
SAINT CHARLES BORROMEIO PARISH SCHOOL

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
IN RESPONSE TO RE-OPENING PLAN
JULY 23, 2020

WHAT IS THE OVERALL PURPOSE OF THE PLAN?

This plan is to mitigate (reduce) the possibility of the spread of this novel coronavirus. There are no organizations in the world that can promise perfection in regard to stopping the spread of any communicable disease. We are human and we err. Please trust that we will do what is in the best interest of the students of Saint Charles Borromeo Parish School – spiritually, physically, socially, emotionally, and academically.

Realistic mitigation is possible and we will do our very best. We love your kids and families.

CONTACTLESS/HANDS FREE

For years we have had restrooms with touch-free toilets and sinks (almost 100%)

We are currently installing the water bottle filler drinking fountains on each floor of the school

THE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN WAS PRESENTED TO FAMILIES ON JULY 17

Following the release of the plan, there were questions submitted. Rather than answer the same questions over and over via email, this document will help to respond to those items that needed clarification or follow up.

BEFORE PROCEEDING TO ALL THE QUESTIONS
THAT HAVE BEEN ASKED THUS FAR

Please know that we are not able to answer all the “what if” scenarios at this time. Often the answer will be that we are required to follow what the Cuyahoga County Board of Health tells us to do. Each scenario will have its own details and circumstances. It is frustrating to live with so much unknown – but we can do this! We just need to be supportive and patient and kind.



AND HERE
WE GO!



THE QUESTIONS

You mention asking parents with a medical background questions regarding reopening. How were these parents chosen?

The administration, teachers and staff were asked to think of parents with a medical background. We asked parents from long term care facilities to emergency rooms to parents who are physician assistants. We apologize if we did not recall your background and ask you. It was not intentional.

What was asked of the medical professionals?

- 1. We are thinking that students do not need to wear masks except in grade 5-8 when switching classes/passing in the halls. Would you agree?
- 2. We are thinking that adults do not need to wear masks except as students switch classes and any time they have to be close to a student to re-explain directions or provide assistance to an individual. Would you agree?
- 3. We will do our best to create extra space between students, but 6 feet at all times is not feasible. Do you believe that 6 feet at all times is necessary?
- 4. What do you know about the accuracy of the no contact, infrared thermometers?
- 5. What is the efficacy of face shields **instead of** cloth masks? Specifically for teachers so they do not have to keep putting on a cloth mask to help students.
- 6. Would clear plexiglass desk dividers be necessary for all classrooms or only computer, art, and health - or not at all for anyone?
- 7. Since we know that the transmission of this virus is aerosolized, is there a need to frequently sanitize the touched surfaces of classrooms and restrooms during the day? Is there a need to wipe down surfaces of desks and restrooms between class use?

As you can imagine, we received a variety of answers depending on the person's background and personal "slant."

IF ABLE, WILL THE STUDENTS BE SEPARATED 6FT IN CLASS? I UNDERSTAND ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS RECOMMENDS 3FT BUT IS THAT WITH OR WITHOUT MASKS? I THINK 3FT WITH MASKS OR 6FT WITHOUT MASKS DURING CLASS WOULD BE A SAFER OPTION. ANOTHER THOUGHT I HAD WOULD BE TO CONSIDER CONVERTING THE PARISH HALL TO A FEW CLASSROOMS GIVEN THE BIGGER SPACE AND AIR CONDITIONING?

Here is the link to the document to which is referred:

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

Ideally, students would be six feet apart. Realistically, we are between 3ft and 6ft in most cases. You will find that to be the case for all schools that are returning to five days a week in person. Schools have always been a place of socialization and not distancing. This change in our protocols cannot change the physical space of classrooms. We can store excess furniture, have everyone facing the same way and spread out.

Any parent who is feeling uncomfortable with the best protocols that we have in place should consider our awesome synchronous education!

WILL TEACHERS BE WEARING MASKS ALL DAY OR JUST WHEN TEACHING ONE ON ONE AS EXPLAINED IN THE VIDEO OR WILL A MASK BE WORN THE ENTIRE DAY WHILE TEACHING?

