

As we approach the start of the 2020-21 school year, we understand your concerns of how St. John's will look much different than previous years due to the COVID-19 health crisis.

Listed below are Frequently Asked Questions regarding St. John's Re-Opening Plan:

➤ **What did St. John's consider when planning for the 2020-2021 school year?**

As we re-open, St. John's is following the guidelines as established by the CDC and DOH. Our mission is to ensure the health and safety of students, staff, and community.

➤ **Why did St. John's choose the model it is using?**

We carefully studied the responses to the survey which was sent from the Department of Education in early August regarding students returning to school. Due to the limitations on space within our buildings and the focus on the health and safety of our students, staff, and families, we are adhering to the guidelines set forth by NYS for educational rigor and in the best interest of health and safety of our students, staff, and parents.

➤ **Is this plan in place for the whole year or will it change?**

The St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School Reopening Plan is fluid and will change as necessary. It is possible that we may need to alternate between in-person and distance learning throughout the year due to guidance from Governor Cuomo, the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Education Department. Additionally, we are operating with the goal of continually evaluating the instructional program so we can ensure that our students are receiving the best methods of instruction possible. We will also be monitoring the guidelines for athletics and extracurricular activities when determining the date that they will resume.

➤ **Will there be a reduction in tuition?**

Since St. John's is fully operational and there will be no reduction in tuition. The tuition did not increase from the 2019-2020 school year.

➤ **What if my child is struggling with the instructional choice we made?**

As always at St. John's, each situation will be individually evaluated. If your child is struggling with either the remote learning or the back to school option, please contact your child's Guidance Counselor and we can re-evaluate your instructional choice for your child.

➤ **If my child chooses the remote option, will they be missing out on any opportunities?**

Students who are attending St. John's remotely will have all the same opportunities as those who are in the building. Students will be eligible to take the same classes and participate in the same activities as if they were attending in-person school. Some activities will be experienced virtually, rather than in person.

➤ **When will instruction begin for the 2020-2021 school year?**

The first day of school for the 2020-2021 school year for all students is Monday, September 14th.

- ***Where will the students be located to attend the livestreamed classes when in the building?***

Students will be scheduled in classrooms, as well as additional learning spaces, in the building to attend their livestreamed classes.

- ***My child is starting Freshman year, will there be any Orientation Program?***

Yes, you will receive additional information in the near future about our Freshman Orientation Program and our Freshman Forerunner Days.

- ***Will the students be supervised when they are attending a livestreamed class in the building?***

Yes, students will be supervised at all times by staff.

- ***Are there any revisions to the Dress Code during this time?***

For the month of September only: students may wear their regular uniform* or their gym uniform (with sneakers).

*Regular full uniform according to dress code, however, students have the option of wearing wear any class color SJB polo shirt with their uniform until January 22, 2021 (end of 1st Semester).

Since locker rooms are closed, on **scheduled** gym days, students may wear their gym uniforms to school.

All other dress code procedures must be followed at the start of school.

Students who engage in remote learning must wear an SJB shirt when attending their virtual classes at home.

- ***Do students have to wear a mask in the classroom?***

Yes, masks are required at all times except when seated during their lunch period. We will continue to monitor this action and “mask” breaks will be given throughout the day.

- ***What time will school begin/end?***

We will operate using our normal start and end times. There will be no afterschool activities or late buses. The school building will be closed at 3:15PM daily.

- ***Will the Library be open after school?***

The Library will not be open after school until further notice. However, students will have access to all Library resources via the bookmark on their Chromebook, each day, 24/7.

- ***How many students will be in each classroom?***

The social distancing criteria utilizing the appropriate numbers is being followed at SJB.

- ***What are the procedures and expectations for school attendance?***

Attendance is being taken every day, whether the student is in school or learning remotely. New York State Education Department mandates that daily student attendance be recorded. Follow up with families will be made to determine reasons for absence and/or assistance will be provided if any adjustments must be made.

- ***Will Physical Education classes be held and what will they look like?***

Students will receive physical education classes at all grade levels. Traditional curriculum may be modified to accommodate social distancing requirements.

➤ ***Will the Driver Ed program resume?***

Unfortunately, we are unable to resume the Driver's Education program, which is run by East Meadow Driving School, until further notice.

➤ ***Can my student drive to school?***

Any student who drives to school must hold a Senior Class D license. NYS law prohibits a student with a Junior license from driving to high school. The driving privilege will be extended to all Seniors who participate in a school driving safety seminar, register their vehicle and purchase a parking permit.

No Senior driver is permitted to transport any other student to school unless the driver and the passenger have filed Transportation Permission forms that can be obtained from the Office of Student Services. Any student who drives to school will not be permitted to drive home if they are ill. Further information about the Driving Seminar will be sent at a later date.

➤ ***How will students change classes?***

Students will change classrooms during the day with health and safety protocols in place such as one-way signage and social distancing markings.

