



Holy Rosary Regional Catholic School Plymouth Meeting, PA Reopening Plan for the School Year 2020-2021

This plan was written in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the following governing agencies: Center for Disease Control, PA Department of Education, Montgomery County and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Parent and School Partnership

Together we will work to keep your children and ourselves safe. We ask that you monitor your child's health daily. Please use the checklist prepared by the CDC for your daily morning check before your child comes to school. We trust that all families are diligent about completing this each day. The checklist is included in this document.

We will work with the students to review the new protocols. We plan to be conscientious about monitoring the wearing of masks and social distancing. We encourage you to read through this document with them before they start school.

ARRIVAL/BEGINNING OF THE DAY

General Guidelines

Our students will wear masks when entering the building and they will sanitize their hands at one of the three stations at the entrances to the school. All students will have their temperatures checked before entering the building. Students with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be sent home.

Students will sanitize their hands each time they leave the building and again upon reentry of the building.

Car Riders

Families will travel by car to the church side of the school and drive up to the curb by the flagpole. A teacher will greet you and students will exit their car completely on their own. Another teacher will check temperatures before the child enters the school. An additional teacher will assure that all students move safely in the parking lot. Families should wait until the thumbs up is given after a student's temperature is checked. Should the child have a temperature, the family can take the child home immediately.

Bus Riders

Buses will drop off the students at the gym doors by the CYO shed. One bus will be unloaded at a time. Two teachers will monitor the bus arrivals.

Temperatures will be taken as students get off the bus. If a student has a temperature of 100.4 or higher, they will go directly to the St. Raphael Room and wait to be picked up by a parent or guardian who will be contacted.

DAILY PROTOCOLS

Our teachers and staff will wear face shields and/or masks during the day.

Classroom Setup

Desks will be positioned 6 ft. apart from one another. When this is maintained, the students may take off their masks.

All unnecessary furniture including rugs and extra shelving have been removed from the classrooms.

Ventilation

Classroom doors will remain open at all times to decrease interaction with high touch areas (i.e. door knobs). Classroom windows will be opened as often as possible. When the AC is on in the classrooms, the windows will be opened for 10 minutes per hour to increase air flow. Classes will be outside whenever possible. Your child should have a towel to sit upon when outside. This towel should go home at the end of each week for cleaning.

Attendance

“In School” students will be marked present in the morning when they arrive.

Virtual students will be marked virtually present if they are logged in by 8 AM.

Students will be marked absent if they are home and are ill (parent phone call is expected) or if they have not logged in as a virtual student.

INSTRUCTION

Families have two choices for their child. Students may be in-person five days a week or a five-day virtual option.

Students, whether virtual or in school, will participate in all classroom activities through Zoom/Google Meets. Student work will be submitted through Google Classrooms which will be set up by their teachers. Our teachers have attended numerous workshops this summer including Zoom Academy and Google Classroom Best Practices. We look forward to being prepared to share what we learned with our students and their families.

MCIU Instruction

Our students who qualify will continue to be instructed by the MCIU. They have not made their final decision if it will be virtual or in school. Both in school and virtual students will have this opportunity.

“In School” Instruction Option

Students will remain in their cohort(homeroom) all day.

Special Area Teachers (gym, library, Spanish, technology, music, art, and science) will rotate to each classroom rather than have students move to different classrooms. Honors Math students will receive their instruction in the Elementary Science room. Middle School teachers will also rotate classrooms, while each cohort remains in their homeroom.

Virtual Instruction Option

Attendance

Students are expected to log in by 8 AM dressed in their Holy Rosary uniform. All students must use correct names and have appropriate backgrounds. Students should find a quiet space in the home free of distractions such as siblings, pets, and TV. They should be sitting at a desk or table, no beds.

Behavior

Students should be respectful in speaking and writing. Students should remain active, engaged, and visible. They should stay on mute and click the raise hand button to participate and to ask a question. Students may not share Zoom, Google Meet invites. Students may only attend their own classes. Students should refrain from chewing gum, eating, and drinking in front of the camera. To avoid distractions from background noises, the sound should be muted unless they have something to say. They should keep their cameras on during the entire time they are in school.

