeks to instill within students, a personal, loving relationship with Jesus while enabling them to achieve individual success in academia. Within a Catholic culture, committed to the growth of the whole person, students embrace the teachings of Jesus Christ and proclaim the Good News while thriving as service-oriented citizens of the global community.*

This mission statement will continue to guide us as we reopen our school doors to our students with open arms, under the jurisdiction of the Superintendent of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and its plan: “Catholic Schools Onward.”

**Safety:**

The Pastor, Administration, Task Force, Faculty, and Staff of Saint Anthony of Padua Regional Catholic School will continue to stay up to date and in the know regarding the news and information from the Center for Disease Control as well as the World Health Organization, and state and local officials, along with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Our Pandemic Plan will be updated periodically reflecting any changes to how remote and in-person learning is approached. A valuable education is vital, however the health and safety of our students and staff is top priority.

**Presence:**

Saint Anthony of Padua Regional Catholic School will be open daily, Monday thru Friday, operating on its usual hours: 7:50AM-2:45PM. In-Person instruction will take place in each classroom, Pre-K 3 thru 8<sup>th</sup> with the addition of live-streaming to students who will be working remotely from home. Communication between teachers and their students is paramount through these difficult times.

**Growth:**

COVID-19 has presented our school community with many hurdles, however, continuing to grow academically remains a goal. Our teachers will work closely with the students, keeping in mind the academic goals put forth in our Middle States Plan. It is our hope that by June, 2021, our students will continue to thrive and succeed, academically, socially, mentally, and spiritually.

**Catholic Identity:**

Saint Anthony of Padua Regional Catholic School exudes Catholic Identity daily. We are a faith-filled and faithful community and the teachings of Jesus are always at the center of the hearts of our teachers and students. Each lesson is laced with moral teachings and together as a school family, we continue to grow in our faith, no matter the hardships we continue to face. Our Pastor, Administration, and Faculty will continue to place Jesus at the forefront of any aspect of our school and will continue to instill in our students the importance of walking in the footsteps of Jesus, towards the light, despite difficult times.

The following protocols will be added to our usual faith-based learning environment:

- ❖ Daily prayer of Pope Francis for the protection of all from the COVID-19 Virus. This prayer will also be hung in each classroom.
- ❖ The Prayer of Saint Michael the Archangel will also be recited together as a school community each day. This prayer will be hung in each classroom as well.
- ❖ Since our school's opening in 2012, each class has adopted their own Class Patron Saint. Our devotion towards these various Saints will not change each day. Classroom teachers will continue to incorporate their Patron in to their lesson plans and daily activities.
- ❖ Each classroom will also keep their Prayer Tables and give special devotion to Mary, Saint Nicholas and Saint Lucy Filippini each day.

The following actions will be taken to avoid and stop the spread of COVID-19:

- ❖ Beginning in November, all First Friday Masses will continue, however rather than attending a school family, Grades K-8 will attend Mass as teams (two classes per month), socially distanced at Saint Nicholas of Tolentine Church. Teams will be split in to the usual Prayer Partner Grades (Example- Grades 1 and 8 will attend together). Masks will be worn in Church.
- ❖ If a class wishes to take part in a Mass when they are not on the monthly schedule, the Homeroom Teacher or Religion Teacher may use Archdiocesan components to live-stream monthly Masses.
- ❖ Daily morning and afternoon prayers will still be recited via the school intercom, however, rather than Student Prayer Leaders reciting them, an Administrator or Teacher will do so. Homeroom teachers will also take extra steps to ensure that morning prayer and afternoon rosary are still kept sacred and special.
- ❖ Reverend Nicholas Martorano will visit classrooms for confessions during the scheduled times, socially distanced, in a designated area of each classroom.
- ❖ Faith events such as Christ the King, Christmas Festival of Carols, Living Stations, etc. will be placed on hold until it is safe to continue on with annual planning.
- ❖ Sacraments will be decided upon and take place at a later date after careful consideration and planning.

### **Patriotism:**

- ❖ As always, pledging our flag and the playing of a patriotic song will still take place daily, via the school's intercom system. Students will not sing, not say the pledge aloud, but will still take part and show pride and respect for the United States of America.

