



August 13, 2021

Dear ASCS Families,

I hope you are enjoying this summer heat and have been able to have some quality family time this summer. Both campuses are busy getting ready for the upcoming school year. Between the new pavement to allow for one way drop off and pick up at St. Mary's campus, LED lighting installed throughout each building, new windows and roof at St. Mary's campus, front entry work at St. John's campus, classrooms and hallways painted, floors waxed, and carpets cleaned, both campuses are looking terrific! We are also very excited about our new faculty and staff hires. They include: Jon Jozefowicz, middle school Social Studies teacher, Mary Hogan, grade 5 teacher, Molly Tyler, 3 year old teacher, and Marilyn Lander, Ed. Technician at St. Mary's. All we need now are our students back in the classrooms and hallways. It is going to be a wonderful faith filled year! Many of you may be asking, what is the day-to-day at school going to look like? I have attached a letter from our superintendent and included a list of the similarities that students will recognize and some differences as we prepare to open our doors on September 1st.

Here is what will be the same:

- All students and staff will continue using the Convenient MD COVID-19 screening tool in the morning *prior to entering* the building.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be at all main entrances.
- No visitors will be allowed in the building without prior permission.
- Masks *will be worn indoors* appropriately by all students and staff; masks may be taken off outdoors at recess, and during outside PE classes.
- We will not hold large gatherings of school families.
- No homemade snacks are to be brought into the school or classrooms; prepackaged items only will be allowed.
- Students will be adequately distanced in the classrooms 3 feet apart or more.
- Students will be in cohorts (PK, K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8) for lunch and recess.
- Stairways will be used in one direction; one way up and the other will go down in the school buildings.
- The playgrounds will be open for K-3 students and 4-8 students at each campus.
- Lockers will be available for all Middle School students to use.

Here is what will be different:

- Students will have lunch in the cafeteria; sitting with appropriate spacing.
- Drop off will be 7:30 at St. John's campus and 7:45 am at St. Mary's campus. both will utilize a one way circular pattern to ensure safety.
- Dismissal will be from 2:30-2:35 at St. John's campus and and 2:45 at St. Mary's.
- Students will be returning to in person Mass grades 1-3 at St. Mary's Church and grades 4-8 at St. John's Church. All students, staff, and clergy will be wearing masks and students will sit with their class with appropriate spacing between them.
- Middle school students will resume moving from class to class.
- Middle school students will be in mixed homerooms (assignments coming home soon).
- Remote learning will only be offered in the event of a school closure. It will not be offered as a permanent option for students, nor will it be offered to those going on a vacation, nor will it be offered if someone is sick for a day or two. Makeup work may be sent home to students in quarantine if feeling well enough to complete work.
- We will not be holding a traditional open house or back-to-school picnic before school begins; teachers will be in touch with you about an alternative way to see the classroom.
- New families are encouraged to contact their homeroom teachers to schedule a time to meet their teacher in person or online (Google Meet).

I want to stress that this may not be what the protocol will be for the entire school year, but it is how we will begin the school year. We will be sending out additional information regarding school sports as we receive guidance from the Maine Principals' Association. Our plan will be reevaluated on a regular basis and restrictions will always be put in place, or scaled back with the best interest and safety of our students and staff in mind.

Our main goal is to be in school for in person instruction, five days a week while keeping our students and staff safe and healthy.

Please enjoy the remainder of your summer and feel free to call me or email me with any additional questions.

Yours in Christ,

Matthew Houghton, Principal