



August 6, 2020

### **School Opening Update**

Dear Families,

Based on the size of our school, we are able to bring all students to the building for in-person instruction. We also realize that some families may not feel comfortable sending their children to the building at this time.

We are gathering data as we continue to develop our reopening plan. We know that you are receiving surveys from Morning Star. The information from those surveys will eventually come to us. Our questionnaire is a simple one. We are asking if you will choose in-person instruction or distance learning for your child. Please complete it by Monday, August 10. **ONE HUNDRED PERCENT PARTICIPATION IS REQUIRED! THANK YOU!** (*Google Forms were sent to all registered families.*)

Remote learning will be accomplished using a combination of Google Classroom, Google Meets and other digital tools available to our teachers. Instruction will be delivered according to a schedule with teachers interacting with students on a daily basis.

Families may choose to go from in-person to remote at any time. Moving from distance learning to in-person will require some lead time.

Attached is the companion letter that we developed with Perrotta Consulting, the firm that is assisting us with reopening plans. We are developing a much more detailed plan at the school level. Safety protocols have been developed through extensive studies of data and research collected from the New York State Department of Health, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and American Academy of Pediatrics. Each Catholic School on Long Island has engaged Perrotta Consulting, so reopening plans will have similar standards. Differences will be based on building size and enrollment.

Some highlights of our plan:

- Children who attend in-person will remain in cohort groups or pods to limit exposure.
- The latest guidance that we have received is that children in Nursery and Pre-K will not be required to wear masks or face coverings. However, out of an abundance of caution, we will recommend that children have face coverings with them when social distancing is not practical.

- In the Middle School, children will stay in home base for the most part; teachers will move from room to room.
- Temperature checks or other health screenings will take place each day for students and staff.
- Adults will wear face coverings at all times.
- All children and adults will wear masks upon entry to the building, in any common areas and while travelling in the hallways.
- While we encourage children to wear masks whenever possible, while in their classrooms, children may remove face coverings as long as social distancing of six feet is maintained.
- The number of children allowed in each classroom is determined by the size of the room (we have three different sized classrooms) as well as the Chapel, Auditorium and Library. The average in-person class size will be 15 students.
- Children who are suspected of being ill with COVID-19 will go to an isolation area next to the nurse's office. They will have to be picked up immediately by a parent or caregiver.
- If there is a case among the children or staff, contact tracing will be done, communication to the school community will be made, cleaning and sanitizing will take place before anyone is allowed back in the building.
- Depending upon the situation, a particular class or classes may have to switch to remote learning for a period of one day to two weeks.
- Students or staff with confirmed cases must quarantine for two weeks before returning to the building.
- The entire school has to be ready to immediately shift to remote learning based on local, regional, or statewide requirements.
- Every faculty and staff member, family member and student has a role to play in safely returning to the classroom. We are all responsible for the creation and maintenance of a culture of healthy habits, which includes hand hygiene, social distancing and mask wearing. Each member of the school community must be socially responsible and stay home if they do not feel well.
- Parents are encouraged to have their children practice wearing face coverings over these next few weeks.

You will be invited to a Zoom meeting next week. We are hoping that Governor Cuomo will have released his guidelines by then. Reopening plans for all schools in New York State are subject to the Governor's guidelines. *(The Governor made a statement on August 7. It does not affect our ongoing plans for opening.)*

Thank you for your patience during this time.

Yours truly,



Mr. Clagnaz

