

# Saint Mary School Parent Q & A Forum Complete Transcript

## **Important Dates and Info:**

- 1. School will be 5 day in-person or you may opt for remote learning.**
  - a. Choice to participate in virtual learning must be written in a letter and received by Mrs. McMahon by Sept. 1st.**
- 2. After care form is going home by mail and being posted to website on Friday (8/21)**
  - a. Payment for Aftercare is due Sept. 1st**
- 3. Supply Lists will be on the website by this Friday (8/21)**
- 4. Arrival and dismissal procedure will be sent home by mail during first week of September**
- 5. Students will receive their class/teacher placement by mail during first week of september**
- 6. Please leave all textbooks home for the first week of school. Classroom teachers will communicate how each grade level will accommodate textbook traveling to and from school.**

## Parent Question

## Answer

Who will be providing remote learning to my child in 4th grade?  
Will it be separate from the classroom?

Remote learning will be provided by the classroom teacher. Teachers will have their computer video cam setup each day so that if a student is home from school for any reason they are able to attend class virtually.

What about specials? Gym, music, Spanish, technology, art etc? How will they be addressed remotely?

Special area classes will take place in the students' homeroom classroom; students will remain in the classroom all day. Special area teachers will travel from classroom to classroom to provide instruction and all assignments will be available online in the case of virtual learning.

How will tests be handled? The same as we were doing before summer? Turn them in remotely or via email?

Testing will take place in school but may also be done on an electronic device. As a school we are minimizing paper usage whenever possible in an effort to curb the potential spread of disease.

How will we find out who her teacher is?

Generally students find out who their teacher is on the first day of school within our "moving up" ceremony. This year students will receive their teacher assignments via mail approximately one week before school begins.

Meet the teacher? Will this be done remotely? Will I meet the teacher remotely one on one?

Meet the teacher night will take place via Google Meet. You will be able to join in with the other parents of the class to meet your child's teacher and pose any questions you may have. You can email your child's teacher with any additional/private questions you may still have after the virtual meeting.

Will my child have a one on one with the teacher before starting remote learning? Is there something in particular you require in writing to let you know we will be proceeding with remote learning? Do I need to let you know each trimester? When does this need to be in by? Will we be receiving forms in the mail?

If your child has opted to learn remotely, parents must submit a written letter to Principal McMahon before the start of the trimester. If remote learning is chosen then that student must remain learning remotely for the entire trimester. The students will participate in the virtual learning as the rest of the class is learning from the classroom; they will not have private instruction with the teacher.

How will she see the teacher for remote learning? Via zoom? Will she be required to be connected from 8-2?

Students opting to learn from home must be on the computer from 8 AM – 2 PM where they will be in Google Meet video sessions with all of their teachers.

Will we be receiving a list of supplies needed via mail or just on the website?

The supply lists can be found on the school website by the end of this week (Aug. 21<sup>st</sup>)

## Parent Question

## Answer

Kids congregating around lockers for dismissal

Lockers within our middle school classrooms are being used on a daily basis but must be emptied each day in order to be disinfected. Students within the classroom (when not at their isolated desk) will have masks on. Masks will be worn when students go to their locker.

## Parent Question

Will Saint Mary's allow the children to remove their masks during instruction once seated at their desks and are 6 feet apart from all students and teachers knowing that the state regulations have been met with the "social distancing" requirement?

If a child is out sick for having normal child like illnesses...cold, stomach upset etc... Will these children be forced to get a COVID test in order to return to school?

If the numbers are within acceptable range consecutively when will next steps be taken to resume to a normal school day for these children? Example remove partitions, remove masks, allow children to socialize?

If a child starts school in September but is not comfortable with the school mandates and how the day is mapped out can that child then switch to Remote Learning or the Hybrid model for the remainder of that trimester and see if things change the next trimester?

Does a parent have a choice to choose the hybrid or remote learning model to start the school year? Is there a difference in tuition between the three types of learning?

If a family chooses the remote learning option for one trimester and then chooses in person learning will that child have a spot within the classroom for the following trimester?

For those children placed in advanced learning will they be moving to another classroom for this instruction at another child's desk?

We read of the Synexis systems and think that is wonderful however what are the cleaning disinfectants that will be used in conjunction with

## Answer

Students will be seated at their desks which are situated 6 feet from each other with dividers between each desk. When the students are seated they may remove their masks.

Students who are out sick must return to school with a doctor's note stating that they were not sick due to COVID. The classroom teacher will be expecting the doctor's note upon return from any school absence.

When the NYS Governor and CDC changes the parameters currently set then changes will be made.

If at any time the child is uncomfortable with the mandates put in place they may switch to remote learning but must remain in remote learning for the remainder of the trimester. Upon the start of the new trimester this student must notify Principal McMahon as to their status for Trimester 2.

Parents have the option of fully in-session or fully remote. Hybrid will only be put in place if the governor mandates us to do so. Tuition is the same regardless of method of instruction.

Yes, your in-school seat is reserved for you for the next trimester in the hope you are comfortable to join us in-person

If classroom movement takes place due to departmentalized sections, classrooms are completely sanitized before the new students enter.

The CDC regulated cleaning agents are non-toxic and safe for use around children.

## Parent Question

## Answer

this? I saw they are CDC regulated but not sure if that includes foggers and/or strong agents that may create a bit of a toxic environment for children and staff.

Will there be windows open and or fans on throughout the day for ventilation?

Will grades 6-8th be able to go outside to move and get fresh air at all despite not having a recess implemented in their curriculum?

How will gym be handled? If there is gym will the children be forced to wear masks as well even if they are distanced by 6 feet?

Will there be music class or any type of specials?

What will the auditorium be used for?

Will our children have any mass time with the school to pray together?

Will the children have time to visit the chapel at all during this time?

All classroom doors and windows will remain open and classroom ceiling fans will remain on all day

Grades 6-8 will also go outside when the homeroom teacher can accommodate within the instruction. Although it is not called recess they will have at least one daily fresh air break.

Physical activity mandates 12 feet of separation between students therefore physical education classes can only take place outside. When weather does not permit they will take place in the classroom but the children cannot perform aerobic activity.

