

August 17, 2021

Heavenly Father,

Your truth is the light showing us the way to live our lives. As members of the family of churches within the Archdiocese of Detroit, grant that we may follow Jesus in all we say and do. We ask this in His name.

Dear St. Stephen Parents and Families,

Enjoy this final week of summer vacation before school begins on August 23rd, 2021! As I wrote last, we will meet in the Student Activities Center at 11:20 AM. Students will be dismissed at 12:00 Noon.

I am certain that something on all of our minds is: what health and safety protocol will we be implementing this 2021-2022 school year at St. Stephen School. We are still in the midst of Covid-19 and the Delta variant. At this point in time, we will follow similar health and safety protocols at school as last year, with a few changes.

I would like to begin by stating that St. Stephen School operates under the guidance of the Archdiocese of Detroit as do all Catholic schools under its jurisdiction. With that information in mind, I wanted our parents and families to see how we fit in with the expectations of our Archdiocese.

I have attached a document from the Archdiocese of Detroit Catholic Schools that we will follow for the beginning of this 2021-2022 school year entitled: **Pre-K-12 Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 Covid-19 School Year for Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Detroit**. You may have already received this. This document spells out the process that we will follow at St. Stephen School. Please know, as with the Archdiocese, we will also constantly keep abreast of recommendations of the Wayne County Health Department as well as health care professionals. Please take the time to read that document.

We will continue to practice social distancing in the school as last year, and will continue to sanitize throughout the day. Masks, at this point, will not be mandated, but it is highly recommended that students wear masks. It is also highly recommended that all staff and teachers wear masks, per our AOD recommendations - whether vaccinated or not.

The health and safety of your children and our teachers and staff will continue to be our utmost concern.

The beginning school procedure:

Students line up by teacher outside of school after being dropped off.

Temperatures will be taken. Students will enter school for the school day by 8:00 AM.

The tardy bell will be 8:10 AM.

Grades 1 to Grade 4: Line up at the school door.

Grades 5 to Grades 8: Line up at the Student Activities door

Pre-School and Kindergarten: Line up at the pre-school and Kindergarten door

At the end of the school day - 3:25 PM - students will be dismissed from the same locations that they entered school.

Students will be provided with free hot lunch through the AOD. It will not start until the second week of school, Monday August 30th. Students will bring their own lunch and drink for lunch for the first week. Students will eat their lunch in the cafeteria.

When coming for an appointment at school, all parents should enter through the school door. We will continue to use the same safety protocol - at this time - for parents wanting to enter school. Please contact the office first.

We will also be following Huron Public Schools closure announcements. For students needing bussing, it will start on the Tuesday after Labor Day.

Bless all of our families,

Joe Monte

Principal