



## **STB Re-Entry FAQ**

Last Edited: 08/23/2020

### ***Are you providing PPE for students?***

St. Bernard's will provide PPE (personal protective equipment) for students and staff, as needed. We ask that all students come to school with their own reusable masks, to cut down on both the cost and waste incurred from supplying the student body with disposable paper masks, every day.

Gloves will be provided to students as needed, particularly during lab experiments.

Additionally, we've invested a great deal of resources in supplying the building with sanitizing stations to ensure proper hand hygiene.

### ***Are students required to wear masks all day?***

Unfortunately, yes.

While we know they're an uncomfortable inconvenience, we take seriously our responsibility to engage safely with one another. That means students, teachers, and staff will be required to wear masks while in the building. Masks or gaters must cover the nose and mouth of the wearer and fit appropriately. We will pass along further information about mask recommendations and requirements as we approach the start of school.

We do plan to utilize outdoor spaces as often as possible, to allow for increased distances and therefore loosened mask requirements. But as a standard measure, we are asking everyone to work together to protect themselves and their neighbors.

**How will the school handle lunch for students who choose to remain on campus during enrichment?**

Lunch poses the “trickiest” part of the day, by far, given the need for students to eat without masks and in relatively close proximity to one another.

To avert the possible risks associated with this time of day, we are providing several locations as monitored, safe-eating areas, including the school’s cafeteria, media center, and various outdoor locations. These locations will be disinfected prior to and following student use.

Additionally, upperclassmen with cars on campus are free to eat lunch off-campus, in order to reduce the number of students in the building at once.

Lunch will occur between 12-12:30PM, before the start of enrichment block at 12:30PM. Most students will be able to eat lunch at the location of their enrichment activity, under the supervision of the faculty/staff member overseeing that activity.

Detailed descriptions and sign-ups for enrichment activities (including a section for lunch sign ups) will be available next week.

**Can I get a more detailed schedule of the day?**

Absolutely. Here’s a minute-to-minute schedule for a typical school day during this new structure of learning:

	<u>Start/End Times</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>Arrival</b>	7:45 - 8:10 AM	Students arrive at school for drop-off and engage in symptom checks before entering the building
<b>1st Period</b>	8:15 - 9:00 AM	First class of the day in an A-G rotating bell schedule

<b>2nd Period</b>	9:05 - 9:50 AM	Second class of the day in an A-G rotating bell schedule
<b>Mask Break</b>	9:55 - 10:10 AM	Students are allowed to remove masks while maintaining 6-10ft. distances outdoors or in specific locations; mask breaks are staff supervised to ensure adherence to social distancing
<b>3rd Period</b>	10:15 - 11:00 AM	Third class of the day in an A-G rotating bell schedule
<b>4th Period</b>	11:05 - 11:50 AM	Fourth class of the day in an A-G rotating bell schedule
<b>Dismissal</b>	11:55 - 12:00 PM	Students leave through designated building exits for dismissal; those choosing to eat lunch on campus will be allowed access to supervised spaces where they can eat in socially distanced settings
<b>Lunch</b>	12:05 - 12:25 PM	Students may eat off-campus (with appropriate permission slips) or may eat on campus in designated, supervised areas, both in the main building and at the Activity Center; outdoor lunches will be supported whenever possible
<b>Enrichment</b>	12:30 - 1:25 PM	Students choose from a variety of options both in the building and at the Activity Center. A schedule of enrichment activities and a sign-up for students will follow shortly; student may opt to return home and not participate in enrichment (with appropriate permission slips)
<b>5th Period</b>	1:30 - 2:10 PM	Fifth class of the day in an A-G rotating bell schedule. Students who have returned home may attend from home, online; students who have stayed on campus for enrichment may attend using school wifi in designated, supervised locations
<b>6th Period</b>	2:15 - 2:55 PM	Sixth class of the day in an A-G rotating bell schedule. Students who have returned home may attend from home, online; students who have stayed on campus for enrichment may attend using school wifi in designated, supervised locations
<b>Athletics</b>	3:00 - 6:00 PM	Students playing MIAA-sanctioned sports will engage in practice within this window of time. Practice and game schedules TBD by coaches and the Athletic Director
<b>Office Hours</b>	4:00-8:00 PM	Teachers will select a 30-60 minute window of availability in the evening for student questions, and will communicate the time slot to their students. Teachers may opt to engage in virtual office hours and/or allow for a clear window through which students can engage in extra help via email