Students will still have special area classes, special area teachers will come to each classroom and sanitize their hands and any supplies before proceeding to another class.

The auditorium will be used for entrance to the building for some of our grade levels as well as before and after care. The auditorium can accommodate 150 people socially distanced.

Students will not be attending masses at this time until given the OK to do so from the Dept. Of Education. Prayers will still take place over the PA each morning, at lunch and at the conclusion of the school day.

Unfortunately between the limited square footage within the chapel and our effort to keep students from using common spaces they will not be using the chapel. Students will still have chapel within their schedule during which teachers are to perform their usual chapel prayer period but will conduct this from the classroom.

## Parent Question

## Answer

<p>How many children will be in each class? What is the max number? Will the children have mask breaks?</p> <p>Had a hybrid option been considered for parents to chose?</p>	<p>Each class has its own max occupancy based on the size of its classroom. "Mask breaks" are whenever a student is sitting at his/her desk which is appropriately separated from all other students and teachers.</p> <p>A hybrid plan was not given to parents as an option for instruction.</p>
<p>Will students be expected to carry their textbooks back and forth (home to school) on a daily basis?</p>	<p>Our teachers are collaborating in an effort to minimize the number of textbooks needed each day. Although the textbooks number and sizes vary from class to class, our teachers will do their very best to have these books remain at home as often as possible. Many of our textbooks have also been provided in the form of an e-book which can be accessed by students on their chromebooks.</p>
<p>Will kindergarten go 5 full days a week?</p>	<p>All grades, N-8 will be meeting 5 full days a week.</p>
<p>If we go to a hybrid plan, how do expect families in which both parents work full-time to take off a work 2 to 3 days a week to school their child? My husband and I are essential workers. Even if I take my child to work on those day there is no guarantee she can be online at 7:50am. I can't predict traffic and other issues that may arise. The way this was written it seems there is no flexibility?</p> <p>How do you expect a child to sit in front of a computer for 5 hours? That seems unrealistic.</p>	<p>The hybrid plan will only be utilized when mandated by NYS Governor and CDC. We understand that this is not the most desirable option but that all necessary measure must be taken to ensure the safety of all involved. If issues like this do arise please remain in constant contact with your child's teacher and administration so we can accommodate as much as possible while remaining rigorous in our education.</p> <p>Students will be given breaks as needed from their electronic devices. Students will still be utilizing their workbooks and textbooks as a break from their electronic devices.</p>
<p>How many students will be in each cohort?</p>	<p>Cohorts are according to the size of the room that each homeroom is utilizing.</p>
<p>Any chance before care drop off can be as early as 630am since there are parents like us have to be at work by 7am?</p>	<p>Before Care will continue to start at 7:00 AM.</p>
<p>*If a child has an "asthma" condition that prevents/hinders him/her from wearing a face covering for extended periods of time what action will be taken?</p> <p>*Why did the school become a completely Peanut/Nut Free School?</p>	<p>If you feel that your child has a medical condition that prohibits the wearing of a mask please contact our nurse, Mrs. Psomas.</p> <p>Our school will be completely peanut and tree nut free due to an overall increase in the number of allergies among our student body and in an effort to keep all safe.</p>

## Parent Question

## Answer

Is the plan B still going to be prioritizing N-5 full day if the school goes to a hybrid model?

The Hybrid Model will only be implemented upon the mandate of the NY Governor and the CDC. At the time of implementation we will have to reevaluate if any grades can stay full-time. Our youngest students will be prioritized first if any students are allowed to stay.

Is the virtual Pre K Orientation the same day/time or will there be a new meeting time?

The Pre-K orientation is the same day and time as originally scheduled.

When will we be able to sign up for Before and After Care?

Before and After Care forms will be posted on Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>

What is the distance between the students when they are eating lunch since they will not have masks on at that time?

Students will be eating their lunch from their classroom seats which are within barriers and all tables are set six feet from all other tables.

Will the students be required to socially distance within their homeroom during recess?

Students do not have to socially distance during recess but all instances of less than 6 ft. separation will be highly monitored to ensure proper mask usage and prohibit touching or the sharing of toys/supplies.

How will IEPs be handled? Will the kids still be taken out of their class to work with Mrs. O'Neill? How will it work for testing if their IEP requires that they have tests read aloud?

All IEP services will be provided as usual, Mrs. O'Neill has been given a larger room in which to socially distance her small groups for special instruction. All testing accommodations will be adhered to as planned.

Do you know whether bussing will be provided? I am guessing that this depends on the district but wondered if you knew which ones are providing bussing.

Bus inquiries must be presented to the individual public school district that is providing this service. We are not aware of districts not providing bussing at this time.

## Parent Question

How will you enforce mandatory mask wearing? What happens when a student does not want to wear the mask? How will teachers answer students who say a mask is not needed?

Your plan says uniforms must be laundered each day or additional sets are available for purchase at Flynn O'Hara. How will you GUARANTEE that students will enter with a clean uniform each day? Why (for the duration of this plan) can students not wear their own clothes? (Have you given thought to parents who cannot afford to purchase additional uniforms or who cannot wash the uniforms daily?)

If you move to a hybrid model, your plan states students must be in uniform. Don't you feel that adds to the stress of the student and adult with them at home?

What company is cleaning the classrooms and buildings each day? How often will a deep clean of the building take place? Will the auditorium be cleaned after the weekend masses before the SMS community enters the building? Will other groups meet in the school building and if so, will the rooms and bathrooms be cleaned twice?

How will students be encouraged to socialize (which is a large component of education) while they are 6 ft apart and wearing a mask both in class and during recess?

How will gym classes work? How will sportsmanship and cooperation be taught while maintaining social distance?

Your plan says students will eat in the classroom. Will they be allowed to socialize? What happens if a child forgets lunch? How will they be fed since parents/guardians cannot drop off any food? Will there be a snack time?

## Answer

No student may enter the building without a mask. If a student gives any level of resistance to our policies they will be sent home immediately.

It is diocesan policy that our students wear uniforms. In an effort to make the uniforms easier to manage we are only asking students to wear the summer uniform. The fabrics of the summer uniform do not require extensive dry cleaning and should be able to be laundered each day.