➤ ***Will students use lockers?***

Under current social distancing guidelines (6 feet), students cannot be socially distanced at lockers, so lockers will not be assigned at this time.

➤ ***Will there be Extra Help?***

Extra Help sessions will be conducted virtually until further notice. Students will be given extra help information from their individual teachers.

➤ ***Will there be any changes to the grading policy?***

Our grading policy will return to normal (pre-COVID-19), with some minor extensions to deadlines to submit assignments as needed. Specific information will be shared by your child's teachers and/or building principal.

➤ ***How will the school practice and enforce social distancing?***

All building occupants will be required to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet from one another. The size of groups/cohorts of students will be determined by the number of students who can be in each instructional space while maintaining 6 feet of social distancing. All unnecessary furnishings will be removed in order to maximize space for student capacity. Student entry points will be divided, rather than funneling all students through the same entry space. Designated areas will be established for student drop-off and pick-up, limiting contact and entry of parents/guardians into the building, to the greatest extent possible.

➤ ***Will students, staff and teachers be required to wear masks at school?***

Students and staff will be required to wear masks at all times in and around school grounds.

➤ ***Will students get a "mask break"?***

There will be supervised designated areas where students will be able to take a break from wearing a mask.

➤ ***Will parents and visitors to school buildings be required to wear masks?***

Anyone who is entering a school building must have a mask on at all times.

➤ ***Can a student wear a plastic face shield?***

A plastic face shield alone is not an acceptable face covering. Face coverings must completely cover the individual's mouth and nose. A face shield may be worn in conjunction with a face covering/mask.

➤ ***What are families required to do before sending a student to school?***

We will require daily temperature checks for all students and use a questionnaire for students. In particular, parents will be instructed to monitor their child(ren) for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to sending them to school or the bus. If they present with a temperature over 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit, they SHOULD NOT be sent to school.

➤ ***Will students have their temperatures taken at school?***

Upon arrival, all students will be required to receive a temperature check daily. A Pass/Fail will be recorded.

➤ ***How will staff and teachers be screened for symptoms/illness?***

St. John's will implement a daily screening and temperature check questionnaire for all faculty and staff reporting to school, which must be completed prior to entering any building on campus.

➤ ***Will parents and visitors to school buildings have their temperature taken?***

Yes, they are being scanned for safety and security.

➤ ***What will happen if a student exhibits symptom during the school day?***

Students and staff with symptoms of illness must be sent to the Health Office. A school nurse will be available to assess individuals. Students suspected of having COVID-19 awaiting transport home by the parent/guardian will be isolated in a room or area separate from others, with a supervising adult present and utilizing appropriate PPE.

➤ ***Will students diagnosed with COVID-19 need documentation to return to school?***

Schools must follow CDC guidance for allowing a student or staff member to return to school after exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.

➤ ***If a household member is diagnosed with COVID-19 will a student need to quarantine before returning to school?***

Yes, students will need to quarantine for 14 days.

➤ ***Will classes be quarantined if a student or staff member tests positive? Will the entire school be shut down?***

School administrators will collaborate and coordinate with local health officials to make mass quarantine and/or school closure decisions.

➤ ***How will buildings be cleaned?***

According to St. John's Re-Opening Plan, Loyal Business Services (LBS) has outlined, in detail, their procedures for disinfecting and cleaning the entire school.

➤ ***Will students be permitted to go on field trips?***

St. John's has suspended all educational field trips and athletic trips for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Health and safety conditions will be reviewed for student and transportation concerns prior to reinstating educational field trips and athletic trips.

➤ ***Will extracurricular activities be allowed to take place?***

All after school activities are suspended in the building until further notice. Some extracurricular activities and extra help will take place virtually after school for all students to be able to participate. St. John's is still monitoring the COVID-19 health crisis and will continue to monitor the NYS Guidelines when deciding on extracurricular activities

➤ ***Will athletic activities be allowed to take place?***

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the New York State Public High School Athletics Association delayed the Fall sports start date until September 21, 2020. The Association also put in place guidelines that must be adhered to in addition to appropriate social distancing, PPE usage, and cleaning and disinfecting of equipment. If the Fall sports season is interrupted or impacted by the COVID-19 health crisis then a condensed plan for the remaining season(s) will be implemented.

➤ ***Should families notify St. John's if a student or family member has been exposed to or tested positive for COVID-19?***

Families should notify the School Nurse and our Attendance Office immediately.

The Administration has been making personal phone calls to parents that had concerns. Should you still have any questions, please email:

Mrs. Claire Gohn, Assistant Principal – gohn@sjbdhs.org

Mr. Matthew Artigas, Assistant Principal – artigas@sjbdhs.org

Please note that the schedule posted on the last page of the Re-Opening Plan will only be used if the building is closed and remote learning is in place for all students.