

Safely Reopening St. Aidan School 2020-2021 FAQs

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL PROTOCOLS ARE BASED ON COMPLIANCE WITH NYSED, NYSDOH, AND CDC GUIDELINES AS THEY PERTAIN TO OUR SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Do students and staff have to wear masks at all times during the school day?

Yes. Students in grades K-8 and all faculty and staff must wear masks at all times unless they are able to maintain proper social distancing, six feet, according to the NYSED and CDC Guidelines.

Are the guidelines for wearing masks different for Nursery and Pre-K?

Yes. According to the NYS Childcare Guidelines, children in a cohort of 15 students or less are NOT required to wear a mask in the classroom. They will however be required to wear a mask upon entering and exiting the school building and leaving their classroom any time throughout the school day including visits to the restroom. Teachers and assistants will be required to wear masks. If you choose to have your Nursery and/or Pre-K child wear a mask, the teacher and assistant will do their best to enforce this throughout the day.

Are cloth face masks acceptable?

Yes. As per the NYSDOH Guidance, acceptable face coverings include cloth-based face coverings and disposable masks that cover both the mouth and nose.

Can a student who wears glasses use a face shield instead of a mask?

No. Face masks are required for all students in grades K-8. Face shields may be worn in addition to the mask.

Will mask breaks be provided?

Yes. Students will be able to remove their masks for short, supervised, scheduled intervals during the day. At lunch, students will be able to remove their masks in order to eat. Whenever masks are removed there will be six feet of separation between all individuals.

Do students have to wear full uniforms for the start of the school year?

No. Students may wear their gym uniforms including sneakers each day starting September 8th and until further notice.

What are the protocols for students who take the bus?

Each school district will have their own protocols. Please contact your school district for their specific plan. All students who arrive at St. Aidan School by bus will have their temperature taken even if it was taken before boarding the bus.

Will the third grade be in the upper school for the 2020-2021 school year?

Yes.

Will stairwells be designated to go in only one direction at a given time?

Yes.

Will iPads be used to access textbooks, tests and handouts to reduce the amount of items that are physically passed out during the day?

At the start of each year, students are given their textbooks and they should be the only person using those books. Many of our textbooks have online resources that will be utilized. Teachers will also use Google Classroom, which is an online platform used to share documents with students.

Will students be able to keep their backpacks and jackets with them at their seats?

Yes. Each student will keep all of their belongings in their assigned space. Closets and lockers will not be utilized at this time.

What is expected of students who opt for 100% remote learning?

Student in grades 4-8 will login to their classes online and follow the typical bell schedule. The school day will be from 8:00-2:20. Grade appropriate schedules will be assigned to grades K-3 for remote learning.

What happens if a child becomes ill during the school day?

Any child feeling ill will be evaluated and sent home and advised to call their physician for further guidance. The remainder of the cohort will continue as usual.

What if a member of a cohort tests positive for Covid-19?

The Department of Health will be contacted for further guidance.

Will exit temperatures be taken at the end of each day?

No.

If my child goes to the after school program, will their temperature be taken?

Yes. Temperatures will be taken at the start of our after school program.

Will there be a before school program for students in grades Pre-K through 8?

No. Students in grades Pre-K-through 8 may begin to arrive at our school buildings at 7:40 AM.

Will Religious Education be using our building for classes?

No. There will be no outside groups using the school building.

What products will be used to disinfect the building?

Products used for cleaning and disinfection will be EPA certified.

For parents who drop their children off by car, do parents have to wait for temperatures to be taken before leaving the school?

Yes. Student temperature will be taken while student remains in the car. This will take place in front of both the upper and lower school buildings.

How will indoor ventilation be addressed?

Windows and doors will be open at all times and floor fans and/or box fans will be utilized in all rooms.

Will there be large group activities where multiple grades would come together?

No. We are presently planning for individual class/grade masses. These will not take place during regularly scheduled parish masses.

