



St. Christopher Catholic School

15 Pershing Blvd Baldwin, NY 11510



ST. CHRISTOPHER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

School Year Reopening Plan 2020-2021

INTRODUCTION

“Everything has suddenly changed. What we previously took for granted seems to be uncertain: the way we relate with others at work, how we manage our emotions, study, recreation, prayer, even the Possibility of attending Mass...”-Pope Francis

These unprecedented times have presented to each of us, an invitation to greater creativity and inventiveness. Now we turn our attention to the reopening of school in September. As we do so, we are very aware that, in spite of our meticulous planning, we may be forced to revert to distance learning if the Coronavirus continues to spread and we are unable to provide our students with in person classes. Should that occur, we are ready and able to continue distance learning, better than we did before.

The following pages is our plan for reopening the 2020-2021 school year using a “hybrid model”, a combination of in-person classes and at-home learning. We believe this model will provide our students with the best possible scenario for achieving their academic goals in the upcoming school year.

We All Need To Work Together

We rely on everyone – students, parents, faculty, staff and administration – to cooperate and be responsible as we go about the task of reopening the St. Christopher. Our commitment to each other is crucial as we work to protect the health of all who learn, teach and work at St. Christopher’s School. We firmly believe all in our community are committed to the same goal.

MAIN OBJECTIVE AND GOALS

Back to School

We eagerly await the day when all students, faculty and staff can be on campus together again. We look forward to New York State allowing schools to reopen.

Our Priorities

The health, safety and welfare of everyone in the St. Christopher community is our top priority.

A Re-opening Committee made up of school administrators, medical professionals, parents and alumni has been assembled to help plan the new school year.

REOPENING COMMITTEE:

Rev. Nicholas Zientarski, Pastor

Mr. Timothy Gely, Principal

Mrs. Renee Villante, Administrative Assistant

Ms. Jamie Gonzalez, Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Susan O'Heir, Teacher

Mrs. Kelly Piazza, Teacher

Mrs. Christen LaRocca, Teacher

Mrs. Karen Fuhrman, Nurse

Mrs. Tara Scanlon, Business Director/Alumni

All decisions regarding reopening are being made in conjunction with guidelines offered by the CDC, Department of Education, New York State and the Archdiocese of New York. We have tried to anticipate every scenario imaginable, but we also had to make the plan flexible, recognizing that the realities of the pandemic today may be very different tomorrow

Perrotta Consulting LLC



Threat Mitigation and Emergency Operation Planning

St. Christopher's School contracted with Perrotta Consulting LLC, a Threat Mitigation and Emergency Operation Planning Firm, to assist St. Christopher's School, and other diocesan schools, with their reopening plans.

Under the guidance of Perrotta Consulting, St. Christopher's School was advised that it can reopen for in-person instruction 5 days/week. Please note that this plan must be approved by the Department of Health (DOH) and the State Education Department (SED) before it can go into effect.

This plan was uploaded on July 31, 2020 to the DOH and uploaded to SED on August 7, 2020.

The ultimate decision for the reopening of the schools across New York State rests with the Governor. The Governor will make his announcement the week of August 1st and is subject to change depending upon how the pandemic progresses

Health and Safety

The health, safety and welfare of everyone in the St. Christopher community is our top priority.

The **Teachers and Staff** at St. Christopher's will undergo health checks which will include **daily** temperature screenings and a **daily** health survey completed upon arrival to school. The teachers will be trained to identify the signs and symptoms of the virus, how it spreads, prevention strategies such as hand and respiratory hygiene, the importance of social distancing, and the correct way to wear a mask as well as how to don (to put on) and doff (to take off) a mask.

- Symptom Screening
- Temperature Screening
- Health and Hygiene
- Social Distancing
- Face Coverings
- Satellite Health Office

Health and Safety: Students

The **students** will undergo health checks which will include **daily** temperature screenings and a **weekly** health survey completed by parents/guardians every Sunday night. Healthy hygiene practices will be taught to the students, social distancing will be practiced, and face coverings will be worn.