When there are times (maybe 10+ minutes of direct instruction at the SmartBoard/ActivePanel) when teachers are able to be 6+ feet away, they can choose a mask or not. Particularly in the lower grades, all agree that the students need to see the mouths/faces of teachers (for example, during phonics instruction, letter sounds, etc.) We all know that the majority of the day for teachers (specifically in preschool through grade six) is spent walking around the room working with kids, so masks will be worn most of the day. Also, when it is hot, teachers may sit at their desk or stand in another part of the room and pull the mask down for a few minutes (not near students).

WITH SO MUCH RESEARCH ON HOW MASKS PREVENT SPREAD WHY WOULD YOU NOT MANDATE MASKS FOR BOTH STUDENTS AND STAFF?

We are wearing masks at appropriate times during the day. Asking most five or six year olds to wear a mask for 6.5 hours a day would not be appropriate and he would be touching his face more often than if not wearing one – which would remove much of the efficacy for wearing the mask.

Know that there are families considering leaving Saint Charles because we are not mandating masks all day for every person and others who are considering leaving because we are asking students to wear them at specific times. Knowing we cannot make all families 100% happy, we are doing our best based on what we know.

WHAT ABOUT FACE SHIELDS INSTEAD OF MASKS?

We are eagerly awaiting any new CDC guidelines as far as using face shields for kids versus masks.

If you do not think that your child is able to wear a cloth mask at all, we are simply requiring that there is something from a medical professional stating this person doesn't have to wear a mask. We don't need the specifics (HIPPA), just a letter saying they can't wear one (source: Cuyahoga County Board of Health)

Then you have options:

1. Decide to do synchronous learning
2. Purchase a few face shields (must be above eyes to under the chin)

Face Shields provide some protection and are thought to be better than nothing. Let us all see what that CDC recommends.

DO YOU INTEND TO HAVE 25-30 STUDENTS STILL IN A CLASSROOM LIKE IN YEARS PAST? IF NOT, HOW ARE YOU PREVENTING THIS?

Many thanks to our amazing pastor, Father Carlin, who has agreed to a plan that the teachers and administration designed to address the two grade levels over 30. He loves all the families in the parish and school. Please remain connected to the Church during these times by either participating in Mass virtually or in person (with the addition of 8am Sunday Mass starting August 2 – Mass times 4pm Saturday, 8am and 10am Sunday). Developing a relationship with our God and our community continues to be a priority of our Catholic school.

The change – for just this year, based on the worldwide pandemic -

Mrs. Carver will return to being a fifth grade homeroom teacher. There will be two fifth grade classes and two sixth grade classes.

We are working on a few options that will separate the eighth grade into two homerooms. When we have that solidified, we will share that with you.

OUR CLASSES AS OF TODAY (CHANGES COULD STILL HAPPEN)

To be completely transparent, as of July 23, if every student came to school in person

Preschool M-W-F: AM 11, PM 6 – Mrs. Merold * (and Mrs. Ward)

Preschool T-TH: AM 17, PM 4 – Miss Oswald * (and Mrs. Ward)

Kindergarten: 24 – Mrs. Salasek and two part time aides (Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Pierce)

First Grade: 20 – Mrs. Zickes (with help from Mrs. Bowne)

Second Grade: 35 – Mrs. Hamer and Miss McGhee

Third Grade: 34 – Mrs. Mog and Mrs. Ungvarsky

Fourth Grade: 39 – Mrs. White and Mrs. Sisson

Fifth Grade: 32 – Mrs. Prevost and Mrs. Carver

Sixth Grade: 35 – Mrs. Gerity and Mrs. Seguin

Seventh Grade: 36 – Mr. Malec and Mrs. Bentley

Eighth Grade: 31 – Mrs. Ungvarsky and ??? (still in the works)

*Preschool guidelines have not changed for Ohio yet, so we need to plan accordingly so preschool numbers/situations may need to change

WHY WOULD YOU CHOSE TO HAVE STUDENTS SWITCH CLASSES? WHAT IS THE METHODOLOGY OR SCIENCE BEHIND THAT?

Having students sit in the same desks all day with little to no movement is not good for physical or mental health. Consider that if we would not have them move around during the day that they would remain in the same classroom with the same kids for hours at a time. Is that best when it comes to mitigation of the spread of the virus? Czaplicki

Movement is also good for learning. Particularly in grades 5-8, our students will be able to maintain the protocols set for them.

Would you want to sit in the same classroom from 8-11:45am and then 12:30-2:30pm with little to no movement?

WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING IN BETWEEN CLASSES TO “SANITIZE” THEN IF STUDENTS ARE SWITCHING CLASSES?

Cleaning and sanitizing the school during the day is the current discussion and in the planning phases. Our maintenance crew is on board with whatever needs to be done.

Mr. Stakolich has been in contact with our supplier of product to determine what will be the best, safest and available to clean our school throughout the day.

We will keep you informed.

DO YOU INTEND TO HAVE YOUNGER GRADES TRAVEL TO ART, MUSIC, ETC?
WHAT WILL BE DONE IN THESE CLASSES TO SANITIZE IN BETWEEN?

We do intend to have the younger students travel to the specials classes. Make no mistake that this is NOT about making things easier on the teachers. We considered all options and again, given the social/emotional health of the students, we thought that moving throughout the day would be best.

We are confident that the teachers and students will follow the protocols that are in place.

See previous slide regarding sanitizing plans. See next slide for more details per specials.

DO YOU INTEND TO HAVE YOUNGER GRADES TRAVEL TO ART, MUSIC. ETC. CONTINUED...

Computer will have keyboard covers and acrylic dividers (sanitized between classes).

The music room only has chairs, not desks, so social distancing will be maintained. When Miss Perkins uses any percussive instruments, she has a plan to sanitize them between classes.

Art will have acrylic dividers on each table and students will be spaced out – we have changed the configuration of the art classroom from one that is conducive to cooperation and collaboration – which are the 21st century skills we want children to learn and practice - to smaller tables, only two students to a table, with a divider between, all students facing the front, and no shared supplies. Kindergarten does not go to art class.

HOW WILL CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN THINGS LIKE ART, MUSIC, AND COMPUTER CLASS IF SYNCHRONIZED LEARNING IS CHOSEN?

Just as with other classes, the direct instruction part will be live-streamed and recorded and the “work time” will be live-streamed with the teacher checking in with the kids at home periodically.

Realistically, if there is a class of 19 and one or two students choose to stay home, a good deal of the classroom work time will be spent with the majority of the students in the classroom. That is not to say the teachers will not check to see how the students at home are doing or if they have questions.

WHAT WILL BE DONE IN THE CHURCH PRIOR TO STUDENTS ARRIVAL FROM A CLEANING AND SANITIZING PERSPECTIVE ?WE ARE ASSUMING GIVEN STUDENTS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO EVERY OTHER FRIDAY MASS THAT 6 FEET SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE OCCURRING?

As the maintenance staff has been doing since May 25, they will sanitize the church between Masses. As you probably know from all the letters sent via email each week from Fr. Carlin to parishioners, every other pew is marked so no one sits in those pews. We will spread the students out filling every pew, including those on the sides. Additionally, we are dividing the school so the whole school would not be going at the same time and will participate every other week.

WILL COMMUNITY MEMBERS BE ALLOWED INTO MASS WHEN THE CHILDREN ARE PRESENT?

We will not turn away parishioners who want to come to Mass, but we will request that they do not attend.

If they do attend, we will not have any students sitting in the section where they sit.

We have already asked parents to watch either live stream or later (recorded on Fr. Chris' YouTube channel).

As required at any Mass in the diocese of Cleveland, everyone will wear a mask to Mass. The church building is air conditioned.

WILL COMMUNION BE GIVEN?

- The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith. Communion has been distributed to the faithful during Mass since public celebration of liturgy resumed at the end of May. Sanitizer is used by the Eucharistic ministers (and as mentioned before – they will wear a mask).
- At Saint Charles, there is also an additional plexiglass barrier in place at each communion station.
- We will teach the students how to receive communion while wearing a mask.
- Of course, for safety reasons, the Precious Blood is not being offered as a fuller sign of the Eucharist at this time: Jesus Christ, Incarnate, Crucified and Risen, body and blood, soul and divinity is truly and fully present when we communicate under the form of the Host only.
- (source: <https://www.catholicnh.org/assets/Documents/Worship/Sacraments/FAQ-PreciousBlood.pdf>)

HOW DO YOU INTEND TO SPACE KIDS IN THE CAFETERIA? HOW MANY STUDENTS WILL BE IN THE CAFETERIA DURING A DESIGNATED LUNCH TIME.? WHY NOT EAT LUNCH IN THE CLASSROOM?

