



SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL

August 6, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are well and enjoying the remaining days of summer. Many thanks to our families who have responded to our surveys.

The teachers and myself have been meeting for the past six weeks to formulate an Opening of School Plan, that will exhibit all safety measures as prescribed by the State of New Jersey Guidelines and the CDC.

After sending two surveys, indications from parents are as follows: One group of parents prefer to have their children stay at home, while another group prefers in class instruction. This Plan provides for both options; as we want families to be comfortable in their decision.

The following are the steps we are planning as of the present date:

WITHIN THE CLASSROOM:

- Measuring of classroom – 6 feet distance
- In school classes will be smaller providing for distance
- Purchase of PlexiGlass dividers for desks (have been ordered)
- Purchasing of fans for circulation with windows open as much as possible
- Teachers and Staff will be provided with face shields and masks
- Students will be required to wear masks
- Each student will be required to bring their own personal bag of supplies (pencils, pens, rulers, crayons, etc). There will be no sharing of any supplies
- Grades Pre-K and Kindergarten will eat lunch in their classroom. Students in Grades 1 to 8 will possibly use the lunchroom with 6 foot distance or eat in the classroom. A final determination will be made on this issue and communicated to you before school begins.

- All students will have assigned seats in classroom, lunch, before care, and aftercare
- Students in classrooms will be provided with ChromeBooks – there will be no sharing. Students doing remote learning can use a ChromeBook from school if needed
- Students who will be doing remote/ at home learning will receive an email designating a date and time to come to school to pick up text books and ChromeBooks.
- Cameras have been ordered for teachers to use to live stream their classes to students who are at home doing remote learning. We will continue to use Zoom meetings, Google Classroom , and Seesaw with students both in classroom and with remote learning. Students will also use textbooks in school and at home for assignments
- Students at home will be required to follow a set schedule as per the students in the classroom, unless otherwise approved and taped sessions can be provided.
- Students will be required to wear a mask during school fire drills and lockdowns.
- No birthday parties will be permitted – there will be no sharing of food.
- There will be no field trips this year
- Gym classes will include no contact or indoor activities. Weather permitting, we will hold class outdoors with 6 foot distancing and following CDC guidelines.
- During winter months and inclement weather, the gym teacher will be teaching Health classes in place of Physical Education. Students who are doing remote learning will be provided physical activities using Google Classroom, Seesaw, and Zoom.
- No afterschool sports are being planned at this time.
- As per CDC guidelines, to promote cohort groups; students in all grades will remain in their own class. Teachers will switch classes. Special Activity Teachers (Art, Spanish, etc) will come to each classroom.
- Teachers and Staff will have daily temperature checks each morning

SCHOOL WIDE:

- Purchase of sanitizing equipment to provide hand sanitization stations
- Hand washing (liquid soap) will be encouraged throughout the day, and restrooms will be checked throughout the day to monitor soap dispensers.

- There will be a limit of 2 students in the restroom at a time.
- Water fountains will be closed. Parents will need to send students with enough water for the day.
- Student's temperature will be checked each day upon arrival to school, as soon as they enter the building. Parents MUST remain with child or children as the temps are taken.
- Arrival and Dismissal will be reconfigured to provide for social distancing. Specific plans will be sent right before school opens
- All visitors to the building will be screened. Parents will have to make an appointment and call before entering the building. Protocols must be followed. (Social distancing/ Masks) We do not want to discourage parents, but we must limit the numbers in the building at one time.
- A Quarantine Room has been set up in the event that a student or teacher gets sick and needs to be isolated. Students will remain in quarantine until being picked up by an adult.
- We have hired a new daytime custodian – especially to provide bathroom checks throughout the day.
- We have hired a new professional cleaning company for every day afterschool cleaning and disinfecting in classrooms and bathrooms.
- We have purchased additional cleaning supplies, gloves, masks, and shields, as well as sanitizers and soap.
- Music classes and chorus will be suspended until further notice.
- After the end of the First Trimester (December), students who have been doing remote learning will have the option to return to the class at the request of the parent.

IN SUMMARY:

Please be aware that this is a tentative plan, as things could possible change, and we must follow the State and Archdiocese of New Jersey Schools Office directives depending on Covid numbers at the time of school opening.

Policies will be put in place that address the protocol we will use when students or teachers exhibit symptoms or is exposed to Covid 19. It may mean the class is quarantined for two weeks, and is on distance learning for that time. The situation may call for a section of the school to be quarantined, or even the entire student body. These will be decided on a case-by-case basis and will include

consultation with the Hudson County Board of Health and the Archdiocese of Newark. We will always consult with the aforementioned agencies/groups when making decisions, as well as CDC recommendations.

A Final Detail Letter will be sent out by the end of August with final information regarding the following:

- Schedule of staggered opening days and times
- Afterschool Program information
- Textbook pickup and orientation
- Final decision on lunch location
- Detailed information on temperature checks
- Use of various staircases for arrival and dismissal/ staggered times

I thank you for your patience, cooperation and support during this very difficult time. Please be assured that the teachers and myself have been working very hard throughout the summer for a safe and smooth opening of school for both In School and Remote Students.

God bless you and please stay safe.

John Richards
Principal