



8/10/2020

St. Laurentius School
of Holy Name of Jesus Parish
1612 E. Berks Street
Philadelphia, PA 19125
215-423-8834
www.StLaurentius.org

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Here are some more responses to frequently asked questions. As you might imagine, things are changing every day, but I hope this can continue to provide some clarity as to what the school might look like this fall.

How will school dismissal be handled?

In order to ensure that students and faculty can enter and exit classrooms in ways that minimize exposure, we are putting together a staggered dismissal system (2:20pm, 2:23pm, 2:26pm). Students will not be allowed to congregate outside of the classrooms. Our dismissals will be as organized, quick and safe as possible. More specific information about dismissal will be sent home prior to the start of school.

What is the difference between synchronous and asynchronous instruction?

Asynchronous instruction means that a lesson is presented in a pre-recorded format. Synchronous instruction refers to instruction happening at the same time, either face-to-face or over livestream. In line with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Catholic Schools Onward plan, we will be using *synchronous* instruction. Students will be expected to attend class each day at the same time with their classmates whether participating in person or via livestream.

Will we still have Math Matters?

Yes. Mr. Yoka will be using Zoom with the students to accommodate students who are learning in-person as well as those who are learning from home.

Will the kids have to wear masks all day?

According to the new local health guidelines from the city health department, students ages 7 and up (between 2nd grade and 8th grade) are required to wear masks and/or face shields at all times during the school day except during eating or when outside. Unfortunately, gaiters (worn around the neck) have been found to be less effective at reducing transmission of COVID, so we ask that you send your child with a face mask instead. Students through Pre-K through 1st grade are *strongly encouraged* to wear masks and/or face shields throughout the day. This has also been common practice at summer camps and is the most effective way to stop the spread of COVID.

How will students' modified learning plans be handled?

Students with modified learning plans will be accommodated. Any extra modifications or accommodations will be discussed on a case by case basis with the child's teacher to best fit the virtual learning environment *or* the in-person, socially distanced model.

Will laptops be provided to students?

We will continue to have a set of Chromebooks that can be loaned to families on a case by case basis, as we did in the spring.

Can the school take students' temperatures?

Thanks to generous donations of the school community, we will have the capacity to take the temperatures of each child at the *beginning* of the day before they enter their respective classrooms. With that said, just as a reminder: parents are expected to take the temperature of their children before leaving the house each day. Please do not rely on the school to do so, as our system is meant to serve as a safety net. Please do not send your child to school with a fever as this puts other children at risk.

How will lunch work?

Students will be able to come down to the lunchroom to eat in their cohorts. They will be seated in a socially distanced pattern, labeled by grade. They will need to wear masks in the transition in the hallway and on the stairs, but they may remove their masks while eating.

Please know of my continued prayers for each of our families as we continue to navigate this health crisis. Thank you for your patience and your assistance as we continue to respond to the changing regulations and restrictions. Also, we are so humbled by the generosity of so many of our families who donated cleaning supplies and other items needed to get the school up and running in a safe way. Thank you!



Kelly Bell
Principal
kbell@stlaurentius.org

Note: Saint Laurentius' plan is subject to change based on our evolving understanding of COVID-19 and its impact. Check back every week on our website for the latest information: <https://stlaurentius.org/covid-19-response>