### **Best Practices:**

- ❖ The Pennsylvania Department of Education states that each school/district's plans must reflect the local needs and that each individual school must create a detailed Health and Safety Plan that will serve as guidelines for the official reopening of school.
- ❖ The school's plan must be tailored and custom-made to meet the school's individual needs; created, following all recommendations from state and local governing and health agencies.

### **Partnership:**

- ❖ The Administration, Faculty, and Staff at Saint Anthony of Padua Regional Catholic School ensures that Parent/School communication is at the forefront of all school happenings.
- ❖ As events such as Back to School Night and Parent/Teacher Conferences will be cancelled/postponed, administration and teachers will implement various ways to keep school families in the know, such as through the use of various technology systems used within the school.
- ❖ School Principal, Sister Mary Esther will continue to send out weekly school MSP phone messages as well as weekly emails with updates, news, and announcements.
- ❖ School website: [www.stanthonyofpaduarcs.org](http://www.stanthonyofpaduarcs.org) will continuously be updated weekly and Teachers, Grades Pre-K3 thru 8 will update their individual websites weekly as well to update parents on classroom news/updates.

### **Illness Alerts:**

- ❖ If a Parent is met with a situation in which their child falls ill, parents are expected and required to update the school on the status of their child's illness.
- ❖ A sick child will not be permitted to return to school until medically cleared to do so.

- ❖ Contact tracing will take place in the event that a child becomes sick.
- ❖ Sick students/families must quarantine for 14 days and will need to be seen by a healthcare professional before returning to school. Once the child returns to school, he/she must have the proper paperwork signed by his/her physician stating that they are medically cleared to return to school.

**Uniforms:**

- ❖ Students taking part in In-Person learning will be required to wear their Saint Anthony of Padua Regional Catholic School physical education uniform during the months of September and October as well as May and June.
- ❖ Students taking part in Virtual Learning will be required to follow the same rules.
- ❖ Part of each student's school uniform now requires mandatory masks to be worn at all times throughout the school day (7:50AM-2:45PM)

**Class Cohorts:**

- ❖ Recommended by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, cohorting will be implemented throughout Saint Anthony of Padua Regional Catholic School's two school buildings.
- ❖ Each class cohort will remain together throughout the entire school day, Monday thru Friday.
- ❖ Departmental Teachers, Grades 5 thru 8, will travel to classrooms, rather than having the students move from class to class.
- ❖ Specials Teachers (Physical Education, Library, Italian) will travel to classrooms, rather than having the students move from class to class.
- ❖ Students will move as a cohort to the computer lab for computer classes and will have plexiglass shields (sneeze guards) to protect them and stop the spread of germs.

**Social Distancing:**

- ❖ Social Distancing remains an important recommendation from the Center for Disease Control.
- ❖ Saint Anthony of Padua Regional Catholic School will implement mandatory social distancing rules in all areas of the school.

- ❖ Students moving to the restrooms, computer lab, or to the school yard will be required to use social distancing practices.
- ❖ Social distancing signs/reminders will be hung throughout the school to help students of all grades to follow the rules.

**Classroom Setup/Design:**

- ❖ Each classroom will be set up the same, following the CDC Guidelines of placing students' desks six feet apart facing in the same direction.
- ❖ Each student will be supplied with a 56qt storage bin next to/in front of their desk with a lid. This storage bin will hold all belongings such as their coats/jackets, school bags, lunch boxes, etc. The storage bins will now be what the child uses rather than entering and exiting the coat closets. Each bin will be labeled with student's name and grade.
- ❖ If furniture needs to be removed from a classroom, it will be placed elsewhere in the school.
- ❖ Shared objects such as toy bins and book shelves will be placed in closets and not be used until further notice.
- ❖ Teacher desks will also be socially distant from children's desks.

**Personal Protective Equipment:**

- ❖ Masks, worn by Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students will be mandatory throughout the day.
- ❖ Saint Anthony of Padua School Masks with school logo will be offered to students.
- ❖ Each classroom will be equipped with a box of disposable masks to use in the event that students forget their masks at home.
- ❖ Teachers will receive face shields through COVID-19 Nonpublic School Health and Safety Grant FY20-21 (Edit- Grant has been delayed according to AOP). Because of this, school will purchase face shields in order to protect teachers.
- ❖ Masks will only be removed during meal times (Recess and Lunch).
- ❖ When masks are removed, they are will be placed in a small plastic sandwich bag for protection purposes. Parents will be responsible to wash masks at home daily.
- ❖ Each student desk will be equipped with a plexiglass sneeze guard to ensure the safety of all students.