We feel our uniform helps put our students into the structured state of mind needed to participate in educational activities.

LBS will be cleaning our building each night, disinfecting each surface used that day. Our bathrooms will be cleaned four times throughout the school day as well as deeply cleaned each night. The auditorium will be cleaned each night which includes Sundays after church masses. The school building will NOT be used by any other groups (ie. religious ed, girl scouts, etc.)

Students will continue to socialize when appropriate within class but must do so with a mask. If they are working from their desk with another student at his/her isolated desk they do not need to wear a mask.

Gym classes will take place outdoors when weather permits but students will remain 12 feet apart from one another. Students will still practice cooperation and sportsmanship while maintaining social distance.

Students will absolutely be allowed to socialize during lunch in the classrooms but will remain 6 feet from one another. It is the parents' responsibility to pack a lunch and snack for their child. All food and drinks must be in disposable containers as nothing can be brought back home. (No Tupperware/metal thermos/metal water

## Parent Question

What will happen if a parent/guardian does not feel comfortable with a child bringing items that cannot be sanitized home (ie: worksheets, workbooks and textbooks)? Will homework be done online?

Your plan encourages students to use brown paper bags for lunch and if they use a lunchbox to clean it every day. Will you encourage students to leave backpacks home or will you expect them to be cleaned everyday? Don't you feel parents will be stressed enough?

When a child enters the building with a fever, will the administration put a time frame on when the student may return? Will it be a full 24 hours before the student may return? Will someone monitor the student to GUARANTEE they will not enter the building before the full 24 hours if it is not COVID and how will you ensure that it is not COVID?

Has the entire school staff community (teachers, administration, staff, maintenance staff) been required to take a COVID test before school begins? If not, why?

East Islip is known for unreliable wifi. If the school server is unstable, how will students use their chromebooks? If you move to a hybrid model, how will parents be informed the school server is down? If you move to a hybrid model, what will happen if a student's home server goes down?

How will you handle the students stress level with all these changes? How will you encourage joy and happiness so students are not scared? How will

## Answer

bottles. Students without lunch will have to eat when they get home so it is imperative that they remember to bring lunch each day.

Textbooks, workbooks and paper will not be touched by anyone other than your child and teacher, teachers wearing gloves whenever handing out paper or checking workbooks. All teachers have been asked to put as many homework assignments online as possible.

Backpacks do not need to be washed each night, it was mandated that reusable lunch boxes get wiped out and cleaned because they contain edible material. Backpacks will not be touched by any other student other than your own and teachers will wear gloves when touching personal items.

When a child has a fever they will go to the isolation room adjacent the nurse's office. Their fever will be checked approx. twenty minutes after the initial reading of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or above. If a child is sent home with COVID-like symptoms he or she cannot return until they receive a note from their physician with a positive diagnosis of another illness that has caused their fever. When a child gets sent home from the nurse, that child must re enter the school building at the front doors on their next day at school in order to turn in their doctor's note and be cleared to go into their classroom.

No, COVID tests are not mandated to be administered according to NYSED Reopening Plan.

Our school server is maintained by our IT service technician who is reachable at all times in the case of a wifi emergency. School phone service will still be fully functioning in the event of wifi outages, feel free to call the school if you feel there may be a problem with your at home connectivity.

Our school counselor is now available full-time, Monday through Friday as a resource to students struggling with anxiety. When wearing masks these students and

## Parent Question

## Answer

you comfort a scared student since everyone needs to be 6 ft apart?	teachers do not have to socially distance but will refrain from touching. Our faculty and staff will do their very best to make this environment as comfortable as possible for all of our students.
Can parents elect to send kids in-person hybrid/part time?	No
What is needed for students to do remote learning from home?	An electronic device and the students' books are all that is necessary.

## Parent Question

just curious as to why Many Long Island local public schools are on a limited weekly schedule of 2 days in person and two days online learning or alternate days and st Mary's feels comfortable enough to go full time .

I'm a little concerned of students not fully wearing their masks all day , in addition to the children over heating in them. How will you handle it, if children start over heating or passing out and have to be treated maskless? Do the teachers and or nurses feel comfortable in that situation?

have not heard anything about busing and if 6 feet apart during travel is even possible. What happens if someone on bus is exposed?

given the risk of children overheating, will you be extending the fall/spring wearing of uniforms so the kids are more comfortable?

if any child in the school gets sick or is in contact with someone who is, does the whole school shut down for quarantine or does said child stay home only? If so will all daily work in addition to homework be posted on website?

what happens if someone in child's district, who happens to take the same bus At a different time , on another route Gets sick or has siblings on other buses Where someone is sick?

if a child gets a fever whether it be possible Covid related or Just common cold/flu , allergies, stomach bug, etc , are they required to get Covid tested? Every time?

## Answer

The Diocese of Rockville Centre worked independently from the NY public schools to prepare for this new school year. After the approval from Gov. Cuomo and under the guidance of The Perrotta Consulting agency we put all of the necessary parameters in place to safely reopen.

Mask wearing when not seated at their socially distanced desk will be firmly enforced and our school nurse is prepared to handle any medical issues that arise.

School transportation is handled entirely by the public school district. We are confident that these bus companies have put in place strict guidelines to keep all riders safe.

At this time we are asking all students to wear their summer uniform and we will reevaluate the appropriateness of these uniforms before the change in uniform is set to take place (Columbus day weekend)

Sick children are isolated upon arrival to the school, the building will not shut down for one instance of illness. This record of illness will be reported to the appropriate NYS tracers and we will be given further instruction from NYS.

Bus companies have set forth cleaning procedures to ensure the safety of their riders. Further and more detailed information can be found through your public school district.

If a child is sent home with a fever they cannot return until they are 24 hours fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication. They also must return to school with a doctor's note stating an alternate explanation for the fever. COVID test is not required unless the physician recommends it.