We have a number of students who receive free and reduced lunch. We considered students eating in the classroom and using the gym kitchen to prepare hot lunch. However, that would require a large number of students walking in the hallways and up/down stairs to get lunch on styrofoam trays and take them back to the classroom. We did not think that was in the best interest of anyone. The cafeteria space is large and air conditioned.

HOW DO YOU INTEND TO SPACE KIDS IN THE CAFETERIA?

There will be markings on all the cafeteria tables indicating where the kids can sit. The kids will know it is not “normal” but they will be able to socialize and enjoy fellowship and food and that will be fantastic! No one will be directly across from another person and no one will be “right next to” another person. We have 20 tables that are 12 feet long (and may add another one or two 8ft. tables) and plan to have six students at a table. Students will be in every other space; none directly across from anyone. If they are much further from each other, they will shout instead of talk and that will not be good for many reasons.

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH ON ACRYLIC COVERS? THE RESEARCH I HAVE SEEN IS THAT THEY DON'T PREVENT ANY SPREAD BECAUSE THEY ARE OPEN UP TOP AND ON THE SIDES. HOW WILL THOSE BE SANITIZED BETWEEN CLASSES?

In the past, as kids would, they would reach over and look at their friends computer screens (being very close). The older kids, as they naturally and developmentally do, would fool around sometimes and reach over to another's keyboard and type things to be funny. The acrylic dividers will remind them to just do their own work.

In art, in the past, the students were in a table, cooperative/collaborative configuration. Again, that is changed for just this coming school year.

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH ON ACRYLIC COVERS? THE RESEARCH I HAVE SEEN IS THAT THEY DON'T PREVENT ANY SPREAD BECAUSE THEY ARE OPEN UP TOP AND ON THE SIDES. HOW WILL THOSE BE SANITIZED BETWEEN CLASSES?

All that we are doing is to mitigate the spread. As everyone knows, there is no perfection in all of this.

We continuing to research the efficacy of plastic desk shields. They would provide another layer of protection, but there is the consideration of them limiting air movement on hot days.



The suggestion for these barriers was proposed before we designed a way to split the larger classes.

Of course, social/emotional health is also an important consideration.

WILL YOU BE ENGAGING STUDENTS IN “HANDWASHING TIME” THROUGHOUT THE DAY ESPECIALLY IN YOUNGER GRADES? KIDS NEED TO BE TOLD TO WASH HANDS ESPECIALLY BEFORE LUNCH, AFTER SWITCHING CLASSES, SHARING SUPPLIES, ETC. WILL THEY WASH UPON ENTERING FOR THE DAY?

Of course we will have students washing/sanitizing their hands many times throughout the day. We always have done that and will do so a bit more often now. We will teach and reteach them the proper way to wash hands (as we always have). We will have hand sanitizer dispensers throughout the school for entering the building/classrooms.

ST CHARLES HAS HAD AWFUL FLU OUTBREAKS IN THE PAST, EVEN FORCING SCHOOL TO CLOSE IN CERTAIN GRADE LEVELS (AS WE KNOW OTHER SCHOOLS HAVE AS WELL). WHAT METHODS OF SANITIZING ARE GOING TO BE DIFFERENT NOW FROM WHAT WAS DONE THEN?

The exact, available, safe products are being researched at this time. Mr. Stakolich, our maintenance supervisor, has been in contact with our supply representative. There will be more sanitizing of classrooms during the day from the past. There will be an increased number of times through the day where the restrooms, handrails, etc. are sanitized. Again, we will do all we can to mitigate as best we can, but know that we will not be perfect. (The flu outbreak causing us to close school in junior high once in the past for a day was because the teachers were sick and we did not have enough substitute teachers to replace them.)

HOW DO YOU INTEND TO USE THE CARES ACT FUNDING FOR KIDS SAFETY OR TECHNOLOGY? SPECIFICALLY THE \$10,536 OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING THAT WAS JUST GIVEN AS PART OF THE 100 MILLION FROM THE GOVERNOR.