### **Cleaning/Sanitization:**

- ❖ Common areas such as entry ways and restrooms will be cleaned and sanitized using a CDC recommended spray mist. Classrooms will use mist as well.
- ❖ Teachers will be responsible to ensure that their classrooms and personal areas are kept clean and sanitary.
- ❖ Stairs, railings, and hallways will be misted as well to stop the spread of COVID-19.
- ❖ Water fountains have been covered and will be off limits.

### **Monitoring Health:**

- ❖ Each day, parents are responsible to maintain a close eye on their child's health and well-being.
- ❖ Teachers, Staff, and Students will have their temperature taken upon entering the buildings.
- ❖ Teachers will monitor student's health throughout the day.
- ❖ Students who fall ill while in school will be immediately sent to a designated area where they will be kept safe until the parent is contacted and they may be picked up.
- ❖ Students will not be permitted to return to school until cleared by a doctor.
- ❖ If a child in a cohort contracts COVID-19, that cohort and any cohort that has come in contact with a departmental teacher of the sick student must be sent home and take part in Virtual Instruction for 14 days while quarantining.
- ❖ Students or Teachers who travel to COVID-19 Hot Spots will be required to quarantine for 14 days upon their return.
- ❖ In the event of Teacher illness (not COVID-19 Related), we have enforced a "Sub-Tub" Policy.
- ❖ A "Sub-Tub" is a bin in each classroom with various extra teaching/learning materials for an incoming substitute to use. Use of a "sub-tub" will halt the spread of germs as the substitute will not need to use the teacher's books, plans, etc. All needed information and materials will be located in the "sub-tub."

### **Virtual Learning:**

- ❖ Each student at Saint Anthony of Padua Regional Catholic School will be given their own Google Classroom Account. Currently, Grades 4 thru 8 are on Google Classroom and as of August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, students in Grades K thru 3 will be provided with a Google Account.
- ❖ The use of Saint Anthony of Padua Regional Catholic School's Google Suite will be imperative for both Virtual Learners and In-Person Learners.
- ❖ Parents of students who wish to learn virtually were sent a contract to sign, scheduling them for a month-long learning period.
- ❖ Once their month is up, they will have the choice to take part in In-Person Learning, however if they choose to continue virtually, new contracts must be signed each month.
- ❖ The month-long contract is vital in order to ensure that flip-flopping between Virtual Learning and In-Person Learning is prohibited. Parents will be bound by what they choose on the contract on a monthly basis.
- ❖ Parents of students who choose Virtual Learning will be given a schedule with a specific date and time in which they may come and pick up their child's new books/belongings/supplies.
- ❖ Teachers will set up a live-streaming schedule, tailoring it to their daily schedules for students who choose to learn at home.
- ❖ Students who learn from home will be required to take part in Virtual Learning, wearing their school gym uniform daily during the hours directed to them by their teachers.
- ❖ Daily attendance rules/regulations apply for both In-Person Learners and Virtual Learners. If a Virtual Learner fails to attend online sessions at the specified times, he/she will be marked absent.

### **Entering the Building/Morning Routine:**

- ❖ Upon reporting to school, students will be met with a point person who will take their temperature. Following a safe temperature check, students may make their way to the classroom, maintaining a 6ft distance both on stairs and in hallways.

- ❖ Students who participate in the school breakfast program will follow the same rules once obtaining their school breakfast. Cafeteria will be sanitized following each use/visit.
- ❖ Homeroom routines, following Prayers and Patriotism (see above) will be determined by each individual homeroom teacher.
- ❖ As mentioned above, students will not be permitted to use coat closet, etc., therefore are asked to use the bin provided for them for added storage of personal belongings.
- ❖ There will be no School Safeties or School Ambassadors assisting with morning duties or daily jobs. Because of this, each teacher must tailor their homeroom plan to meet their needs and the needs of their homeroom class.