## ***What happens if my child or someone in my immediate family tests positive for COVID-19?***

The exact protocol we ask that each family follow in the face of a positive test is as follows:

1. Contact Principal Anderson to report the family member who has tested positive
2. Prepare for transition to full-remote learning for 14-days for impacted student(s); should the student have symptoms and not be able to engage in their studies, we will create a more appropriate plan to accommodate their long-term absence)
3. Support the school's efforts to conduct contact tracing
4. Communicate when a negative test has been received and begin the process of re-entry to in-person learning (if desired)

## ***Will the school inform me if other community members test positive for COVID-19?***

To honor the privacy of members of our community and adhere to HIPAA regulations, we will not share the names of confirmed infected persons with the larger community. We will, however, inform the community if infection occurs, so that families can determine their own comfort-level with continued in-person learning.

Please note that **in the instance of a confirmed infection of a student or staff members, the school will disengage temporarily (1-3 days) in in-person learning**, and will transfer to remote learning to allow for proper contact tracing and building cleaning.

In the event that **more than three students or staff members are confirmed ill during a seven day period, the school will immediately embark on a full fourteen day cycle of remote learning before returning to the building**, to curb any further spread.

***At what “tipping point” will the school decide to engage in full remote learning?***

We will utilize several metrics to determine whether or not it's safe for students, faculty, and staff to learn in the building.

Foremost, we will monitor our own community for possible infection and react accordingly to rates of incident.

**Should a community member test positive**, St. Bernard's will pursue containment through short-term discontinuation of in-person education and transition to distance education for a one-to-three day period, until contact tracing can be completed and the building properly sanitized.

Should the school's administration require more time to complete contact tracing and/or sanitation, students, faculty, staff, and parents will be notified of this as soon as possible.

**Should a single incident of infection grow into a community infection** (involving three or more first-tier community members testing positively within a seven day period), the school will opt to engage in distance learning for a minimum of 14-days to ensure the remission of infection before returning to in-person learning.

**Should a second-tier community member (family, friend, or external co-worker) test positive**, we will require those in close contact with the infected person test negative before returning to school, and/or quarantine for fourteen days to minimize possible spread.

In addition, our larger containment efforts may at times be supported by the short-term discontinuation of in-person education and a transition to distance learning for a one-to-three day period, until contact tracing can be completed and the building properly sanitized.

**At all times, the advice provided by the State and Federal Governments will be honored**, in order to ensure that the larger Bernardian community is safe during these challenging times.

We will continue to closely monitor city-wide rates of infection and adapt accordingly. According to the map-metric issued by the Department of Secondary Education, cities and towns with rates of infection between 0-4 per week, per 100,000 people (between 0-0.004% of infection) are deemed “safe” to conduct in-person learning. If rates should increase to 4-8+ new cases per week, per 100,000 people (between 0.004%-0.008%+ of infection), schools should make the shift to hybrid or remote learning. **We will monitor**

**this map not only for rates in Fitchburg (where STB is located), but across those surrounding towns, from which our families reside.**

To access the map, please [click here](#).

Should the state provide additional, helpful metrics, we will incorporate those into our plans, as well.

Lastly, as a school in Massachusetts, we are beholden to the mandates of the State and the Governor's Office. Should a state-wide shutdown once again be put into effect, St. Bernard's will honor that decision by making the school-wide shift to distance learning. However, given the containment of infection throughout most of the state, we're confident we can use the aforementioned metrics to stay safe, and that forced quarantine for all is unlikely.

### ***What will distance learning look like for my student(s)?***

Distance learning is rarely ideal for high school students, and we are committed to trying to maintain in-person learning as much as possible and as safely as possible. That said, at times, it may prove necessary to engage remotely in order to support the safety of our larger community, and so we are dedicated to providing the best possible educational experience for our students.

Part of the upgrades STB has adopted to improve our distance learning platform include:

- New technology and training for faculty to support remote teaching
- Adherence to a fixed schedule of instruction to provide greater structure to the school day for students; attendance requirements for remote lessons
- Increased attention to social-emotional well-being of students in addition to their academic progress
- Optional student training in Google Classroom and Suite, to help improve fluency and minimize confusion

Certainly, we are eager for life to return to "normal," but in the meantime are prepared to bring as much normalcy to our present circumstances as possible.