We are not sure of the source of the amount that you quoted in your question. The dispersement of the ESSER (Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Schools) funds from the CARES Act from the federal government is limited at this time because the public school systems in Ohio (and other states) are claiming that the students in the non-public schools do not have the same right to those funds as the students in the public schools. They are claiming that private schools do not need the funds. They are fighting to only allow enough funds based on Title I eligibility versus total enrollment. For Saint Charles, that is a difference of approximately \$20,000 (40% of what were initially told). In our case, Parma City Schools would keep that \$20,000 difference!

HOW DO YOU INTEND TO USE THE CARES ACT FUNDING FOR KIDS SAFETY OR TECHNOLOGY? SPECIFICALLY THE \$10,536 OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING THAT WAS JUST GIVEN AS PART OF THE 100 MILLION FROM THE GOVERNOR.

Why the public school systems do not believe that the students in our non-public schools also deserve these funds during an unprecedented, pandemic times is curious. It does not seem equitable and unfortunately for the children, it has become political.

Please do not think that the same amount of funding to public schools is anywhere near what the non-public schools will receive (less), regardless of the mandate from the federal government. The interim final rule from the Secretary of Education of the United States is under public comment for thirty days. The intent of the funds was equitable distribution to **all students in the United States** (to read the interim final rule) - https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/06/Equitable-Services-Final-Interim-Rule.pdf?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

Additional funds (that may be the amount quoted in the question) have been also promised under the Coronavirus Relief Fund, (CRF) but again, the public school systems may argue this and want the money intended for our kids or will take an “administrative fee” off the top. We are anxiously waiting to hear decisions – we can’t spend much of the funds until we know what the public schools decide. In the opinion of the administration and teachers of our school – it is disappointing that the public schools are doing this to our kids and families.

WHAT AMOUNT IN INITIAL CARES ACT FUNDING WAS SET ASIDE BY PARMA CSD FOR NON PUBLICS? WHAT IS THAT BEING USED FOR?

As mentioned, there are differing amounts and we do not know the exact amount yet because Parma has not yet told us how they are using the funds – total enrollment (the intent of the federal government) versus Title I (how many public school officials think the monies should be distributed).

Thus far, based on an abundance of caution, Saint Charles has ordered the keyboard covers, acrylic dividers, and contactless thermometers.

We are looking to order better equipment for synchronous learning and more technology in the case that we have to return to 100% remote learning.

We inquire every few days with Parma City Schools for updates and will attend a webinar with ODE next week regarding the distribution of funds.

WHAT IS THE METHODOLOGY BEHIND STUDENTS NOT HAVING AN ASSIGNED DOOR TO ENTER THROUGH?

For example, if a family of two (or more) is dropped off at the Wilber Ave. small parking lot, we want the kids to get screened (temp) at one entrance and then right into the building and to their class rather than walking to other doors. We thought this would be a best practice to get the students into the building quickly.

We will have six different doors that the students may enter in the morning upon arrival.

WHAT ARE YOUR SCIENTIFIC REFERENCES YOU POINT TO THROUGHOUT THE PRESENTATION? CAN WE HAVE ACCESS TO THOSE?

Mrs. Updegrave has been a part of a task force with the diocese. Some of those discussions do not have a recording to share with the general public as they were planning meetings.

Additionally, there is a FAQ from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health:

<https://www.ccbh.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/FAQ-for-schools-7.9.20.pdf>

From the American Association of Pediatrics (which Governor DeWine and his staff highly relied upon for opening schools in Ohio):

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

Live discussion (recorded) between two pediatricians:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09eqQBBPVQI&feature=youtu.be> - It is about 90 minutes long

These are just a few of the major resources.

WHAT ARE YOUR SCIENTIFIC REFERENCES YOU POINT TO THROUGHOUT THE PRESENTATION? CAN WE HAVE ACCESS TO THOSE? CONTINUED

Governor DeWine issued five guidelines for Ohio schools to follow:

- Vigilantly assess for symptoms (including temperature checks)
- Wash & sanitize hands
- Clean & sanitize shared surfaces at schools
- Practice social distancing
- Face coverings policy (required for staff, recommended for kids 3rd grade and up)

We have addressed all five guidelines for Ohio schools.

As mentioned, Mrs. Updegrove has also been a part of the diocesan task force and two smaller principal cohorts where information about resources for PPE and other items have been and continue to be shared.