Return from Full Virtual Back to School

If a family chooses to return to school after learning virtually, they will need a test or doctor's note as assurance of their good health.

Full School Virtual

If Montgomery County determines that we should go full virtual, we will encourage our teachers to teach virtually from their classrooms. We have increased our modem speed, content filter and zoom platform to facilitate this process. Thank you for your help in financing these upgrades.

LUNCH AND FOOD PROTOCOL

Students will eat in their classroom with their cohorts. Students are not permitted to share food at any time.

Hot Lunch

Each morning, homeroom teachers will ask their students for their milk choice and relay this information to the lunchroom. A student from a homeroom will pick up the hot lunch order for the entire class from the cafeteria.

Each lunch will be individually wrapped, and their milk choice and side will be included in the bag. Our lunch staff will be taking all the necessary safety precautions to ensure a safe lunch preparation and delivery.

Pretzels

Pretzels will come from the vendor individually wrapped. The bag or box for the entire class will be picked up by a student from the homeroom.

Birthday Celebrations

We will announce your child's birthday each morning as we have always done. Prepackaged birthday treats may be brought in for your child's class. We are suggesting that the treat be brought to school 3 days prior to the birthday. Students will not be visiting other classrooms or teachers until further notice.

RECESS

Students will attend recess with their cohort.

Hands will be sanitized before participating in any recess activities, as well as before reentering the classroom after recess.

Our recess space will be split into 6 different sections. Each cohort will rotate to a different section each day. A calendar of rotations will be sent to each teacher detailing where their class will be each day of the month.

Each cohort will have a set of equipment that can be used while playing at recess. The equipment will be sanitized after each use. The equipment is not to be shared among cohorts. Equipment/ toys from home is prohibited unless it is for Show and Tell.

RESTROOM PROTOCOL

Grades PreK through second grade will have a predetermined restroom schedule to allow teachers to monitor the amount of students in each bathroom- (2 students at a time).

We also will be implementing a restroom magnet system: in each class there will be a magnetic "restroom pass". If a student has to use the restroom, they will take the magnet and place it outside of the restroom to indicate a person is inside. If there are two magnets outside the door, students will have to wait outside (6 ft. apart). The student will return the magnet to their classroom and there will be sanitizing wipes available to clean the magnet.

TRANSITIONS

General Guidelines

We will limit transitions, (walking the halls), as much as possible.

All students will remain in their cohorts and only leave the classroom when necessary. When students are walking in the hallway, they will remain 6ft. apart and masks will be worn.

HEALTH MONITORING

General Guidelines

Temperature checks will be taken in the morning and after lunch.

Students with temperatures of 100.4 or higher will be sent home, and cannot return to school unless they are fever free for 24 hours.

At the start of each morning, homeroom teachers will ask students about their health utilizing the CDC checklist. Teachers will monitor their student's behaviors and symptoms closely throughout the day to ensure there is no change.

Sanitizing Procedures

We will disinfect high touch areas throughout the day. At the end of the day teachers will clean classrooms with a cleaning product that we chose. This product meets the EPA's criteria for use against SARS-COV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Our cleaning company who we have employed for many years will continue to clean the balance of the school in the evening.

Hand Sanitizers

Students will keep their own sanitizer on their desk all day for their personal use. Teachers will also have a good supply of hand sanitizers.

Masks

Students will be required to wear masks (**without valves**) in the hallways, bathrooms, and during times when social distancing is not possible. Masks should be marked with child's name.

Students sitting at their desks do not need to wear a mask, but if their teacher or another person comes up to their desk, the student will need to put their mask on. If a teacher is in contact with a student, he/she must wear a shield or mask.

Each student should store their mask in a **PAPER BAG labeled with their name** when not in use. Please do not send in plastic bags because masks can become moldy in them. Paper bags should be replaced weekly.

Gaiter Sleeves are prohibited.

