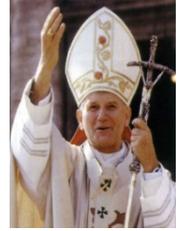


St. Mary & Pope John Paul II Middle Schools



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July 13, 2020

Dear St. Mary and Pope John Paul II School Families:

I am happy to share that we have received guidelines for re-opening schools from the Diocese. They are based on guidance and consideration from the Centers for Disease Control, the Indiana Department of Education, and in collaboration with the Indiana Non-Public Education Association and the Indiana Catholic Schools Consortium.

St. Mary and Pope John Paul II Schools have developed a Task Force to work through details for our re-entry plan. We are working to provide quality assurances to provide a safe return to in-person formation and academic instruction. We do plan to still have first day instruction, for K-8, on Thursday, August 6, 2020. The first day for preschool will be Wednesday, August 12, 2020.

While the task force will continue working on details, I can share some of our plans. These plans will be monitored each quarter, and are very fluid right now. These are included below:

Wellness Checks

- Families, students, and school staff will be expected to self-check for symptoms daily before entering the building.
- School staff will be trained to recognize the signs of the COVID-19 virus.
- Procedures for working with sick students/staff will be established. A designated quarantine area will be developed for use as needed.

Strategic Social Distancing

- Masks, though not required, are recommended.
- Students will operate in cohorts: Example: (Preschool), (K-2), (3-5), and (6-8)
Students will social distance between cohorts.
- We are continuing to work through plans for cafeteria and playground usage. We do intend to use both spaces strategically and within cohorts.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- All high-touch surfaces will be cleaned regularly during the day.
- Provide dedicated time to wash hands with soap. Hand sanitizer will be available in all buildings.
- Minimize shared materials in the classroom as much as possible. If classroom items must be shared, they will be wiped down between uses.

Visitors, Volunteers, School Gatherings

- Visitors and volunteers will be limited during this time and may be asked to wear masks during their time in the building.
- We are working on plans to protect front office staff with plexi-glass dividers and will utilize a dedicated space for parents to drop off items.

All School Masses, Athletics – Still working on details for these

- School Masses will follow the protocols set by each parish and the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana.
- Athletics will follow local guidelines as well as protocols set by the IHSAA and CYO.

Academics and Virtual Learning

- K-8 will begin, on site, Thursday, August 6, and Preschool will begin Wednesday, August 12.
- All recommendations by local health and safety experts, as well as the CDC, will be monitored closely. If necessary, the final decision to return to virtual learning will be confirmed by Bishop Doherty.
- Plans for a potential return to systemic virtual learning, if needed, ensuring that students and teachers are familiar with the process, have the necessary resources to be successful, and continue to align lessons with the curriculum will be developed.
- Plans for procedures for providing students who require a prolonged absence with the means to stay caught up with classwork will be developed.

Again, these are some areas our Task Force is focusing on, and all of this remains fluid. We do know we will not be able to use the water fountains, so we are adding water bottles to the supply list. We are working on plans for refilling bottles. If you have any questions, please reach out to me via email, at easchlabach@stmarymuncie.org.

Please make sure students are reading over the summer, and Aleks accounts for grades 3-8 can be utilized and are encouraged to be used.

Looking forward to seeing you all again!
Mrs. Schlabach