IF THERE IS A STUDENT THAT TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 WHAT ARE THE CONTACT TRACING METHODS YOU HAVE? WHAT IS THE PROTOCOL? WILL STUDENTS OF THAT CLASS BE PUT INTO A QUARANTINED ONLINE MODEL OF LEARNING, DUE TO COMING IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO WAS POSITIVE? HOW DO YOU INTEND TO LIMIT THE SPREAD IN THIS TYPE OF CIRCUMSTANCE?

Of course Saint Charles would not do the contact tracing. That is under the purview of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health who has the capacity and training to do that.

If there is a positive case of a student or staff member, we would let the whole school know (without a name to protect privacy).

We would immediately contact the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (and they will most likely already know) and we would follow their directives.

WHAT IF A SIBLING TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID 19, BUT BROTHERS AND SISTERS ARE FINE – DO THEY HAVE TO QUARANTINE FOR 14 DAYS AS WELL

If you have a family member living in your house that tests positive for Covid 19, our recommendation would be to have all family members tested (which you would probably do anyhow).

Simply having a family member with Covid 19 does not necessarily mean that everyone in the house will automatically contract the virus if proper precautions are taken in the household.

We would contact the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and discuss the situation and follow what they prescribe for what is best for the students in our school.

Saint Charles School is in the business of sharing the love of Christ and the education of children. We do not pretend to be medical experts, particularly in a time of a pandemic.

IF A FAMILY TRAVELS TO A “HOT SPOT” IN AUGUST, MUST THEY QUARANTINE FOR 14 DAYS BEFORE COMING TO SCHOOL?

As of now in Ohio, it is recommended that those who travel to states that have a positivity rate of 15% or more would quarantine for 14 days upon return.

Should that become a state mandate, we would also require families to do so.

However, just as in varying counties in Ohio, there are portions of other states that do not have high positivity rates.

Also, what you chose to do on your vacation as far as masking and social distancing would come into play.

Finally, unless you let the school know of your vacation, we will have no indication that you went anywhere. We trust that you care enough about the other students/families to make the prudent choice.

We would ask any families who go on vacation in August to consider all implications and do what is best for your own family as well as others.

An alternative might be that for their first two weeks of school, any vacationing students voluntarily wear a mask all day.

IN THE PAST CHILDREN COULD COME TO SCHOOL WITH THE COMMON COLD AND/OR COUGH IF THEY DIDN'T HAVE A FEVER AND WERE FEELING UP TO IT (SINCE WE KNOW CAN LINGER FOR A COUPLE/FEW WEEKS). WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW, WITH THE DYNAMICS IN TODAY'S WORLD? STILL COME TO SCHOOL OR NOT? IF HAVE TO STAY HOME FOR THE COLD/COUGH DURATION ARE WE ALLOWED TO WATCH THE TAPED VIRTUAL LEARNING OR JUST GET WORK SOMEHOW AND DO WHILE AT HOME? ALSO, NOT SURE WE WILL REALLY KNOW IF THOSE ARE SYMPTOMS OF THE REGULAR COLD WE'RE USED TO OR ASYMPTOMATIC SYMPTOMS WITHOUT A FEVER

If your child has symptoms of a cold, it will be difficult to distinguish between a common cold or flu versus CoVid19. At this time, July 23, 2020, our recommendation to have your child stay home for the day and call your doctor to see what he/she recommends. It may be that the doctor suggests a nasal swab test for Coronavirus. If negative, the student can and should return to school.

According to the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, we cannot require a CoVid19 test, but that a student is fever free for 72 hours without medication versus the 24 hours we have previously required.

If you have your child stay home due to a cold/cough, but he still feels up to watching classes during the day and doing the work, that would be a best case scenario for everyone.

IF A CHILD IS SICK WITH A NON-COVID ILLNESS AND IS OUT OF SCHOOL FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS, ARE THEY REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DISTANT LEARNING THEN? FOR ILLNESSES LIKE STREP THROAT, FLU, STOMACH BUGS, ETC.

The determination of the child's ability to focus on the synchronous learning would be at the discretion of the parent(s). **Certainly every child's health is the priority.** If she is not feeling well enough to watch the direct instruction, that is fine – rest! If starting to feel better and can watch the lesson and do some of the work, great. There is not a requirement for a legitimately sick child to participate in synchronous learning.

WHAT WILL BE DONE WHEN YOU CANNOT HAVE OUTDOOR RECESS?

Indoor recess will be kids remaining in desks – individual activities, drawing, reading, coloring, homework, etc.

