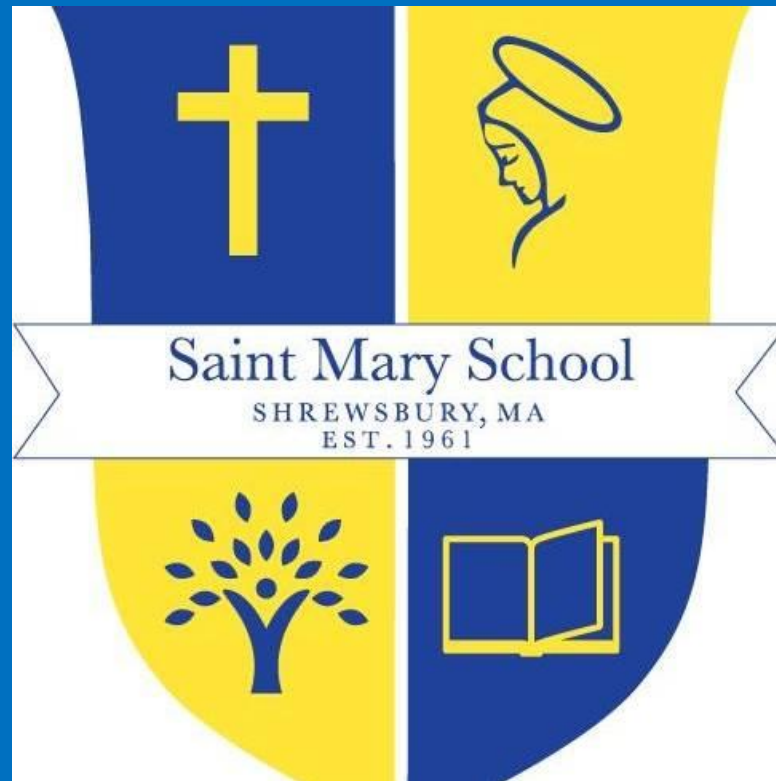


# Welcome Back to School!



# First Day of School

- ▶ We will follow our orientation schedule for the week of September 8<sup>th</sup>. Please see schedule emailed on August 20<sup>th</sup>.
- ▶ Our first full day of school is Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.
- ▶ We are adhering to a relaxed Saint Mary School dress code for this year.



# Masks

- ▶ Practice wearing masks at home now!
- ▶ All students in Preschool – Grade 8 are required to wear a mask for entering and exiting the building. It is mandated that students in Grades 2 – 8 wear a mask during the school day. Although not required, it is strongly encouraged by Saint Mary School that Preschool – Grade 1 students wear a mask or face shield during the day.
- ▶ Masks can be reusable or disposable cloth masks per state directives.
- ▶ Please send an extra mask in your child's backpack daily.
- ▶ Reusable masks should be cleaned daily.
- ▶ Masks will be removed during snack, lunch, recess, and gym. Students will remain physically distant while not wearing masks.
- ▶ When not wearing a mask, students will place masks in either a brown paper bag labeled with their name on it or will wear a lanyard with the mask clipped to it.



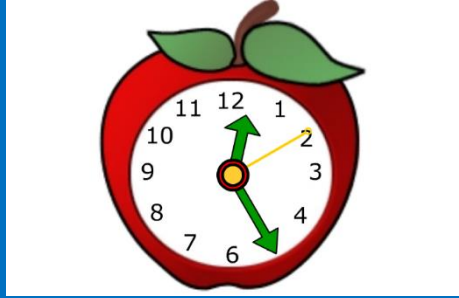
# What should my child wear to school?

- ▶ Saint Mary School will be operating under a relaxed dress code to allow students to be more comfortable with the addition of masks this year.
- ▶ Students may wear SMS gym uniform, or any combination of the regular uniforms.
- ▶ Any sneakers may be worn when in gym uniform. Black, white, or black and white sneakers or shoes must be worn while in regular SMS uniform.
- ▶ Warm weather items such as shorts/skorts/navy blue dresses are allowed until November 1<sup>st</sup>.

# What will arrival look like?

- ▶ Arrival and dismissal directions were sent out earlier this week.
- ▶ Students should have masks on before they are ready to exit the car.
- ▶ They should always maintain social distancing as they enter and walk through the hallways.
- ▶ Hand sanitizer will be given as each student enters building.
- ▶ Students in grades 1 -8 will proceed straight to their homerooms instead of congregating in the church hall. Preschool, Pre-K, and Kindergarten students will be greeted by their teachers at the classroom doors.
- ▶ Parents/Guardians may NOT enter the building to escort students to and from classrooms.
- ▶ Parents - please do not congregate in the parking lot or on sidewalks.

# What if my child is tardy?



- Grades 1 –8: In the event that your child is tardy, please send them into the front office where they will be signed in by office staff. Parents may not enter the front office. They will receive hand sanitizer in the office and proceed directly to their homerooms.
- Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten, and Kindergarten: In the event that your child is tardy, please ring the classroom doorbell. They will receive hand sanitizer before entering the building.

# What will the school day look like?

- ▶ Cohorts will not interact during the day.
- ▶ Subject teachers and specialists will travel to each classroom.
- ▶ Bathroom times will be staggered with no more than two students in the bathroom at a time.
- ▶ Supplies will not be shared. Please label your child's supplies.
- ▶ Classes will be conducted outside when possible.
- ▶ Staggered recess and mask break schedules will be in place, with social distancing.
- ▶ Bring a labeled water bottle from home for use throughout the day.
- ▶ School day will start and end with school-wide prayer over the intercom.
- ▶ Plexiglass has been added to the main office and lunchroom.



