



August 13, 2021

Dear St. Joseph School families,

We hope you and your family are doing well and we look forward to seeing you in just a few short weeks.

Last year, St. Joseph School was very successful in navigating through what was one of the most challenging school years on record. In fact, we increased the number of families who count on St. Joseph School for academic and spiritual support in a time when they needed us most. Thank you for the support of our teachers and staff who went above and beyond to ensure the best experience for our students.

Using the experience we've gained, we are fully committed to opening our school for all students, in-person five days a week for the 2021-22 school year. The State Education Department, the NYS Department of Health, and the Monroe County Department of Health recommend that all schools base their reopening plans on the guidance released by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) this past July.

Therefore, using the CDC as our guide, the following protocols will be in place when St. Joseph School welcomes students and families on Wednesday, September. 1st:

- Universal masking when indoors for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status. Mask breaks will be incorporated throughout the day and additional accommodations will be made during times of excessive heat.
- Masking will be not required when outdoors. Outdoor recess and PE class weather permitting.
- Physical distancing of 3 feet in classrooms
- Physical distancing of 6 feet when eating and any other time masks must be removed (i.e. music)
- Hand washing reminders to students and explicit hand washing instruction for our youngest learners
- Hand sanitizing throughout the day
- Sanitizing rooms, surfaces and high traffic areas regularly
- Daily health checks for temperature and other potential Covid symptoms by parent and staff members

Also following CDC guidelines, this year we will begin to allow volunteers into our school building on a limited basis. All protocols will be followed consistently each classroom , in

After School Care and in the PreK Wrap Around Program. With the goal of student, staff, faculty and family safety being one of our top priorities, St. Joseph School will continue to review and adjust these protocols as the school year progresses. On October 17, the Diocesan Principals and I will be attending a Zoom meeting with Dr. Mendoza from the Monroe County Department of Health which will further clarify recommendations for our schools. We pray that the current situation will not get worse and that our county, our state, our country and the world begin to put the pandemic behind us.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers through this crucial time. We look forward to seeing you in just a few short weeks.

If you have questions or wish to discuss the protocols we are putting in place, please feel free to contact me at 585.586.6968 or at amy.johnson@dor.org.

Sincerely,

Amy Johnson
Principal
St. Joseph School