## ***When does school start?***

The first day of school for all students will be **Wednesday, September 9th** and students should **arrive between 7:45AM and 8:10AM for check-in**. First period class will begin at 8:15AM.

Additionally, we are hosting an **orientation for all new students, including freshmen and transfers, on Tuesday, September 8th**. Students will be divided into groups for orientation, in order to minimize the number of attendants. Each attending student may bring one parent/guardian with them, if they choose.

While a more detailed schedule for new student orientation will follow soon, please note the following time slots:

**9-10:30 AM** - *Class of 2024 (Group A)*

**11-12:30PM** - *Class of 2024 (Group B)*

**1-2:30PM** - *Transfers (Grade 10-12)*

## ***What supplies do I need to bring with me on the first day of school?***

While we typically allow for a day or two for students to get familiarized before requiring any specific supplies, we recommend all students bring the following with them for the first week of school:

- **Laptop / tablet and charger**
- **Pens / pencils (*five each recommended*)**
- **Notebook and folder for each academic subject (*three-ring binders preferred*)**
- **TI-83 calculator**
- **Copies of summer reading books**
- **Backpack**

Typically, students are not allowed to bring backpacks into classrooms during the school day; however, given the need to cut down on locker use, we are suggesting that each student bring a backpack with them, throughout their in-person classes, in order to minimize (or eliminate) the need for locker use.

### ***Am I still required to wear the STB uniform?***

Yes, uniforms are still required, though please keep in mind that we've made some updates in recent years using [Global Schoolwear's catalog](#), which include dry-fit polos and khaki shorts for male and female students. We're confident the uniform will be comfortable for all students and will allow us to reap the [benefits of uniforms on student well-being](#).

In addition, we've made some changes to our standards for shoes as part of our updated uniform requirements: starting this year, **all STB students are allowed to wear any form of footwear (with the exception of sandals, backless shoes, and slippers) that are a solid, neutral color.** Neutral colors include white, black, gray, beige, tan, and brown. Navy is also acceptable.

A student handbook will be distributed to all enrolling families over the next weeks, to clarify this and all other school policies and expectations for students. You can find the most recent version of the student handbook on the STB website under the Student Life tab.

### ***Do I have to sign-up for enrichment classes, or let the school know if my student(s) is opting out?***

Yes. We are in the process of working out a schedule of all enrichment offerings, which families will be asked to submit before the start of school. This is to ensure that no enrichment groups exceed capacity allowing for safe distancing.

Additionally, this sign-up will allow for the "opt-out" option that allows students to return home and finish their studies there.

We'd like students to honor their original registrations for enrichment as much as possible, and so do encourage families to take time in their sign-ups. That said, we understand that things may change and shifts in sign-ups may occur from time to time (including the decision to opt in or out of enrichment offerings entirely).

All alterations to the original registration decisions must be cleared through the school, and requests must be directed to Principal Anderson ([landerson@stbernardscchs.org](mailto:landerson@stbernardscchs.org)).

### ***What do I do if I want to engage in full-remote learning?***

We understand that in-person learning poses various levels of comfort on the part of our families, and we've worked over the summer to acquire and implement the technology and resources needed to allow teachers to record in-class lectures to share with students who wish to engage fully-remotely.

Parents will be given the opportunity to register for full-remote learning as registration sheets are sent out for enrichment classes.

Should you decide to try in-person learning and later choose to engage fully-remote, you may alter your original choice by informing Principal Anderson ([landerson@stbernardscchs.org](mailto:landerson@stbernardscchs.org)) at any time. We do ask for at least 24 hours of transition time to adjust to the change, so that teachers can make the shift on their end.

### ***What do I do if I have a question or concern as things move forward?***

Please reach out at any time! We are eager to hear from our families to ensure they're safe and well as we embark upon this challenging journey together.

You can email any questions or concerns about the reopening model to Principal Anderson ([landerson@stbernardscchs.org](mailto:landerson@stbernardscchs.org)) before Sept. 1st, and to Mrs. Annemarie Rouleau ([arouleau@stbernardscchs.org](mailto:arouleau@stbernardscchs.org) or #978-342-3212), Office Administrator, after Sept. 1st. Ultimately, we will make sure your questions are answered as efficiently as we can!