

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS TO THE REVISED RE-OPENING PLAN

Thank you for contacting us with your questions and concerns regarding the Revised Re-Opening Plan that was introduced on August 24th. We ask for your patience, as we are personally addressing parental inquiries.

Remember, we are *Cougar Strong* and we will persevere and get through this together! Our teachers are thoroughly engaged in the re-opening plans and are excited to bring new and innovative ways to meet the needs of all learners academically, spiritually, and socially.

Since the revised plan was introduced, here are some concerns which have been brought to our attention:

Why was the plan changed from a Five-Day Plan to a Hybrid Plan?

On August 13, 2020, we received guidance from the NYS Education Department; Office of Facilities Planning, that provided further specifics about social distancing in classrooms with regard to the measurements and layout of furniture, etc. The updated guidance now requires the 6-foot social distancing spacing to be the edge of the workstation (desk) to the edge of an adjacent workstation.

These changes resulted in significant adjustments to every aspect of our plan. We must abide by the regulations and guidelines given to us to ensure compliance and the safety of the students and adults in the building.

Will there be a reduction in tuition?

As stated earlier, there will no increase in tuition, nor a reduction. Faculty will be teaching in the building, five days per week, whether students are present or remote. Therefore, a reduction in tuition is not feasible.

If I chose the Hybrid Learning Plan, how will my child know which days they need to be in school?

Students will come to school every other day. Students will be split into two cohorts by last name: **(A to K)** and **(L to Z)** for all grade levels. Each cohort will meet in person every other day. **A Day** will be the students in all grades with last names **A to K**, and **B Day** will be the students with last names **L to Z**. The official School Calendar is posted on the St. John's website and each day will be listed on the calendar. Attendance will be taken every day for all students (in-person and remotely).

Can my child change Cohorts?

At this time, due to the social distancing protocols, students must remain in the cohort they are assigned. Once class sizes are determined, this will be handled in a case by case situation.

How will the needs of students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) be met?

As you are aware, our Resource Services are provided by the West Islip School District teachers. St. John's will work with the West Islip School teachers to make every effort to provide special education and related services to students in accordance with the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Accommodation Plan to the greatest extent possible through a combination of in-person and virtual instruction.

Will students who have 504s or IEPs still have their accommodations?

For each student with a plan, St. John's will take direction from the West Islip School teachers to ensure that students will still have their accommodations, to the greatest extent possible. However, the guidance from NYSED has recognized that during the COVID-19 emergency, schools may not be able to provide all accommodations and modifications in the same manner as are typically provided.

How will the busing work for my student who is enrolled in the Hybrid Plan?

All transportation procedures and protocols are determined by your local Public School District. Please contact your district for further information.

What is the plan for Athletics, Late Buses and Extracurricular Activities?

On August 24, 2020, Governor Cuomo stated that low impact scholastic sports can begin. We are waiting for guidance from The New York State CHSAA (NYSCHSAA) before any plans for athletics are implemented. The decisions on how the athletic program will be re-instated will be based upon mandates and instruction from the Governor's Office, The New York State Department of Education, The Department of Health, and the educational leadership of the Archdiocese of New York, the Diocese of Brooklyn, the Diocese of Buffalo, and the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

Extracurricular activities outside of athletics will continue to be suspended at this time. This decision will be re-evaluated regularly, and updates will be provided, as needed.

Regarding Athletic Transportation, options will be determined by your local Public School District, and late buses may be re-instated once the athletic plan is implemented. As stated in our Revised Re-Opening Plan, students who are working remotely will need to provide their own transportation to athletics and/or extracurricular activities.

Can my student drive to school with a DJ license?

No, all drivers must possess a Class D license. Unfortunately, this is not our rule, this is a New York State Law. Please see the NYSDMV website for further information.

Please continue to monitor the website, parent portals, and email for any updates. Know that we will continue to do our best every day and in every model with your children at the heart of each decision.

We ask for your continued prayers as we navigate these uncharted waters, and we will continue to pray for your child and your family as you work through these new challenges!