- Temperature Screening
- Health and Hygiene
- Social Distancing
- Mandatory Face Coverings
- Satellite Health Office
- Smaller Class Sizes
- Different protocols for entry and exit

Beginning the Day



It is our hope that each parent/guardian will take their child's temperature before he/she leaves the house each morning. Should he/she present with any of the following symptoms, please keep them home:

- Fever over 100.0 degrees
- Cough
- Fatigue
- Sore throat
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- Loss of appetite
- Rash on the skin

If anyone in your household should present with any of the above symptoms, you may also want to keep your child home.

Students will maintain a social distance and upon entering the building and will again have his/her temperature taken. Should the child register a fever, they will be sent immediately to the quarantine room and parents/guardians will be called to come pick him/her up.

A full-time nurse will be on staff daily.

After the temperature check, students will report immediately to their first class. There, the morning routine (attendance, prayer, pledge of allegiance, and announcements, etc.) will take place.

Students will enter and be dismissed from entrances designated for specific classes to help monitor the flow out of the building.

Hybrid Model

Students will be divided into A and B groups, with each group alternating days of attendance. While one group is in school, the other group will be learning at home. This is to ensure that each student in every class has the adequate square footage to ensure social distancing.

The students at home will follow their classes using their Chromebooks, as all classrooms will be equipped with cameras to provide for interactive live streaming of classes.

Teachers will take attendance of students at home and in the classroom.

Teachers will also have the capability to call on “at home” students; at home students will also be able to ask questions and participate in discussions from home. This plan affords every student the opportunity to participate in classes in “real time”.

Should a family choose to keep their child at home due to a compromising health condition, that option will be available after consultation with the administration.

Rotating Schedule

Our goal is to have our students experience as normal a day and schedule as possible to support their intellectual, social and emotional learning. All students will follow their regular class schedule.

HOMEROOM (Gr 5- 8)8:40AM

HOMEROOM (Gr K – 4)8:45AM

PERIOD 18:52 - 9:32

PERIOD 29:34 - 10:14

PERIOD 310:16 - 10:56

PERIOD 4.....10:58 - 11:40

LUNCH/RECESS11:42 - 12:42

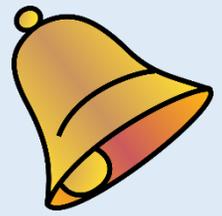
PERIOD 6.....12:44 - 1:24

PERIOD 7.....1:26 - 2:08

PERIOD 8.....2:10 - 2:50

Students will enter and be dismissed from entrances designated for specific classes to help monitor the flow out of the building.

Full- Time Schedule: 5 Days/Week



- Students and teachers will wear cloth or disposable face masks and maintain at least 3 feet of distance between each other.
- Lunch will be in the classrooms, masks will be taken off for eating, with 6 feet of distance between each student or a barrier when closer than 6 feet.
- Recess will be held outside weather permitting.
- Recess will take place in the classroom/gym with masks during inclement weather days.
- Special content teachers will push-in. Students stay in their classrooms.
- Departmental teachers will push-in. Students stay in their classrooms.
- Resource Room, AIS, Speech, and all student services will be in effect as a pull -out service.
- Academic Achievement /Academic Enrichment classes will be in effect as a pull-out class.
- Students will attend gym class outside for as long as the weather permits.
They will attend gym class in the gymnasium once the weather gets too cold to remain outside.

Online Learning for All

St. Christopher School will provide an online learning option for those who have underlying health conditions that place them in a high-risk population. This option will also be offered to families who are not comfortable sending their children to school during this unprecedented time and if an executive order shuts down the school.

Guidelines for the Online learning environment are below:

- Kindergarten to Grade 4 will follow a specific schedule, just as they would if they were in school. The students will login to their teachers' class via ZOOM: Students will follow their daily schedule as if they were in class.
- *Grades 5-8 will follow their academic bell schedule and log in to their class via ZOOM. They will be responsible for attending all ZOOM meetings.

For all students (K-8) participating in online instruction, teachers will share their screens with their students. The students will be able to see and hear their teachers' lessons. They will be responsible to submit their work utilizing Google Classroom. They will receive a report card at the end of the marking period.