There will not be, **at this time**, any indoor recess games or congregating.

ASSEMBLIES DO NOT SEEM LIKE A GOOD IDEA GIVEN THE COVID CLIMATE IN CUYAHOGA COUNTY, AT THIS TIME, EVEN WITH SMALLER GROUPS. WHY WOULD THIS CHOICE BE MADE TO PUT CHILDREN IN THIS GROUP SETTING?

If/when we would do a school assembly, we would most likely do this by the same grade levels that eat lunch together. Please know, we will make that determination about assemblies depending on what is going on at the end of August and through the year in Cuyahoga County. **We will always do what is best for the kids.** [Part of what is best for kids is to be engaged in a community.](#) Mental health is tempered with the realistic physical health regarding Covid 19 with kids.

Imagine spreading out 67 seventh and eighth graders in the air conditioned gym for a 20 minute assembly that connects our faith to growth mindset to our overall school community. We could easily social distance and connect!

THIS IS A LONGER QUESTION SO IT IS BELOW IN RED:

Some things that I think the school needs to consider is that some children have elderly grandparents/parishioners that care for them before and after school and have family members that have pre-existing conditions that place them in the at-risk population. As much as we all want to get back to normal the school needs to consider the protection of kids, teachers, staff and families. Some of these items are great and fit right in line with guidelines, however some of these seem a bit unnecessary at this point, like assemblies, switching classes, eating in the cafeteria. Why are these types of items necessary?

Of course we have considered all that was mentioned above. It would be as much of a responsibility of a family to do what each needs to do (as they have been since March) as it would for the school to consider. Again, we are mitigating, not perfecting, and we believe in the importance of physical as well as mental health of children.

WE SEE PSR IS SUSPENDED AND THAT MAKES SENSE. JUST WANT TO BE CLEAR, ARE ALL AFTER HOURS GROUP GATHERINGS THAT UTILIZE THE SCHOOL BUILDING GOING TO BE SUSPENDED FOR THE TIME BEING?

The only other group that generally uses the gym (not even the school), is CYO sports. That is not the school's decision; rather a parish decision.

As of today, CYO has their own detailed protocols in place and is waiting for a few weeks to begin indoor volleyball. Football (and Saint Charles does not have its own team) and cross country, **if** they do compete this fall, are outside of the physical school building.

WHY CHOOSE A ST. CHARLES ONLINE EDUCATION? WHAT'S THE BENEFIT OVER GOING TO PARMA VIRTUAL ACADEMY?

The education that children receive from Saint Charles is superior to many other schools and school systems. We have high standards and while we push children to reach their potential and beyond, we also support those kids who need assistance. We do not know, nor does anyone else, how exactly the Parma Virtual Academy will be as far as successfully supporting students – academically, socially, mentally, and spiritually. **Oh, wait, they will not support children and families spiritually.** That is a main way Saint Charles, and every other Catholic school, is vital. **In the big picture of life**, academics are certainly important, but developing a relationship with the Father, being a part of faith community, and ultimately getting to heaven are what is most important.

ALSO, WHEN CUYAHOGA COUNTY HITS THE PURPLE COLOR ON GOVERNOR DEWINE'S MAP AND CASES CLIMB IN THIS COUNTY, IS THERE A PLAN IN PLACE FOR ONLINE LEARNING AT THAT POINT? WHAT WILL BE THE INDICATORS TO DETERMINE THAT? OR WILL YOU ONLY GO TO THAT MODEL IF IT IS STATE MANDATED?

At this time, in the middle/end of July 2020, we are planning to go back to school and will do what is mandated. IF, rather than WHEN, Cuyahoga County might change to purple, we will make decisions at that time. The color change to purple could fluctuate from week to week and we are cognizant of all family situations. Changing learning from in person to remote every week may not be in the best interest of the students. As we ALL know, there is so much that is unknown and things are changing daily and weekly.

If mandated to close by an authority, we would do so and go to fully remote/distance, yet still "live" teaching/learning.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER A HYBRID OPTION THAT I NOTICED SOME OTHER SCHOOLS ARE DOING IN WHICH IF THE COUNTY CASES INCREASE TO RED THEN THE STUDENTS WOULD GO TO SCHOOL CERTAIN DAYS AND HOME FOR SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING THE OTHER DAYS? AND IF IT INCREASES TO PURPLE THEN CLASSES WOULD BE ALL ONLINE UNTIL CASES IMPROVE.