## Parent Question

## Answer

<p>Will there be an opportunity for band lessons?</p>	<p>Band lessons will be done virtually, at home. If you sign up for band lessons you will be notified regarding scheduling, etc.</p>
<p>Do the children's masks have to match their uniforms or can they be any design they want?</p> <p>Will you have remote learning available to family's that travel outside of New York? For example if a family travels to Florida for vacation they should be required to quarantine for 14 days before returning to school. What are you plans in the event of people traveling?</p>	<p>They do not have to match the uniform they need only to be appropriate for school.</p> <p>Just as in the case of a student home sick from school, students who return from travel from a restricted state will complete virtual learning for the mandated length of time. These travel plans should be brought to the attention of the school before the student leaves for vacation.</p>
<p>What are the class sizes?</p> <p>Please describe the filtration system - are MERV 13 filters being used?</p> <p>What's the process for parents who aren't comfortable with full time face-to-face? Can students start face-to-face and then switch to hybrid or remote?</p>	<p>Class sizes vary according to grade level and physical classroom size. Homeroom classes of Nursery and pre K are capped at 15. Kindergarten homerooms will not exceed 20 and homeroom grades 1-8 will not exceed 24.</p> <p>Our air purification system SYNEXIS which releases atomized hydrogen peroxide into our school hallways. More information can be found at <a href="http://Synexis.com">Synexis.com</a></p> <p>Students must determine before the start of school whether they will be attending in person or remotely. These numbers are imperative to establish classroom layouts prior to the start of school. This decision must be given proper thought as it determines how the student will learn for the whole trimester. This decision can be changed at the start of the second trimester.</p>
<p>If a student forgets lunch and we are not able to drop it off what happens then? They starve? Do you have something available for them incase?</p> <p>Will any clubs be able to take place?</p>	<p>Unfortunately we are unable to provide food to any student who forgets their lunch. We recommend leaving a small snack with a long shelf life in your child's backpack in the case of a forgotten lunch.</p> <p>No clubs will take place</p>
<p>Is there now a car line to drop off students or can we park and walk our child to the door at drop off?</p>	<p>Parents may not leave their car to walk to their child to the door at drop off. Cars will line up in the parking lot along the curb and students will exit as their car approaches the front of the line.</p>

## Parent Question

## Answer

<p>For remote learning option only.... will kids be on computer screen for entire school day?? Will there be built in breaks to walk away from computer screen? Also, what happens in the event of a connection disruption?</p>	<p>Unforeseen network interruptions will be dealt with by the classroom teacher as they arise. Please do your best to ensure that your student has a proper set up at home. The student will be on the computer for the whole school day and will follow the in-school bell schedule but will have transition time to step away from the computer. Students are to be back in their virtual classroom at the start of each class period.</p>
<p>Both of my children are consider high risk and entering an in person learning atmosphere may not be the best decision at this time. What alternative plan has been put in place for scenarios like this?</p>	<p>Remote Learning</p>
<p>Will children be required to test for Covid when they exhibit symptoms like the common cold at school? What is the threshold of symptoms for testing to be suggested or required?</p>	<p>No, COVID testing should only be done when advised by your physician. Students must see their physician when they have a fever of 100 or above and/or show one or more of the COVID symptoms listed on the CDC website <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html</a></p>
<p>I was reading that all students must bring home all books and supplies everyday. I picked up 11 textbooks &amp; workbooks from B.O.C.E.S. for my 8th grader (2 full backpacks) How are the children expected to carry all of this plus notebooks, binders and lunch on a daily basis ?</p>	<p>Teachers in the middle school are working together to devise a plan for the days on which they are to bring the books for a particular subject. They will not be bringing these books each day. Teachers have also been asked to plan their teaching to accommodate textbooks staying at home for as much as possible, if not at all times.</p>
<p>What will mask break entail? How often will they have them?</p>	<p>Mask breaks take place whenever the student is at his/her desk.</p>
<p>Will teachers be using Google Classroom from the beginning even though we are back full time so as to make a potential transition in case of a shut down easier?</p> <p>What is the status of approval of the hot lunch program? Do we have any anticipated timeline for that?</p>	<p>Google Classroom will be used everyday by all teachers as soon students have opted to learn remotely and to be prepared in the event of an immediate shutdown.</p> <p>Unfortunately we need to wait for the Diocese to approve the Hot lunch program and we cannot predict a date for the change.</p>

## Parent Question

## Answer

Transportation- can the public school districts promise that our children will be provided busing that allows for proper social distancing? Our bus last year had almost 20 children packed onto a mini bus (a district "van" they called it), and I'm afraid they will set the routes and type of vehicle the same. How do we ensure proper distancing will be available? Is there a survey being done to determine if students will be taking the bus or if they will be asking for families to "opt out" of transportation to help set routes?

Classrooms: What other spaces are being used for classrooms as cohorts are established? Which grade levels will be using those spaces?

Textbooks: As lockers will not be used to start the year, should students be taking all their books back and forth daily or will there be a "flipped classroom" model where students work on devices/assignments in Google Classroom during the day and use texts at home? Or will they be given direction daily which books are needed to minimize what goes back and forth?

We have a credit for before and after care, do we need to newly sign up or how do we proceed.

Would like more information about uniforms our son will be in kindergarten.

If possible, please advise in a short answer what are the plans on day one . Are we giving the information when we return or in advance. E.g, if someone wants to attend the whole week, how are we communicating that.

All bussing questions must be posed to your public school district. Please refer to the individual reopening plan of the bus company that provides your transportation to your public school district.

No additional spaces are needed as "cohorts" will be our homerooms so the students will remain in their homerooms. In the case of section 7-2 the students will be using the aud to accommodate the larger class size.

Students will be told when to bring in which textbooks. Because all grade levels have different amounts of textbooks the individual teacher will provide you with the specific information regarding your textbook accommodation plan. When at all possible textbooks will be left at home.

All after care students need to re- signup when the form goes home next week (week of Aug. 24)

Our uniform provider is Flynn O'Hara, all students must be in their summer uniform on the first day of school.

Students attending in-person school must arrive on the first day of school between 7:35 and 7:50. All families NOT coming for in-school learning and would like remote learning must send a letter to Mrs. McMahon via mail or email by September 1st stating their choice to learn remotely.