Cohort Quarantine

We will make efforts to monitor the health of our students and staff, although it is not required or suggested by the CDC. Specifically, they suggest schools are not expected to screen children, students, or staff to identify cases of COVID-19. If a school has cases of COVID-19, local health officials will help identify those individuals and follow up on next steps. Below are the steps we will follow for COVID-19.

If a staff member or volunteer has a confirmed case of COVID-19 we will:

- Notify the local health officials and ask for guidance.
- Dismiss the staff or volunteer for 2-5 days until health officials can determine next steps.

- Consider dismissal of cohort, related to the suspected case of COVID-19, according to the health official guidance.
- Discourage the cohort from gathering until during the initial period.
- Communicate to staff and families that there was a confirmed case – without using name or identifying information of the person(s) involved.
- During the initial 2-5 day period, evaluate if any other cases related to the case were identified and decide to extend or end the cohort dismissal.
- The staff/volunteer can return after the following conditions have been met:
 - 3 days no fever and,
 - Symptoms improved and,
 - 10 days since symptoms first appeared.

If a student has a confirmed case of COVID-19, we will:

- Notify local health officials to ask for guidance.
- Dismiss the student(s) for 2-5 days until health officials can determine next steps.
- The individual should be comforted in our designated room until a parent or guardian can come take them home.
- Consider a dismissal of cohort related to the suspected case of COVID-19 using health official guidance for this.
- Discourage the cohort from gathering during the initial period and the situation has been evaluated.
- Communicate to staff and families that there was a confirmed case. Name or identifying information of the student with COVID-19 is not permitted.
- Close off area the person was in and wait 24 hours. Clean areas related to the identified case of COVID-19.
- During the initial 2-5 day period, evaluate if any other cases related to the case were identified and decide to extend or end the cohort dismissal.
- The student can return to school after the following conditions have been met:
 - 3 days with no fever and,
 - Symptoms improved and,
 - 10 days since symptoms first appeared.

If a student or staff has a suspected case of COVID-19 or is demonstrating symptoms, we will:

- Immediately separate staff and children with “COVID-19 symptoms, (fever, cough, or shortness of breath) at school. The individual should be comforted in the sick room until a parent or guardian can come and take them home. Individuals who are sick should go home or to a healthcare facility depending of the severity of their symptoms. CDC guidelines for caring for oneself or others should be followed.
- Provide an isolation room
- Call for home transportation, if necessary.
- Can return when:
 - 3 days with no fever and,
 - Symptoms improved and,

- 10 days since symptoms first appeared,
- And Is cleared by a medical professional.

If case is confirmed, please see aforementioned section (confirmed case of COVID-19).

WHEN A CHILD SHOULD BE KEPT HOME

Monitoring Health – Every day, parents are primarily responsible for monitoring the health of their children. Teachers will be reminded to check the health of their students during a common activity. Additionally, the school will implement random temperature monitoring.

Partnership – Catholic elementary schools are inherently a partnership between the parent and the school. This is never more important than at this time and an even greater partnership is now needed. It is our goal to open this school year and remain open. This cannot be possible unless the school and the parents agree to the importance of monitoring your child's health daily. Most importantly, this means that children who are experiencing symptoms such as:

- Fever
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Parents need to keep their child home until medically cleared to return to school. With parental cooperation in this matter, we will be able to keep the schools open and safe.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality is paramount. As always, we will not share information with other families. If a cohort is required to quarantine due to COVID complications, names will not be used when notifying the families who are involved. It is critical that we trust in our partnership so that timely and efficient reporting will occur and exposure can be contained.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Mass and Prayer Services

We will be unable to safely distance our students at the 8:30 Mass at Epiphany of our Lord Church. Therefore, we will participate virtually in

daily Mass that will be streamed through Saint Maria Goretti's website (<https://stmariagoretti.net/>) Each cohort will watch the Mass from their classroom on their designated day.

First Friday Mass and special occasion Masses will be celebrated with prayer services. Each month a homeroom will plan their prayer service and celebrate the service in the gym. This service will be livestreamed to all classrooms and parents are welcome to join us virtually.

