

-Return to Learn-



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can we use the online platform if our child is home sick or out of town?
Yes, children who are not at school can benefit from the online option, even if they don't request online learning to begin the year. Families are asked to notify the school with as much notice as possible, to ensure communication and access.
2. What type of chemicals are going to be used in the hand sanitizer and building?
The materials used to clean, sanitize, and disinfect are approved by the CDC and have shown to eliminate Covid-19.
3. Can we send our own sanitizer for our children?
Children may bring their own sanitizer to use in addition to the sanitizer provided by school. If you are wanting only your child to utilize the sanitizer you provide from home it must be clearly labeled and you will need to contact their classroom teacher as well.
4. Can we send as large of a blanket or beach towel as possible?
Yes, families are encouraged to send a picnic blanket or beach towel for sitting outside in the grass.
5. Will masks be required for gym class or recess?
At this time, we do plan to require masks at all times in all places. As guidance changes, we will adjust as we deem best for the students.
6. Is there a limit on how long children will mask before they are allowed a break?
Mask breaks will be limited and will vary depending on a few circumstances, mostly based on age. There will not be mask breaks without distancing. Students will be provided with a clear desktop divider and a face shield as well to help allow for breaks.
7. Will students still have snacks?
Preschool students will not have snack to start the school year. They will receive a carton of milk daily from food service as has been done in the past. Students in grades K-1 may bring snacks in their lunches packed from home to eat during their lunch period. Extra snack time in the afternoon will not be available for K-1 students to start the school year. If guidelines change, snack will then be incorporated into the regular routines again.

8. Can kids speak up and request a mask break if they feel dizzy or light headed?

While we don't anticipate dizziness or light headedness as a result of masking, students will be able to take breaks with a face shield and/or clear desktop divider at times. Students may also visit the nurse as needed. We are preparing separate spaces in the nurse's offices for students with and without Covid-19 symptoms.

9. Will teachers be able to show physical affection for students?

While physical contact is important and valuable, at this time, staff will show affection with things like "air 5s", verbal communication, and (for staff who are comfortable with it) pats on the back followed by sanitizing.

10. What will the first days and weeks of school look like?

As a result of the storm, the first days will be full (instead of half days as previously stated). We will not revisit 4th quarter of last year in one period of time, but we will teach the missed material over the course of the year. Teachers are working diligently to remediate the missed direct instruction time from 4th quarter of last year.

11. Is there a hybrid method for kids to be in school 2-3 days per week?

We explored this possibility, but determined that it is not feasible to offer a third option at this time.

12. Will food be the same type as in the past or will it be more prepackaged?

Food service will remain prepared in our own kitchens by our own staff. There are several safety mitigation practices (no self-serve, distance in line, masks, shields, etc.) to minimize likelihood of exposure.

Food prepared at the elementary will be placed in clamshells (picture to-go boxes) along with milk for students and taken to the classroom to be distributed to students by their classroom teacher. Students will then eat at their seats with their dividers up. In the case that dividers are not available students will eat with their face shield on and promptly place their face mask on when finishing eating.

13. How often will students be directed to use hand sanitizer?

Hand sanitizer will be used before lunch as well as other times throughout the day to ensure minimal spread of Covid-19.

14. Could students ever enter a space with cleaning agents still in the air?

Students will not be allowed to enter spaces that are deemed unsafe due to either viruses or cleaning materials.

15. Can a face shield ever be worn in lieu of a mask?

Face shields are not replacements for masks for students. Teachers may wear only a shield when all students are seated at 6-ft distance with masks, if that teacher feels comfortable doing so.

16. When would the face shield be required?

Face shields will be required of students when they are eating. Teachers must add a shield to their mask when they leave their space to approach a student. If students or staff members are within 6ft of distance from one another they will be asked to wear their face shield in addition to their mask for added safety.

17. How much sitting is there going to be?

While we emphasize the importance of movement in learning, right now we need to minimize movement in order to ensure spacing. When students leave their room to go outside, and also when they are learning outside, more movement is possible. We will also leverage movement from within their desks as much as possible.

18. What will recess look like? What kinds of activities will they be allowed to do?

Our PE teachers will be sharing age appropriate games with the students that can be played from a distance with minimal or no shared items.

19. Will there be someone at the front door in the mornings?

We will staff each building's front door with at least one person to welcome students and ensure distancing as they enter the buildings.

20. How will students be dismissed for pick up?

We will provide nametags with family last names (printed large on bright paper) for families' cars. Families will keep them on their dash, and when they pull into the lot, someone will be waiting on the 1st Ave entrance to walkie the family name to the school staff. Then, someone at the respective school speaker will announce it over the public address system. Then kids in that car will go get their things and head out. We will still have additional staff outside (specialists, admin, etc.) to help students distance and find their cars.

21. Are their air filters for the classrooms at LaSalle that don't have windows?

The air filters have all been replaced this summer with the best rating possible in order to maximize the use of our air handling equipment.