## Parent Question

## Answer

<p>Text books are heavy, will the students be able to leave text books at school?</p>	<p>No textbooks or any other items may be left at school. The classroom must be as bare as possible in order to be sanitized nightly.</p>
<p>Will there be snack time in addition to eating lunch in the classroom?</p> <p>Will the students be responsible for providing their own disinfecting products (ie: wipes and hand sanitizer)?</p>	<p>Snack time will be at 10 AM usual.</p> <p>No, they may bring hand sanitizer that is 70% alcohol or less but cleaning supplies and sanitizer will be provided.</p>
<p>Is there going to be a change to the attendance policy with our children if they are sick? If our child is quarantined for some does this affect her attendance?</p>	<p>Attendance records will be recorded as usual, there is no penalty for missing school due to illness but these absences will be recorded.</p>

## Parent Question

## Answer

Will 1st Communion take place this year for 2nd grade students? If so, how will this be done in school with the precautions for COVID-19 and those that opt for 100% online learning?

For students opting for 100% online learning, will they be given a chrome book at home, or will chrome books only be given to students in the classroom? If they are not given a Chrome book, will they be at a disadvantage to students in the classroom?

How will the teacher be interacting with students that opted for 100% online? How will they participate in class?

Will 2nd grade students sit at individual desks?

What is the class capacity per room for 2nd grade? How many students do you anticipate being in the class and how many will be 100% online?

Will a negative COVID test be required for students to begin school? What about when returning to school if absent for any reason?

If a student starts out in class, can they go to 100% online if the parents feel uncomfortable with in class learning at any time?

How will students participate in gym (in winter as well), and recess? Is there a spacing requirement? Will they be able to interact or bring toys?

Will there be transportation?  
When will 8th Grade supply lists be available?

All sacrament procedures are still being discussed, you will have that information as soon as we do.

Students choosing to work from home should have a device to work from. There will be no difference in learning from device to device as long as you can access the internet.

Students will be in a Google Meet for the entire day with their classroom teacher. All teachers have an ear bud in and they can hear all students at home who have questions.

No.

We have yet to be informed by all families as to whether they will participate in school or online. No class numbers can be accurately shared until that time.

No. If absent for any reason the student must have a note stating the reason for the absence. If the absence was due to the child being sent home because of a fever of 100 degree F or COVID-like symptoms then a *doctors* note is needed stating the reason for the fever. If the doctor recommends a COVID test then that student and his/her siblings must quarantine until results.

We are asking that all students make a decision before school begins on how they are to participate in learning this first trimester. Please speak with Mrs. McMahan if the situation arises that there needs to be an immediate change in your decision and would like to switch to remote learning.

Gym will be outdoors when weather permits and the students will be 12 feet apart to conduct aerobic activities. If weather does not permit then the students will be in their classrooms and participate in non aerobic activities (this is the same for recess). NO TOYS may be brought to school, no exceptions.

Transportation is still provided  
Supply lists will be posted by the end of this week (8/21)

## Parent Question

## Answer

<p>My daughter has some separation anxiety and I'm thinking it will be there when she gets back into the classroom. Will she have be able to work with Ms. HESCHL like she did last year?</p> <p>If we do drop off instead of bussing where will we drop off and pick up?</p>	<p>Miss Heschl has been hired full time this year to accommodate the anticipated influx of students with anxiety. Students can see Miss Heschl (counselor) at any time throughout the day.</p> <p>Drop off and pick up takes place in the back parking lot by the middle school stairs. More in-depth and specific instructions will be sent home regarding drop off and dismissal.</p>
<p>Do we have the option of hybrid? If so, what will the virtual schedule look like?</p> <p>Considering the social impact, will the social worker be offering groups like friendship circles etc?</p> <p>Will there be temperature checks throughout the day? How will you control spread between siblings in other grades? Ex a 2nd grader become infected and has a sibling in 4th grade. Is the 4th grade class notified?</p> <p>If someone becomes infected, what are the steps to stop the spread?</p>	<p>No, the option is either fully in-school or fully remote. Virtual students will follow their class schedule .</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>If a student goes home with covid-like symptoms <i>and</i> their doctor recommends a COVID test then they <i>and</i> their siblings must quarantine until test results are available.</p> <p>All schools are required to be in constant contact with our contact tracer from NYS. We notify our representative of any instance of COVID and they provide us with the steps to take to keep all other students safe.</p>
<p>If a parent cannot enter the school with their child, who will be there to escort them to have her temperature taken and then escort them to and from the classroom upon dismissal?</p> <p>How will a parent know if their child has successfully made it through the temperature screening and has been escorted to the classroom? Temperatures can run high, especially when 4/5 years old children are upset / crying when going to a big, unfamiliar school.</p>	<p>Temperature checks will take place outside the building before the student enters the school. Although parents are unable to exit their car they may stay in the lot and watch to ensure that our staff has checked their temperature and they successfully enter the building.</p> <p>For students in Nursery and Pre-K the parents MAY exit their car so they can walk their student to the specified entry door. These parents must follow the social distance guidelines and may not congregate.</p>

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<p>The new plan says that desks are 6ft apart and does not mention double/triple occupancy (mentioned in the original plan). Can you clarify that students will all be sitting 6 ft away from each other in the classroom and double/triple occupancy at desks is no longer happening?</p> <p>When was the mechanical system in St. Mary added or updated?</p> <p>Who is responsible for tracing when there is a positive case at St. Mary? How will positive cases be handled? (Will classmates be notified of a positive case in their class? At what point will students need to quarantine? )</p> <p>When there is a positive case of COVID at St. Mary (student or staff member), will the school close for a few days?</p> <p>How do the cohorts for morning and after care work? Will they be grouped with people from their homeroom? If children are grouped with students from various homerooms during before and after care, it increases the chance of exposure for all students</p> <p>For 7th and 8th grade regarding math and science, is there a way that students would not have to mix with students from the other cohort/homeroom? Mixing students from different cohorts increases the risk of exposure for all students.</p>	<p>Students will be sitting at their desks which are separated by 6 feet from other desks. Depending on the type of desks your child's grade level has they may be at a desk with one other student or three other students but will be separated by CDC approved dividers.</p> <p>There are no changes being made to our existing mechanical system, our classrooms and hallways will be highly ventilated with open windows, open classroom doors and fans on at all times.</p> <p>Our principal and school nurse are the administrators for all COVID related case tracing. The state and CDC will provide us with the case-by-case procedures if/when they arise.</p> <p>Not necessarily, we will follow the instructions given to us by the tracer team.</p> <p>Morning care and after care will be in their classrooms for nursery and pre-k and students in K-8 will be in the auditorium at separate tables based on grade level.</p> <p>After much deliberation our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will still be separated by section according to their academic needs.</p>
<p>Is the kindergarten meet and greet on 9/8 in person or virtual?</p>	<p>All Meet and Greets will be held virtually.</p>
<p>Are we responsible for PPE's?</p>	<p>All students must come to school with a mask. Extra masks will be provided in the instance of a malfunction.</p>
<p>Will Chromebooks be provided for all grades?</p>	<p>Chromebooks will be given to as many students as possible.</p>