Our plan is for five days a week, in person (or for synchronous learning for the quarter). The hybrid model does not seem to match the needs of most of our families and students.

One of the considerations for the entire county to be in the purple designation is that Cuyahoga County includes 38 different cities from Bay Village to Cleveland to Parma to East Cleveland to Pepper Pike. Should the state go to more of a zip code model for the color coding it would make more sense for us, but I am not sure they will drill down that far. If the total numbers in our large county are truly based on a majority of cases in say, Cleveland, then going to remote learning with two day notice and then back to in person learning the next week may not be best for families, kids, or teachers.

FORGIVE US IF WE MISSED THIS, BUT WE WANTED TO KNOW IF THERE WOULD BE A POINT IN THE YEAR WHERE PARENTS WHO STARTED OFF WITH THE SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING WOULD BE ABLE TO CONSIDER SENDING THEIR CHILD IN PERSON.

At this time, on July 23, 2020, we are planning for parents to decide quarterly.

Realistically, it will always be “easier” if the children are here in person rather than learning synchronously. However, there are legitimate reasons that some students need to participate in synchronous learning.

Our concern thus far has been about parents deciding to make changes in learning platforms every other week or two weeks - that would be very difficult on students and teachers.

However, if a student began synchronously and then the parents decided at progress report time that it would be in the child’s best interest to come back to school in person, we would definitely consider that option on a case by case basis.

Again, mitigation is realistic and we want what is best for students.

IF WE CHOSE SYNCHRONIZED LEARNING WOULD THERE BE A POSSIBILITY FOR THE YOUNGER KIDS TO MEET THEIR NEW TEACHER BEFOREHAND SINCE THERE IS NO STAGGERED ENTRANCE FOR KINDERGARTEN? EVEN IF IT IS VIRTUALLY TO GIVE THEM A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHO WILL BE THEIR NEW TEACHER.

We will definitely make this happen for all students – but particularly for the younger students. Knowing one another as much as possible makes an education, and particularly a Catholic education, so important.

Give us a week or so to develop this plan for you.

IF YOU CHOSE TO SEND YOUR CHILD BACK TO SCHOOL AND THEN NUMBERS RISE SIGNIFICANTLY, WILL YOU HAVE THE OPTION AT THAT POINT TO MOVE YOUR CHILD TO AN ONLINE ONLY MODEL?

We would allow families to change to the synchronous learning for the remainder of a quarter/semester/year if the numbers (especially among children) rise significantly. Understand, please, that keeping track of students in school as well as online at the same time is very time consuming for teachers. We can't have families making changes on a daily or weekly basis unless warranted due to quarantine. We need to consider what is best for kids (and sometimes teachers too!)

WILL THERE BE MORNING CARE AND AFTER CARE?

The initial answer is *yes*.

Morning care has fewer students so protocols should be easy to implement.

A survey will be sent in the next couple of days so that we can appropriately plan for after school care.

WHEN DO FAMILIES HAVE TO DECIDE ABOUT IN PERSON VERSUS SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING?

To be fair to your children and the teachers, we will ask you to decide by August 7.

We will send a Google Form to all so that you can let us know.

We will be purchasing technology and continue planning in the meantime.

WHAT ABOUT HEAT DAYS AND SNOW/COLD DAYS THIS YEAR?

We will cross the bridge if those situations arise.

It has always been a little “treat” for kids (and teachers) to get a surprise day off.

These are different times. Should we know that there will be several very hot days in a row and that it will be best for kids to stay home for one, two, or more days, we will most likely do remote, live learning rather than just have several days off from school.

We will continue to consider these situations.

THANK YOU

We appreciate that you took the time to listen and read the plan for opening school in August. As well as ask follow up questions.

It is a testament to how much you love your kids and care about their education and future. Please, please, please make sure that our faith is in the forefront of your plans for your kids' lives:

Pray as a family, bless your children each night before bed

Practice kindness and goodness every day

Give thanks to the Lord for every good thing – God only creates the good

Participate in Mass – virtually or in person weekly at a minimum

Have your younger child(ren) watch Children's Liturgy of the Word on Sundays

And so much more...