22. What will the actual drop off in the morning look like?

Drop off will look much the same as a typical year with the most notable difference being that more cars will be driving through, and there will be no buses. Students will need to go directly to their room unless they are eating breakfast. Students may eat breakfast with one student per table until all tables are full. At this point, students may sit 2 to a table across from one another.

Students at St. Jude will eat breakfast in their classrooms with dividers up. If they are not eating breakfast they will have morning work for them to do at their seats as well. Students eating breakfast may be dropped off between 8-8:20. Students not eating breakfast are asked to be dropped off closer to 8:15 if possible knowing this may be an adjustment. Students will need to socially distance as they walk up to the building and must have a mask on as they exit their vehicle.

23. Will students be social distancing in before care/after care?

Students will distance during after care at LaSalle. At St. Jude students will distance as much as possible. We will take students out doors, use larger spaces, and keep students in grade-level groups as much as possible to minimize exposure.

24. Will there be a back to school event and/or a supply drop and teacher meet up?

We are creating a virtual back to school night, but will not be able to offer a communal event at the school this year. Supply drop off was being planned, but in light of the recent devastation, we will forgo this, and ask that students bring materials the first day of school.

25. Will students be able to wash hands before lunch or must they use sanitizer?

Students will be able to ask permission to wash hands instead of sanitizing them on an individual basis.

26. How long will kids be outside?

Every class will begin and end in classrooms. Typically, spans of time outside will be an hour or less.

27. Can we still do fall sports?

We are in touch with schools in the area, and it appears that some fall sports are likely to be cancelled or possibly postponed. We will offer as many extracurricular activities as possible, but won't offer anything that would put students at risk or that would not be feasible.

28. Will PE still be offered weekly?

PE will still be offered. We will utilize the outdoors as much as possible, though the gymnasiums are plenty spacious. Students will still change for PE at LaSalle, and Mr. Dole is planning for this with distancing in mind. Specials will be offered on a quarterly basis in order to minimize the potential for exposure.

29. What is the plan for school Mass?

Mass will be offered for grades 8-3 in classrooms. Our priests will come to the classroom for smaller, private in-class Mass. Students will remain at their desks. Eucharist will be distributed by gloved priests dropping the host into the hand of the person receiving. As always, students may cross their arms to receive a blessing instead of the Eucharist. Two Masses will be celebrated weekly in order to offer Mass as much as possible (once every six weeks). Younger students will participate in liturgies of the word in their classes. While our weekly community worship is special and unique, there is also something beautiful and special about bringing Christ to the students in their rooms, and we are so thankful for this opportunity.

30. Will we have Mass at LaSalle with the community like you started two years ago?

We will celebrate Mass in the LaSalle Chapel on the first Friday of each month. We will also offer adoration in the chapel once again. These are limited to ten people at one time.

31. Will there be prayer services at St. Jude?

St. Jude students will receive liturgy of the word services in the classroom with their teachers for grades K-2. Students in grades 3&4 will be in rotation to celebrate Mass in the classroom with our Holy Family priests just like grades 5-8.

32. Will students be allowed to have peanuts in their lunches?

Classrooms with allergies will be limited by such things. Classroom teachers will share this information with families.

33. Where will students eat lunch?

Students will eat lunch outside if possible, or in their classrooms (with a shield and/or a clear desktop divider) if not outside.

34. What happens if a student can't leave the face mask on?

Our teachers are really good, and our students are quite well-behaved. We fully expect the students to have some issues, but between our strong staff and our good kids, we are confident that we can manage challenges with students keeping their masks on.

35. Will we still have a musical?

The arts are a proud LaSalle tradition, so we will work hard to offer them. Musical, show choir, band, and the like may shift dates or presentation media, but we are committed to offering them if at all possible.

36. Will outdoor learning apply to the younger kids like kindergarten and preschool?

The benefits of outdoor learning include all age groups. The mitigation effects of the outdoors on Covid-19 are also beneficial to all age groups. As such, we intend to utilize the outdoors for all students when it makes sense to do so.

37. Are there changes to the school supply list (including which items to be shared)?

Students are encouraged to bring a picnic blanket or beach towel. They may also bring sunscreen and/or bug repellent, though the latter two are likely unnecessary due to the time of year and the short spans of time we will be outside. Updated [lists](#), posted in June, are current.

38. Will parents be permitted to walk their kindergarten into class for the first day?

Kindergarten teachers are planning to take a photo of their students on the first day. Parents/guardians are welcome to take a photo outside on the first day. Otherwise, people are asked to please stay outside of the school.

39. Will the students wear masks outside during class?

In some cases, kids can distance a great deal outside. In such cases, they may not need a mask. If they are only 6-ft apart, they will still mask. Being outdoors is a very helpful mitigation tool, but it does not change mask needs.

40. Will the distancing in the classrooms be 6ft apart?

Yes, distancing in the classrooms will be 6-foot or more between people.