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If a child or teacher contracts COVID-19, what is the communication procedure with respect to contacting parents? Would communication be made to all St. Mary parents or only to the parents of the class where there is a current infection?

All guidelines will be given from the tracer team at the state level as to who needs to be notified and what our steps must be as a school community.

The original plan stated that desks would be grouped into double, triple and six person desks with barriers. The latest plan stated that classroom desks will be spaced 6 feet apart all facing the same direction with barriers between each desk. Please confirm seating arrangements, and will all desk arrangements be the same for all grades?

Desks will be separated six feet from other desks but those desks could contain two or four students at that desk. (Our “desks” are tables with individual desk compartments for a varying number of seats)

The plan stated that everything must be brought home each day. What does this include? Textbooks? Notebooks? Supplies? Or is this just referring to coats, backpacks and any personal items?

Any items that the student has brought to school that day. Textbooks will be left at home. Nothing may remain at school.

Will students in nursery be given assistance to remove and put on masks during the day?

Yes, The teacher can assist while wearing their mask and wearing gloves.

Will “heat alert” days (similar to snow days) be utilized in the event of extreme heat?

All school closings are regulated from the East Islip School District.

How much access to classroom toys, manipulatives, etc will nursery students have?

Children will be allowed to use toys and manipulatives that will be easily cleaned in the classroom. The children may not bring any toys from home to school.

What is the protocol if a child has to be picked up early from school? Will the parent wait outside until the child is brought out?

We do not encourage early dismissals unless it is an emergency. In an emergency, the parent will come to the front door and temperature will be checked. ID will need to be checked. Your child will be brought down to you for dismissal.

I read that parents are not allowed out the car during drop-off; will this be in place for dropping off nursery students also or can an adult escort the child to the door?

Nursery and Pre-K parents will bring their child to their drop off door while keeping socially distance from others.

The reopening plan indicated that all students will be given Chrome books for classroom use. Does

At this moment we do not have chromebooks for first grade , they may be able to use other electronics such as ipads in school. Textbooks will be kept home until the

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<p>that include first grade students? Do I still send in the textbooks from the home district?</p>	<p>classroom teacher specifies when to bring them to school.</p>
<p>Will CMSAA take place?</p>	<p>No, not at this time.</p>
<p>If the student's are seated in their classes 6+ ft apart (or adequately distanced based on the requirements) will they still be required to wear a mask?</p>	<p>The students may remove their mask while they are seated at their desk with the barriers. As soon as a child gets up, such as to use the bathroom, the mask must be put on.</p>
<p>How many new students have been admitted to St. Mary's since the re-opening plan was posted online?</p>	<p>We have only admitted a number of students where we are able to maintain all health and safety protocols.</p>
<p>What will be the determinant for deciding to close school and moving to remote learning, i.e, a certain number of Covid positive cases, etc?</p>	<p>Decisions regarding closure due a positive Covid case are made collaboratively with school, MSI Leadership, the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, and local health officials.</p>
<p>Are the before care/aftercare cohorts the same as the homeroom cohorts to limit each student's exposure?</p>	<p>Yes, the children will be divided by class cohorts during before and aftercare.</p>
<p>Is there a way to not have the 6-8th grade students switch classes for Science and Math because this negates the necessity for them staying in their homeroom cohorts and increases their exposure?</p>	<p>The students in grades 6-8 will not be switching classes . They will have sections for Math and Science.The teachers will be moving to all rooms.</p>
<p>Have the teachers been provided with professional development for remote learning if we need to switch to that mode of instruction?</p>	<p>Teachers have been provided professional development for remote learning during the summer. They will also have the opportunity for further PD during the first week of school.</p>
<p>If we switch to hybrid/remote learning, will all teachers, even special teachers, be providing remote instruction and not just assigning work?</p>	<p>Yes, all teachers including special area teachers will provide remote instruction.</p>
<p>How will band and after school activities be conducted or held?</p>	<p>Band will be conducted virtually after school. We will not be having any after school activities at this time.</p>
<p>Will students complete all work on a chrome book or will there continue to be paper and pencil work assigned? Also, will students take Chrome books back and forth to school? Thank you :)</p>	<p>Students will use their chromebooks for work in school, but workbooks will also be used as well as some paper based assignments.No chromebooks will be taken home.</p>
<p>Can kids bring a lunchbox? Also can they bring reusable water bottles?</p>	<p>We have asked parents to send in only paper bag lunches with snacks. No reusable water bottles are permitted.</p>