Prayer Partners

We will continue our special tradition of prayer partners. The classes will be working together virtually on many projects.

Daily Prayer

We will begin each morning with the recitation of the Pope Francis prayer for the end to the coronavirus. We will also pray together as a community each morning and afternoon.

DISMISSAL

Car

Students will be dismissed by grade to prevent congregating and mixing of cohorts. Students will be dismissed from the gym doors by the CYO sheds.

Bus

Student buses will be dismissed one by one based upon their arrival in the afternoon. This will ensure that bus cohorts will remain together.

CARES

General Guidelines

- All students will have their temperature taken at the beginning of CARES (both AM and PM).
- Students will wear masks at all times unless they can be 6 ft. apart safely.
- CARES will be in the gym.
- Tables will be disinfected after a student eats. Students will not be permitted to share food at any time.
- Students may not share school supplies.
- Students may not engage in any physical contact.

AM Cares

Parents must wait at the door until their child's temperature is taken. Students will not be permitted into school if the temperature is higher than 100.4.

PM CARES

- Parents will be called immediately if their child has a temperature higher than 100.4. The child will be separated from the other students and staff until they are picked up.
- Students will not be permitted to reenter the school building or any classroom after 3 PM for any reason.
- Students must stay with their cohorts in the gym at all times.
- Multiple gym doors will be open for at least 10 minutes each hour when the students are in the gym. The doors will be monitored by the teachers. No students will be permitted to go outside of the gym doors without permission.
- Students should keep a mask in their school bags.
- CARES will be unable to provide school supplies. The students should bring their own supplies to complete homework. In an emergency situation, supplies can be provided, but will be disinfected after use.
- Students will be outside as much as possible, weather permitting.
- When outside, CARES students will have specific places to play. There will be outdoor games/activities available.
- The playground is off limits until further notice.
- Parents will not be permitted into the school building. A CARES staff member will walk the child to the door. The staff member will wipe the pen and clipboard with Clorox wipes after each parent signs out.
- All areas and objects that the children come in contact with will be disinfected at the end of CARES each day.

LARGE GROUP EVENTS

General Guidelines

All large group events are canceled until further notice including chorus, clubs, shows, and CYO. Band will be held virtually to start the year. Mr. Miller will be contacting interested families.

Field Trips

There will be no in person field trips this year. Teachers are encouraged to take their students on virtual trips.

Back to School Night and Parent Teacher Conferences

Both of these events will be virtual. We will give you more details as the dates grow closer.

MISCELLANEOUS

Signs

We will post signs reminding students how to properly wash their hands, wear their masks and social distance. Floor strip guides showing 6 ft. apart will also be marked.

Water Fountains

Our fountains will be shut off until further notice. Homeroom teachers will be asking for cases of water to supplement water bottles that are brought to school by the individual student.

PreK and Kindergarten “Meet and Greet” Day

Parents of Preschool and Kindergarten will be invited to a zoom meeting with the principal and HASA. A date will be sent to you shortly.

The Preschool and Kindergarten teachers will send you an email inviting you to schedule a time to have your child meet them and see their classroom.

First Day of School Schedule

Tuesday September 1
Grades 1, 4A, 6, 7

Wednesday September 2
Grades 2, 3, 4B, 5, 8

Students in 4A and 4B will be contacted by their teachers so they know which day they should attend.

Opening Celebration

On Friday, September 11 at 10:00 AM we will have a moment of silence and prayer for Patriot Day. The entire student body will sit with their cohort socially distanced from other cohorts. We will announce the awards for each class (from June) and wish Mrs. Byrnes a happy retirement. We invite parents to bring their lawn chairs and sit by the rectory to watch the festivities.

CLOSING REMARKS

As you have seen from month to month with our changing emails, this is a constantly evolving situation. We will continue to adapt so that we can offer a safe environment for our students and teachers. It is our goal to provide a quality Catholic education for our families for a full school year.

Thank you for your part in helping us achieve this goal. This challenge will take teamwork!

This plan was written collaboratively by Holy Rosary’s Health and Safety Team who include:

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