Will outside educational services still take place?

Yes. Whenever possible these services will take place in person. We are working with Mineola and Herricks School Districts to provide these services in the safest way possible.

Will twins be kept together in the same cohort for safety purposes?

Yes.

What is the protocol for lunch?

Students will enter the cafeteria from their assigned door, wearing masks. Once students are situated at their table, six feet apart, they will be able to remove their mask and eat their lunch brought from home. Each cohort will be in their assigned section of the cafeteria. Lunch periods will be supervised. All surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected between lunch periods. Recess will take place outside as weather permits.

What if I am unable to purchase the Clorox wipes for back to school supplies?

We will have a supply of cleaning materials on hand at all times.

Can cases of water be kept in the classroom in case children run out?

No. Students should bring their own water bottles to school each day.

Is there any possibility of outdoor learning while the weather permits?

Yes. All available space outside the school buildings will be utilized.

Will there be staggered drop off and pick-up?

No. There will be temperature checks at drop off in the AM and cohorts will be dismissed one at time from their assigned exits.

What is the criteria for the school to go to remote learning?

A school-wide return to remote learning would occur by order of local and/or state officials.

Will CYO sports and afterschool activities resume in September?

At this time, CYO is working on a plan as to how they can safely resume sports according to the guidelines. All afterschool activities other than afterschool care have been suspended until further notice.

Will all school families be notified if a student/staff member test positive for Covid-19?

Yes.

SPECIFIC TO EARLY CHILDHOOD (Nursery and Pre-K)

What will class size be in Nursery and Pre-K?

Classes will be limited to 15 students per class with one lead teacher and one assistant in each Nursery class and each Pre-K class.

Where are Nursery and Pre-K classrooms located?

Nursery classrooms are located on the first floor and Pre-K classrooms will be on the second/third floor of the Lower School. (525 Willis Avenue)

What would a typical day look like in Nursery and Pre-K?

Students will follow the same schedule teachers have established. For Nursery and Pre-K toys will be available in the classroom and cleaned regularly throughout the day. There will be NO shared supplies, students will use their own supplies during the school day. Students will also have outside recess when weather permits. Special subject areas like music, physical education and art will be taught by the homeroom teachers under the guidance of the special area teacher.

Is there an option for 100% remote learning for Nursery and Pre-K?

No. Socialization is paramount for Nursery and Pre-K children therefore students need to be present in school for that to take place. Remote learning will only be available if a Nursery or Pre-K class/cohort needs to quarantine for 14 days OR the State requires that we return to remote learning for all.

Are the guidelines for wearing masks different for Nursery and Pre-K?

(repeated from p. 1)

According to the NYS Childcare Guidelines, children in a cohort of 15 students or less are NOT required to wear a mask in the classroom. They will however be required to wear a mask upon entering and exiting the school building and leaving their classroom any time throughout the school day including visits to the restroom. Teachers and assistants will be required to wear masks. If you choose to have your Nursery and/or Pre-K child wear a mask, the teacher and assistant will do their best to enforce this throughout the day.

Will students sit at individual desks?

No. Students in Nursery and Pre-K will sit in groups of 3-4 at tables. Students will have an assigned seat at their table. Tables will be cleaned and disinfected regularly throughout the day.

If St. Aidan School should have to go to remote learning, what is the discount for tuition?

The discount will be determined if and when this would occur.

Will the Just We Two program start in September?

No. The health and safety of all is our number one concern. If we feel we can run the program safely at a later date in the year, parents will be contacted.

Will there be a before school program for students in grades Pre-K through 8?

No. Students in grades Pre-K-through 8 may begin to arrive at our school buildings at 7:40 AM.

Will there be a before school program for students in Nursery?

Yes. Students in Nursery are permitted to arrive at 7:40AM for an additional cost. Students will be placed in their classroom/cohort with their teacher. Cohorts of students will not be mixed together.