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<p>Do the students have to come in everyday?</p>	<p>If you have signed up for in school learning the children will be in 5 days per week. If you want remote learning you need to let the school know by September 1st.</p>
<p>my child is starting nursery, if the school needed to shut down due to COVID-19 what would be the protocol for Nursery? I'm not sure how a 3 yo would do with virtual learning.</p>	<p>We did have virtual learning for the Nursery students from March till June. It went very well. Further details can be provided by your child's teacher.</p>
<p>Considering how young the Pre-K students are, may they be escorted to their drop-off door by their parent to avoid any confusion/intimidation for them?</p> <p>Also, if a Pre-K student becomes mentally or emotionally overwhelmed by the new procedures can parents opt out for the year and have any pre-paid tuition applied toward Kindergarten? If Plan B or C are put into action, how will it affect Pre-K students seeing as virtual learning is very difficult at their age. Will Hybrid / Blended learning result in reduced tuition? Will remote learning include Pre-K or will the school year end for them? If plan C does apply to Pre-K, will parents have the option to choose not to participate because of their child's inability to successfully learn in a virtual classroom due to their young age.</p>	<p>All pre-K and nursery students will be brought to their arrival door by a parent or guardian.</p> <p>Any information regarding tuition in this matter should be brought to the attention of the administration.</p> <p>We had our Nursery and Pre-Kindergarten classes on virtual learning with their teachers from March till June of this past school year. Any further information can be addressed to the classroom teacher.</p>
<p>If the school goes to a Hybrid Model or Distance Learning, what will Nursery School children (age 3) do? Will they get a tablet? Do we have the option to withdraw them from school if you go to a Hybrid Model?— because my child has two teacher parents who would then have to pay for a babysitter on top of the tuition.</p>	<p>If we decide to go totally remote, nursery will be included. We will try to get some form of electronics for those students who will need them. You may contact administration regarding any tuition issues and withdrawal concerns.</p>
<p>Will there be an option for virtual instruction?</p> <p>Will virtual instruction provide synchronous learning? How many students will be in a classroom for in person learning?</p>	<p>Yes, virtual learning is possible, but you will need to request it in writing to Mrs. Mahon.</p> <p>Yes, virtual learning does provide synchronous learning. The children will follow their entire daily schedule.</p>
<p>Is the staff comfortable with the plans?</p>	<p>The staff has been well informed of all of our plans and procedures.</p>

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During the day when students are in their seats and being socially distant from other students they should be able to pull down their masks.	Yes
Is school going to be everyday. How many kids in a classroom. What are the rules using the bathroom.	School will be everyday. Class sizes are capped. Bathrooms will be monitored and students will be admitted two at a time.
Do brown bags need to be used because ice packs will make the bags rip?	We are asking that lunch bags be disposable. Ice packs can be placed in ziplock bags to avoid condensation leaks.
When will the supply list be posted to the school website? Do textbooks need to be brought back and forth everyday?	Supply lists will be posted by the end of the week.  Textbooks will be kept at home unless absolutely necessary for an assignment and instructed to be brought in by the teacher.
Will the classes be the same or be smaller? Will children need to wear masks all the time during class? Are they supposed to carry all their books every day? Same with notebooks?	Some classes are smaller, some are the same. No students will not wear masks all the time in class.  No, students will not be expected to carry all of their books everyday.
Will the smaller children still have access to google classroom like they did during remote learning or are we going back to using notebooks?	The students will all be assigned google classroom accounts. They will still use notebooks in the classroom.
Will there be middle school sports?	At this time there will not be middle school sports or after school activities.
Will there be an entrance exam review class?	Entrance review exams are not being offered through schools. There is information online for remote classes You can inquire through the high schools. Textbooks will be kept at home.
Have you heard from any public schools regarding transportation?	We have not heard from any districts regarding bus transportation.
Have you heard anything regarding confirmation?	Confirmation will be some time in November performed by Father Anthony. A date has not been set.

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<p>Can we submit a preference for M/W vs. T/Th if we have to follow a hybrid schedule? Work schedules are going to be a challenge in this scenario.</p> <p>You will require separate devices per student with hybrid learning. What type of device is required, laptop, ipad? Is the school providing the technology or assistance to get one?</p>	<p>Yes, if there is a need for specific days due to work situations .We understand how difficult this will be and will do our best to accommodate and work with everyone.</p> <p>Laptop, chromebooks or tablets are the best forms of technology. If needed the school will provide a form of technology.</p>
<p>How many kids is registered for pre-k five days program</p>	<p>The limit is 15 students per Pre-K class.</p>
<p>What grade levels will have Individual assigned chrome books?</p>	<p>Grades 2- 8</p>
<p>We noticed during drop off we are not allowed out of our cars. Will there be someone to assist our children through the parking lot to their respective entrance?</p> <p>When will the before/aftercare registration be available?</p> <p>When will the supply list be available?</p> <p>Last year notebooks and folders were provided by the school, do we supply them this year?</p> <p>If we have to go to hybrid learning, it was mentioned we need to supply the tablet/PC. What if you have multiple children and only one device?</p>	<p>Parents will drop off their child/children at the curb and then exit the parking lot. A teacher assigned to morning duty will guide the students to the proper entrances.</p> <p>Before and after care registrations will be available 8/20, form on website</p> <p>8/21</p> <p>Notebooks and a school folder are provided</p> <p>A survey for technology devices will be sent to all families and devices will be available if needed.</p>
<p>Will my child's 504 plan be honored and accommodations met per the IEP?</p>	<p>Yes, all accommodations will be provided.</p>
<p>Will my child be picked up by bus, or do I have to drive her in and picked up after school the first week?</p>	<p>You will have to contact your home district for this information.</p>
<p>What grade levels will have Individual assigned chrome books?</p>	<p>Grades 2-8</p>
<p>Was the 5 day plan approved by state? EI school District is doing hybrid. Thank you.</p>	<p>Yes, our 5 day plan was accepted.</p>
<p>option remote learning</p>	<p>Yes, you have the option for full day in school or remote learning.</p>