Starting the Week: Sunday Night

Screening Questions Must Be Answered

Questionnaire will be provided on our school website. The questionnaire is to be completed **every Sunday**. If the screening questions are not answered by Monday morning arrival, the student will not be permitted to attend school until the questionnaire is complete. Questions such as the ones below may be asked and must be answered.

1. Exposure

2. Travel

3. Fever

4. Cough

5. Shortness of Breath

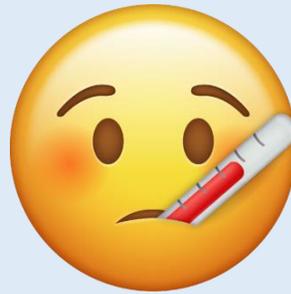
6. Loss Smell / Taste

7. Muscle Pain

8. Chills

9. Headache

10. Sore Throat



School Buses



We anticipate running our regular bus routes but in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the CDC, Dioceses, and the State of New York.

The following will be in effect:

- Parents/Guardians must check temperatures at home each morning and notify the school if their child has a temperature.
- Students who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms will not be allowed to ride the bus.
- Face masks must be worn.
- Students will sit one person to a seat.
- Students will be seated in every other row.
- Windows will be open to allow fresh air to enter.
- All school buses will be cleaned and sanitized after each run.

Starting the day: Entering the Building

- Students will enter the school wearing a St. Christopher face mask for COVID-19.
- Parents are responsible for purchasing a St. Christopher face masks, as it is a part of the school uniform.
- Students should carry 3 disposable masks in a Ziploc bag. Students should practice using a face mask prior to school reopening.
- Students will proceed through one way hallways to their classrooms.
- Classroom doors will already be open and students will go directly to their assigned seats.
- Students will remain socially distant from each other, 6 feet apart, and masks will be worn.
- **Only school employees and students can enter the school.** No parents or visitors are allowed to be in the school unless scheduled by appointment, it is for essential business and they are approved by the administration and screened.

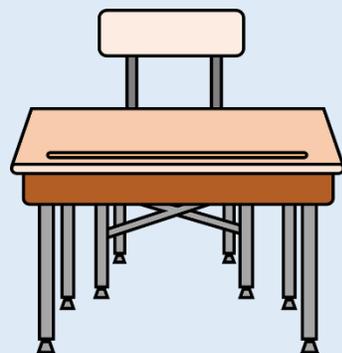
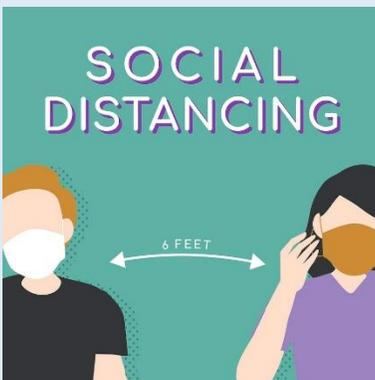
Starting the Day: Classroom



- In the classrooms the students will be seated at least 6 feet apart and wear masks.
- Windows and doors will be kept open at all times to help facilitate circulation of air.
- Student desks, door handles, teacher's computers will be disinfected regularly.
- Students will remain in the same space all day. Teachers will transition between classrooms.

Classroom Setup

- All desks facing forward in order to maximize the ability to social distance the students.
- Students will not use lockers/closets.
- Students will bring their essential books home and keep them home. They will only bring the necessary books to and from school each day.
- Coats will be kept in backpacks or on back of chair





Breaks/ Recess

- Mask breaks will be scheduled regularly.
- For recess, cohorts/classes will remain separated and will be supervised by teachers.
- Recess may consist of outside walks around the yard, stretching and individual exercise.
- Playground equipment may **not** be used.
- After each break students will wash their hands before going back to their classrooms.

Bathroom



- Bathrooms will be designated to specific cohorts/classes and can be used by two students at a time.
- Bathrooms will be sanitized between cohorts/classes.
- Cleaning logs will be kept to ensure that routine cleaning is conducted.

