



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 of St. Laurentius School,

In speaking with SLS families over the last few weeks, the common thread that stands out is the resilience of our children, our families, and our community of St. Laurentius. From all that I have heard, I am amazed by our school community's ability to adapt to changing demands while maintaining commitment to high-quality academics.

We know that our students are longing to be back in the loving, joy-filled environment of our school alongside their teachers and friends. *As we look to the fall and the re-opening of schools, our current plan is to open for in-person instruction.* With that being said, I want to emphasize that our most *important priority* is the safety and wellbeing of your children. Consequently, we are taking every step possible to re-open the school in a way that strictly follows the guidelines set forth by the local, state, and federal government as well as the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. In addition, we have been staying up to date with new recommendations coming from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Centers for Disease Control, and other public health experts.

Here at SLS, we have a great advantage in that we are able to be nimble and responsive to the ever-evolving recommendations for schools. While we plan for the instruction to be in-person, I want to reiterate that it will look different from a 'normal day.' So I wanted to outline what some of these precautions might look like below to help our families envision what the in-person learning experience might look like in September. (And, as you imagine, and as with most things at this current time, the following protocols are subject to change.) However, I hope to communicate the steps we have taken to prepare the school building for in-person instruction in September. See this as a 'draft,' rather than a final copy.

- **Supplies:** We have applied for a grant for the following items:
 - Face Shields for teachers to use while teaching
 - UV sanitizing wands for each classroom and on each floor
 - Thermometers to take students' temperatures
 - Hand sanitizers for each classroom and common space
 - Antibacterial wipes to wipe down surfaces like desks and tables
- **Social Distancing:** We are re-configuring classrooms so as to maintain a 6-foot distance between desks.
- **Cleaning:** We are assembling a cleaning schedule to ensure that bathrooms and high touch surfaces (door knobs, light switches, etc.) are sanitized several times per day.
- **Masks:** Masks will be mandatory in certain situations when social distancing cannot be possible (i.e. travel in the hallway). When a child is at his desk with his cohort in a socially distanced situation, the student may remove his mask. As such, students could remain mask free for much

of the day, unless a parent indicates they would like their child to keep their mask on the entire day.

- **Cohorting:** This is recommended by many health organizations as an environmental measure to prevent the spread of disease which will involve keeping each class of children together for the entire day. *Teachers will rotate classes, rather than students.* If a case of COVID-19 were to surface with a cohort, we would then move to virtual learning at home with just the identified cohort. The rest of the school would continue to operate with in-class instruction.
- **No shared supplies:** We are configuring a plan (with particular attention to our youngest students) to reduce the use of shared toys, disinfect rugs, etc.
- **Virtual learning option:** We are exploring ways to offer class instruction in a virtual format (via livestream or recordings) so that our learning experience can be accessible to all children. This 'virtual option' would be a good fit for parents who may not be comfortable sending their child(ren) to in-person school or in a case when the child(ren) must do a limited time of quarantine.
- **Parent partnership:** Parents should be monitoring their child's health daily. Children who are experiencing symptoms should stay home until medically cleared for school. With parent support on this matter, we will be able to keep in-person instruction in place.

I imagine that the above information will bring up countless questions. As we continue working on our re-opening plan, I will continue to share as much information as possible with you all and kindly ask for your continued patience. I want to mention that if, at any point, we are forced to return to virtual instruction, we will have plans in place for providing continued high-quality academic instruction in addition to spiritual and community formation.

I see SLS as a vessel of light and joy in a time in this world in which we need more of both. We are so excited to welcome our students back in September and to continue to build on all of the incredible accomplishments of our students and teachers.

You can see from the above that St. Laurentius is thoroughly preparing to open school. Please let your friends and neighbors know that we are ready for your children and we do still have openings in each of our grades. I look forward to our continued communication and thank you for your patience as we continue to respond and adapt to the changing climate of COVID-19.

God bless you and your families.

Saint Laurentius, pray for us!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Bell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Kelly Bell
Principal, St. Laurentius
kbell@stlaurentius.org