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<p>Just want to confirm that the Pre-K students will not be required to wear masks? I'm a bit concerned that there will be no longer be an in-person orientation for Pre-K. Will there be an opportunity to meet the teacher ahead of time, even if it's one-on-one and/or outside the building with the parent(s)? Will before-care for Pre-K be held in their individual classrooms as indicated after-care would be, or would they be in the auditorium?</p>	<p>Yes Pre-kindergarten students will wear masks only in and out of the building and when walking around in the building. We are having a virtual orientation. At this time we do not have plans for meeting the teachers outside. We may be able to arrange something. Before care will be in the classrooms for early childhood.</p>
<p>Can students bring their own hand sanitizer and wipes to school?</p>	<p>Yes, they must be 70% or less alcohol. We will have both on hand in the classrooms.</p>
<p>What are the measurements to ensure safety and social distance?</p>	<p>Desks and tables are 6ft apart. There are barriers between all seats at desks.</p>
<p>Is there a cap on the number of students per classroom?</p>	<p>Yes, we have capped class sizes.</p>
<p>What is the procedure if 1 family with three children in 3 different grades tests positive for covid? Will the entire school quarantine because the family has children in multiple grades? How many new families/students have registered to attend St. Mary's this summer?</p>	<p>In the case of any COVID positive cases we will follow all of the direct guidelines given to us by the DOH .  We have a fair number of new students that have enrolled but classroom caps are not being exceeded just because of increased interest.</p>
<p>Has there been an increase in student enrollment since St Mary's released its covid safety plan?</p>	<p>Yes, we have a waiting list . We accommodate all of our school families first.</p>
<p>How will the increase in enrollment effect st. Mary's Covid safety plans?</p>	<p>There will be no effect on our handling of the COVID protocols.</p>
<p>Can the students still have classes such as art, gym, music etc- but still stay in the classroom?  A part of learning is through play and socializing. How will the children interact with one another when they are supposed to be 6 feet apart?  Questions for kindergarten- how are the desks placed? Will they be in 4's but separated by acrylic walls?</p>	<p>Yes, special area teachers will come to each classroom for instruction.  We will incorporate as many activities as we can that encourage socialization while maintaining safety for all.  Yes, 4 students to a desk with barriers between all students.</p>
<p>How is before and after care going to work for Pre K students?</p>	<p>They will remain in their classrooms.</p>

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<p>What are the tentative class sizes?</p> <p>What is the procedure if a teacher or student test positive?</p> <p>How will student and/or faculty mental health be addressed as this is going to be challenging for all?</p> <p>Is the current first day of school staying or is it being pushed back?</p> <p>Will there be any further information about the HS entrance exam and review sessions?</p> <p>Is there any discussion about Confirmation?</p>	<p>Class sizes are 15 to 24 students depending upon the grade and classroom. If a teacher or a student tests positive we will follow the DOH and CDC procedures.</p> <p>Our school counselor will be working with the students and faculty throughout the year on dealing with COVID and any concerns .</p> <p>The first day will be September 8<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>The high school entrance exam is scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup>. Review sessions and classes will be offered through programs online, not by the school.</p> <p>Confirmation will be in November. No date has been decided upon yet.</p>
<p>what has to happen for Plans B or C to occur?</p> <p>Plan B - are groups A and B a division of the grade or among grade?</p>	<p>Plan B and C will be enacted by the Governor or the health department.</p> <p>Plan B would be half of each homeroom class within each grade level.</p>
<p>How far apart are the desks in the classrooms? If the desks are less than 6 feet apart, how will lunch (when children take their masks off to eat) be handled safely?</p> <p>When will supply lists be published?</p> <p>How do you expect young children to be dropped off in the parking lot and make their way to the appropriate entrance alone?</p> <p>Do you plan on offering music class, and if so, how to plan to sanitize &amp; hand the instruments out safely, especially if the children aren't leaving their classrooms?</p> <p>What is the plan for recess?</p> <p>Please elaborate on "mask breaks"- how often, how long, how will they be done safely?</p>	<p>Desks are 6ft apart.</p> <p>Supply lists will be out by 8/21</p> <p>Parents will drop students off at the curb and a teacher will guide them to their entrance. Specific dismissal plans will be released and sent to all families before the start of school.</p> <p>If any items are used during special area classes they will be completely disinfected before anyone else touches them.</p> <p>Recess will be 20 minutes and will be outside when weather permits. Students must maintain social distancing guidelines.</p> <p>The students will be with their homerooms. Mask breaks will be given throughout the day.</p>

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<p>What is the threshold for pivoting to a contingency plan; what will you have to see happen before incorporating distance learning? Will we be notified if anyone in the school has tested positive or only students in the child's classroom?</p>	<p>Contingency plans can take place at any time. We are prepared to change plans overnight. Parents will be notified according to the DOH and CDC guidelines.</p>
<p>Under what circumstances will SMS switch from the current plan A to B or plan C?</p>	<p>We will switch plans by order of the Governor or the Department of Health.</p>
<p>Will the children (specifically 3rd grade) in the classroom be divided from peers by plexi-glass &amp; if so, will they need to keep their mask on while alone in their own "pod"?</p>	<p>All students will be able to remove their mask if they are in their seat and behind their barriers.</p>
<p>Will the children be required to wear a surgical mask or they can wear a cloth mask?</p>	<p>Students may wear a cloth or surgical mask. Gator masks are not sufficient facial coverings.</p>
<p>Will there be any tuition fees help if the school closes in an emergency just like it happened in March?</p>	<p>No, there will not be any changes in tuition and fees if we go to remote learning.</p>
<p>Will the children be able to wash their hands before they get to eat snacks and lunch?</p>	<p>Children may sanitize their hands with wipes or sanitizers before snack and lunch.</p>

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For students in younger grades that do not have personal lockers, will they still utilize the closet as a shared space to store their backpacks/jackets or will they just keep their belongings at their desk?

It will be a combination of keeping items at their desks and having an assigned closet space that is distanced.

If there are students in a class that opt for remote learning and then return after the first trimester, will the classroom be able to accommodate this and still follow social distancing guidelines?

Yes, the classes are made up of all the enrolled students. The remote students will come back to their empty desks.

When do we need to commit to remote learning? How do we notify the school of a trimester commitment to remote learning?

You must let us know about remote learning by September 1.

What are the expectations around testing if a student becomes ill? Even if they have minor symptoms, will they need to have a negative COVID test before returning to school?

The parent will need to follow the CDC guidelines along with their doctor's recommendations. If a doctor recommends a COVID test and you comply with that recommendation then your child and any siblings must quarantine until those results come back. If your child leaves school with a fever you cannot return to school until you have a doctor's note stating the non-COVID reason for the fever and that it is safe for your child to return.

If a student is out sick because they are exhibiting symptoms, and is feeling well enough, will they be able to participate in remote learning for the day or should it be considered an absence?

They may join their class remotely, but an email should be sent to the teacher ahead of time letting them know of the situation.