**Movement Throughout School Buildings:**

- ❖ Student Cohorts will only be out of their classroom during the following times:
  - Entering building and making their way to their classrooms.
  - Restroom Use
    - Restroom breaks, per cohort will be scheduled by teachers.
    - Social distancing rules must apply.
  - Lunch Recess
  - Attending Technology Class.
  - Dismissal
- ❖ Face masks will be required at all times.
- ❖ Sanitization and Cleaning of various areas will take place following each movement by each cohort.

**Recess/Lunch/Playground:**

- ❖ Students will be permitted to remove masks during meals.
- ❖ Recess snacks must be brought in from home.
- ❖ Lunch will not be held in school cafeteria.
  - Students will eat at their desk in their classrooms.
  - Students areas will be cleaned and sanitized before and after eating.

- ❖ Students who take part in the Hot Lunch Program will not report to the cafeteria for lunch pick up. To avoid movement throughout buildings by children, a school staff member will deliver each classroom's NDS box to their front door (contactless delivery).
- ❖ Playground time will be operated on a strict schedule.
  - Students will be permitted in the school's courtyard, socially distanced with partner grades. Teachers and Administrators will work together on schedule.
  - Masks will be worn when outside.

**Dismissal:**

- ❖ Much like the Lunch Recess Schedule, dismissal will take part in shifts in order to avoid large groups.
- ❖ Saint Anthony of Padua dismisses from the corners of both 9<sup>th</sup> and Pierce Street and 10<sup>th</sup> and Pierce Streets.
- ❖ Dismissal schedule will also take siblings/families in to consideration.
- ❖ Dismissal will be socially distanced and masks must be worn by Teachers, Students, and Parents picking up their children.
- ❖ Classrooms, Hallways, Entryways will be cleaned and sanitized at the end of each day following use.

**After School Activities:**

- ❖ All after school activities and CYO sports are cancelled indefinitely.
- ❖ Our CARES Program will provide a safe, healthy, and sanitized environment for all students taking part in the program.
  - CARES Program will operate the same as the school day operates with safety rules in place
  - Social distancing rules and mask wearing will be imperative.
  - There will be no sharing of snacks or materials.
  - Hand washing and sanitizing will be enforced and monitored.
  - Parents picking up their children must wear masks.

### **Building Operations:**

- ❖ Increased ventilation by circulation of outdoor air by window and door opening.
- ❖ Use of fans will not be permitted.
- ❖ Outside visitors will need to call or email the school office to set up an appointment for any business matters.
- ❖ If a sick child must be sent home, his/her parent must call the school office upon arrival and the student will be escorted to the door to greet them.
- ❖ Door handles, railings, stairways, restrooms will be disinfected throughout the day in order to stop the spread of COVID-19.
- ❖ Use of hand sanitizer will be enforced (classroom sanitizer and personal sanitizers).

### **Contact Tracing & Isolation:**

- ❖ Any individual (Administrator, Faculty, Staff, Student) with COVID-19 symptoms will immediately be sent home.
- ❖ Any individual (Administrator, Faculty, Staff, Student) who tests positive for COVID-19 must quarantine for 14 days.
- ❖ Contact Tracing Questions will be enforced.
  - Which cohort is the student a part of?
  - Is he/she part of a departmental class?
  - What other teachers (specials) has the student or teacher been in contact with?
- ❖ Individuals who are sick should seek medical care for their symptoms immediately and follow CDC guidance for caring for oneself and others who may be sick.
- ❖ If tested positive for COVID-19, sick individuals are not permitted to return until they have tested negative.
- ❖ Health officials will be notified.

**Resilience:**

The Administration, Faculty, and Staff at Saint Anthony of Padua Regional Catholic School is committed to ensuring that not only are our children kept safe, they too, enjoy the long awaited and much anticipated return to their classrooms.

Working closely with Parents and Guardians, our School Family will make every effort to make this transition a seamless and comfortable one for all involved.

As always, our students come first and will continue to come first no matter what hardship we are faced with.

Looking to Saint Anthony of Padua, Saint Nicholas of Tolentine, and Saint Lucy Filippini for guidance, we can overcome anything that stands in our path.