



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Sacred Heart Parents:

The philosophy statement of Sacred Heart Catholic School states that “We strive for all of our students to be happy, hopeful, and prayerful, and to continue to learn and enthusiastically seek to grow and to be Alive in Christ.” In that spirit we are making the commitment to open the school year on August 20, 2020 to ensure the happiness, hopefulness, and formation of our students as missionary disciple for Jesus Christ. I am so excited at the prospect of having our students back at Sacred Heart; I can’t wait to begin the school year with all of you.

I would like to sincerely thank you for your patience this summer as we worked to put together reopening guidelines for Sacred Heart Catholic School. I would also like to thank our COVID-19 Task Force for their tireless work in creating this plan. As a group, we used reopening guidelines provided by the St. Louis County Health Department and the Archdiocese of St. Louis. The guidelines are divided into three areas: operations, teaching and learning, and faith formation. **Please remember that this is still an extremely fluid situation and these guidelines may change as we move into the beginning of the school year based on St. Louis County Health Department and Archdiocese of St. Louis guidelines.** As you read these guidelines, I ask that you remember the words of Jesus Christ during the Last Supper, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.”

Operational Guidelines

- Staff, Faculty, and Student Daily Screenings
 - All entering the building will be required to participate in a daily screening. This will include temperature checks and a questionnaire. Parents will be expected to complete this screening on their children before entrance to school. This screening will be provided via a Google Form.
- Minimizing Interaction Throughout the Day
 - Sacred Heart will take the following strategies to ensure social distancing during the day: extending and staggering arrival and dismissal, six feet distance in the classroom between students, markers on the floor to indicate social distance in the hallways, organizing homerooms into cohorts that interact primarily with each other.
 - At this time we will extremely limit parents/outside volunteers access to the school building during the school day. All parents/people entering the building will be required to wear a mask and must immediately report to the office.
- Face Masks
 - CDC approved cloth Face Masks are required of all Faculty and Staff when in six feet of others. All additional adults who enter the building will be required to wear Face Masks. Face Masks are required for all children during times of close proximity with other students including drop-off and dismissal.
 - Preschool-Second Grade may remove face masks while in their classrooms.
 - Third Grade – Eighth Grade must wear masks at all times when within six feet of another person. They may remove their masks when at their desks socially distant from their peers.
- Hand Washing/Hand Sanitizers
 - Hand Washing/Hand Sanitizer will be available to students, faculty, and staff when entering the building, entering the classroom, before eating, after eating, after restroom usage. It is highly suggested that you send your children with their personal hand sanitizer so they can continue to disinfect if they touch their face or eyes.
- Restrooms
 - Number of students in the restroom will be limited. There will be one deep cleaning of the restrooms during the day. We will maintain a log of these cleanings
- Water Fountains

- Water fountains will be closed except to fill water bottles.
- Cleaning and Disinfecting
 - Practice of routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces using FDA registered household disinfectants as per CDC guidance.

Teaching and Learning Guidelines

- Assessment
 - Sacred Heart is investing in assessment software aligned with Missouri Standards to find areas of gaps from last quarter. This will provide a framework for instruction for the 2020/2021 school year.
- Technology
 - Sacred Heart is investing in its technology infrastructure, hardware, and software to ensure that learning will be taking place if a student/students are forced to quarantine. This includes the ability to stream classrooms live and allow for interaction between students and teachers in real time.
- Distance Learning
 - A robust distance learning plan will be put into place. We will move to distance learning if a student/students are quarantined or there are other issues that would require Distance Learning for families. **If due to your family circumstances, distance learning is medically necessary please contact Mr. Holley for a personalized plan.**
- Lunch
 - Lunch will take place in classrooms. Food Service Consultants will provide a lunch program that is compatible with eating in the classroom.
- Recess
 - Yes and often! Sacred Heart is making the commitment to use our outside space as much as possible in order to ensure our children are not in the classroom all day every day.
- Special Course
 - Music, Art, and STEM will meet in the students' classrooms. Gym will take place in the gym, in the classroom, or outside depending on the activity. The gym will be cleaned after every class. Students will not wear P.E. uniforms this school year.
- Supplies
 - Additional supplies are necessary due to the nature of this school year. Children should have the following during the school day:
 - Clean Cloth Face Masks
 - Personal Hand Sanitizer
 - Water Bottle

Catholic Identity

- Mass
 - Sacred Heart is committed to continuing Mass for our students where they will be wearing masks and participating in social distancing.
- Prayer
 - Students and Faculty will participate in all school prayer with the use of safe and secure streaming technology.
- Sacraments
 - Sacred Heart is committed to continuing providing Sacraments to our students. The process for this will be determined at a later date.

In the event that a case of COVID-19 is identified at Sacred Heart Catholic School we will work with the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the St. Louis County Health Department in order to make decisions regarding closing the school. The following parameters can be put into place.

- We reserve the right to send home and ask to remain in quarantine students and staff members if there is any indication of sickness. Examples of symptoms include:
 - Cold or flu-like symptoms
 - New or worsening cough
 - New or worsening shortness of breath
 - Fever Greater than 100.4 degrees
 - Body aches
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Diarrhea or vomiting

- Sore throat
- We will identify anyone who the individual was in six-foot contact with for a fifteen minute period with a student/staff member who tests positive.
- If we cannot identify specific persons we reserve the right to quarantine everyone who was in the same room/area.
- The St. Louis County Health Department states that if over 5% of the student body in a building or district test positive any day, 4% test positive over 2 days in a row or 3% test positive for 3 days in a row, then that building or district closes for 10 days (percentages may change when better scientific data becomes available).
- In the event a person diagnosed with COVID-19 is determined to have been in the building and poses a risk to the staff or students, a school may close for 1-2 days for cleaning and disinfection of that building or exposed area if unable to clean during the nighttime closing.
- Sacred Heart will provide an area of isolation for any sick student/staff member until they can leave the building.

Once again, these guidelines may change based on new protocols put out by the Archdiocese of St. Louis or the St. Louis County Health Department. Know that it remains our goal at Sacred Heart Catholic School and Family Faith Formation to give your children the very best faith formation and academic education available. We strive to take care of our students and families during this difficult time because it is our mission to love and nurture all students at Sacred Heart.

God Bless,

COVID-19 Task Force

Rev. Jeffery Maassen

Mrs. Fran Hanson

Mr. Patrick Holley

Dr. Viero-Dothage

Mrs. Kim Freiburg

Mr. David Letscher

Mrs. Bonnie Evans

Mrs. Loren Huth

Mrs. Sarah Kerr

Mrs. Stacey Hellman