# What is not allowed during the school day?



- ▶ Parents/Guardians/Visitors are not permitted in the building.
- ▶ Teachers and administration cannot hold in-person meetings.
- ▶ Students will not be allowed to share school supplies.
- ▶ Students will not be allowed to share snacks from home.
- ▶ Students will not be allowed to bring in birthday treats.
- ▶ Water fountains can only be used for refilling water bottles. Water bubblers have been fitted with a spout that allows for refilling of water bottles.



# What will classrooms look like?

- ▶ Desks/Tables spaced at least 4 feet according to safety guidelines
- ▶ Decluttering of classrooms and removal of all non-essential items and furniture
- ▶ Classroom doors and windows will remain open throughout the day.
- ▶ Air purifiers will be running all day.



# What happens during lunch?

- ▶ PreK will eat in the classroom. Grades K-8 will eat in the lunchroom.
- ▶ A staggered lunch schedule of 4 lunch periods has been developed.
- ▶ Handwashing/sanitizing will occur before and after lunch.
- ▶ Students will be spaced 6 feet apart or separated with plexiglass dividers.
- ▶ Hot lunch items will be pre-packaged in take-out containers.
- ▶ All utensils and condiments will be distributed by lunch aides only.

# What happens at recess?

- ▶ This will be used as a mask break for the students. All students in Grades PK - 8 will have both a morning and afternoon recess each day. Preschool will have a morning recess.
- ▶ The parking lot will be divided into sections by cohort.
- ▶ Students will be working with their teachers during orientation week to brainstorm new ideas for safe, socially distant recess activities.
- ▶ Students will wash/use hand sanitizer on their hands after recess.
- ▶ Indoor recess days will be more challenging, but we can utilize the hall and gathering space where they can spread out.
- ▶ We are still finalizing plans to have a tent installed in the parking lot which will allow us to use the outdoor space in less than ideal weather conditions.

# What happens at dismissal?

- ▶ **Grades 1 -8:** Bus students will be dismissed first. All other students will be dismissed by cohort from youngest to oldest using the side entrance. Parents should wait in their cars as long as possible and not congregate. Please wear a mask, greet your child, and head immediately to your car.
- ▶ **Kindergarten, Pre-Kindergarten, and Preschool:** Parents should wear a mask and not congregate. Walk to the door of your child's building, greet your child, and head immediately to your car. Teachers will release the children one by one when they see the parents.
- ▶ Please be patient as dismissal will most likely take longer than usual.

# After School Program

- ▶ After School Program will begin on September 14<sup>th</sup>.
- ▶ New Director – Kristine Krakowski, Art Teacher
- ▶ Students will remain with their cohorts.
- ▶ Program will include snack, homework time, and outdoor time.
- ▶ Parents will pick up their children in the lobby of the main office by signing them out on a Chromebook.
- ▶ Students will come through the office to meet their parents.



# Hygiene

- ▶ Students will watch videos and be trained on:
  - ▶ Proper handwashing techniques
  - ▶ Transmission of germs and viruses
  - ▶ Proper mask wearing
  - ▶ Symptoms of COVID-19
  - ▶ Importance of social distancing
- ▶ Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building to students and staff.
- ▶ Students will use hand sanitizer each time they enter the classroom, especially after using the bathroom.
- ▶ Visual signage and reminders for students to encourage good hygiene and social distancing.



Hand Sanitizer Stations



# Cleaning



- ▶ A disinfecting mister will be used to disinfect the classrooms daily.
- ▶ Bathrooms, handrails, and high touch surface areas are disinfected multiple times throughout the day.
- ▶ Each classroom is provided with a disinfectant spray for use throughout the day when needed.
- ▶ Staggered lunch schedule allows for tables, seats and plex-glass partitions to be cleaned between cohorts.
- ▶ Increased circulation of outdoor air as much as possible: open doors, open windows.
- ▶ Air purifiers will be in use in each classroom throughout the school day.
- ▶ Chromebooks/laptops will be cleaned using a UV disinfecting wand.

# Special Events

- ▶ Until further notice, no whole-school Masses will be celebrated.
- ▶ No off-site field trips will take place this year.
- ▶ No large assemblies or gatherings of students during the school day.
- ▶ Large school community meetings will be conducted virtually.
- ▶ The feasibility of holding some of our traditional school events will be decided on a case-by-case basis and may look different than in the past.

# Let's keep each other safe!

For the health and safety of our entire school community, please err on the side of caution when your child is exhibiting any signs of illness.

If we all do our part, we will get through this together!





On Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, you will receive an email that contains:

- ▶ Summarized version of the COVID Health Protocols and scenarios for parent reference
- ▶ Daily Parent Checklist
- ▶ Saint Mary School Community Agreement
- ▶ Links to Handbooks for 2020-2021
- ▶ Milk Order Form for 2020-2021 school year

# More Information....

- ▶ All plans/dates/details are fluid and subject to change, based on new and everchanging guidelines/recommendations from the Massachusetts Department of Health, DESE, and the Diocese of Worcester.
- ▶ Please continue to check your email, our website, and our social media regularly for updates.
- ▶ If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. MacDonough or Mrs. Dolan...we will do our best to help you!
  - ▶ [Jeannie.MacDonough@stmarysparish.org](mailto:Jeannie.MacDonough@stmarysparish.org)
  - ▶ [Cheryl.Dolan@stmarysparish.org](mailto:Cheryl.Dolan@stmarysparish.org)