Lunch

- Students will wash and sanitize their hands before lunch.
- Lunch will take place in the classroom, 6 feet apart or with barriers.
- It is preferred and encouraged for students to bring their lunch in a paper bag.
- If a lunch box is to be used, it must be sanitized daily at home. (No cloth lunch boxes)
- After lunch the students will sanitize their hands and put on their mask or a new mask.
- No hot lunch will be provided at this time.
- Cold lunch/ increased menu option.
- Box lunch will be provided at a set price.

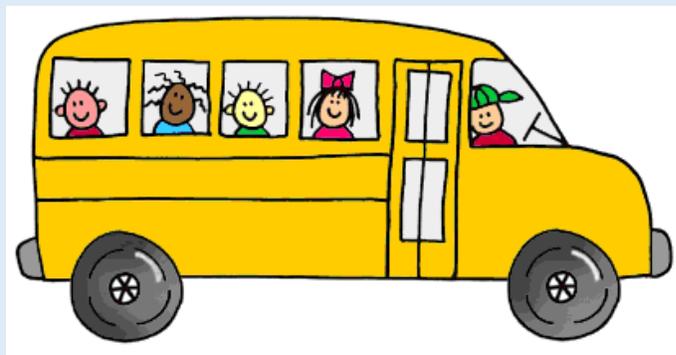
Dismissal: Walkers/Car Riders

- Walker/Car Rider Students in each cohort/class will be escorted by a Teacher to a space until they are picked up by their designated adult.
- Students will maintain social distancing when leaving school.
- Students will enter and be dismissed from entrances designated for specific classes to help monitor the flow out of the building.
- Designated adults will maintain social distancing when waiting for child to be dismissed.



Dismissal: Bus

- Students will be escorted to their bus by their homeroom teachers to maintain their cohort/class.
- Students will maintain social distancing while walking to their bus.
- Bus dismissal will be staggered by grade.
- Bus drop off/pick up will remain in St. Christopher's lot.



After School Activities

- Students attending aftercare will be temperature screened before they are permitted to attend aftercare.
- Aftercare will be provided till 6:00 pm.
- When possible, aftercare students will be kept in their cohorts/classes.
- Siblings will be kept together.
- Students not in cohorts/classes will be 6 feet apart.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- In the evening the school will be disinfected. All spaces and surfaces will be sanitized and cleaned by a designated employee.
- Disinfecting machines have been purchased for the entire school building, including gym and cafeteria.

Travel

- Teachers and students must avoid any unnecessary travel. If immediate family members of teachers or students travel to states or countries with quarantine restrictions, they will be required to quarantine within their own home away from the individual who will be entering the school.

**** Please make sure to complete the weekly screening
questionnaire ****

COVID-19 Outbreak

- If a student or staff member of St. Christopher School's tests positive for COVID-19, the Department of Health (DOH) is contacted by our COVID-19 Coordinator, Nurse Fuhrman.
- The school will shut down for 1-2 days to clean and sanitize. The DOH will begin the contact tracing procedure and make the necessary recommendations to quarantine the cohort/class which was exposed. **Quarantine may be 14 days or longer.**

Executive Closure

Regional Infection Rate

Schools will remain open as long as the local region is in Phase IV and if its daily infection rate remains below 9% using a fourteen-day average.

Schools will close if the regional infection rate rises above 9%, using a seven-day average after August 1st. The Governor will make the final determination during the week of August 1st. If the virus rate goes up before the planned September openings, the reopen authorization will be rescinded and schools will close at any time if the regional infection rate is greater than 9% over a seven-day average.

Closing Remarks

The 2019-20 school year had its challenges, but St. Christopher successfully navigated through them. The time spent in quarantine brought families together and put us on “pause” that enabled us to appreciate the people in our lives and reinforce the significance and dignity of life.

Parents, thank you so much for taking on the role of teacher last year. Your resilience and perseverance prevailed! You finished a race that began as a sprint and ending up a marathon.

As the 2020-21 school year begins, social distancing the students and wearing masks while in school will be the norm. Teachers will instruct their students in a manner which they are not accustomed, but they will adapt and forge through this unprecedented time. They have been preparing the whole summer to meet the demands of the 2020-21 school year. I am truly indebted to them for their dedication to the students. We are looking forward to seeing your children!