

K-8 Staged Reopening Plan

August - September 2020

Introduction

Our community is vibrant and strong! When the entire state of Texas was forced to close schools due to COVID-19 in March 2020, our school jumped into a new virtual learning experience. Teachers created a flexible, caring, and engaging Distance Learning curriculum for students with videos, weekly Zoom sessions, and creative lessons with virtual field trips. We explored and learned so much together!

To prepare for the 2020-2021 school year, we met with our faculty & staff, we formed and met regularly with our SJCS Task Force, attended weekly principal meetings with the Archdiocese, consulted with other school leaders, and conducted Parent Surveys. We researched, we listened, we planned.

Our hope was for the spread of COVID-19 to decrease so we could open as we normally do every Fall. Unfortunately, Guadalupe County and Seguin remain in a fight against this terrible disease and it continues to impact our families. Our community has continued to share its fears and apprehension about how children should attend school for the new school year. We have heard you and know that choosing to attend school in person or virtually is a complicated decision each family must make. We are excited that our plan will allow students and families to explore our new virtual learning platforms before making a final decision on their child's first quarter plan.

As always, we aim to begin the year with gentleness, kindness, and love. To provide a gradual and successful re-immersion back onto campus, we are pleased to announce our Back-to-School plan. The goals are to alleviate feelings of anxiety and apprehension, and to replace them with a plan that allows students, teachers, parents, and grandparents to learn new styles of learning and safety protocols in a calm, cautious, and caring manner.

Thank you for your understanding, cooperation, and support. We will continue to remain a community of faith that provides a safe, loving, and caring environment for your children. We are Cougar strong!

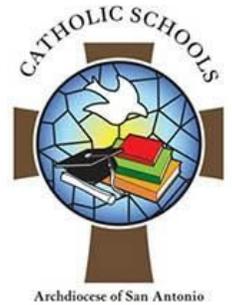
SAFETY FIRST!

Archdiocesan School Safety Policies

Updated July 28, 2020 per Superintendent West

“Archdiocesan safety protocols -- aligned to recommended Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines -- have been established to include:

- Physical Distancing
- Masks to be worn at all times except for recess/PE sessions, at which times physical distancing protocols will be maintained.
- Screening Process
 - Students and visitors will answer screening questions before they are allowed onto campus.
 - Students and visitors will have temperature checks.
 - Greatly restricting access onto campus, which will especially impact visitors and volunteers.
- Facilities will be regularly and frequently cleaned and disinfected in a professional manner.”



We anticipate further guidance by August 17 on our policies and protocols for addressing such things as individual quarantine policies and procedures for closure and reopening when we have a confirmed case of COVID-19 on campus. We are closely studying the CDC guidelines and updates so we will be prepared to implement and share this information as soon as we have it from the Archdiocese. In the meantime, we are reassured that by opening virtually, we will be able to meet these safety requirements before we are set to start welcoming you in person in Stage III

Addressing Technology Needs

Because we are opening with virtual and distance learning, we understand some of our families may require assistance with obtaining a computer. Please contact Lo-Ra Dick for digital equipment (830) 556-7168 or ldick@sjcstx.org

Overview of Reopening Plan

Stage I	Orientation Sessions: videos on safety, new class procedures, online learning and mass online	<u>Week 1</u> First Day of School: Mon., Aug. 17- August 21
Stage II	Distance Learning: using itsLearning, Zoom, and other videos on safety review	<u>Week 2</u> August 24-28
Stage III	Small groups on campus: acclimate and review safety continued Distance Learning	<u>Week 3</u> August 31- Sept 4
Stage IV	Full integration with learning options: On-campus or Distance Learning	<u>Weeks 4 - 9</u> September 8- October 16

STAGE ONE: August 17 - August 21

Orientation to Online Learning, Classroom Procedures and Safety through Videos and Zoom.

A schedule will be sent to you by the classroom teachers. Some videos will be designed for you to watch on your time with your family, and others will require you to zoom at a specific time. Your classroom teacher will help guide you through this. Expect to see some fun activities to help your students learn to wear masks, social/physical distance, and learn our new online platform: itsLearning.

STAGE TWO: August 24 - 28

Distance Learning for ALL

All students will participate in Distance Learning for the second week of school. This will be an opportunity for students and families to see if Distance Learning is the right choice for their family. Teachers will provide synchronous remote instruction **including two live Zoom sessions, and asynchronous remote instruction through itsLearning.**

Distance Learning, in general, is composed of asynchronous instruction and synchronous instruction.

Asynchronous Remote Instruction is a curricular experience where students engage in the learning materials on their own time, interacting intermittently with the teacher via the computer or other electronic devices and involves far more self-guided student instruction. In this method, students learn from instruction that is not necessarily being delivered in-person or in real time. This type of instruction may include various forms of digital and online learning, such as prerecorded video lessons or game-based learning tasks that students complete on their own. It does not require all participants to be virtually present at the same time.

Synchronous Remote Instruction is a two-way, real-time, live instruction between teachers and students, through the computer or other electronic devices.

STAGE THREE: August 31 - September 4 **Distance Learning for ALL and Open Houses**

During week three, we will continue with zoom and itsLearning. We pray that our community will continue to see a decrease in COVID-19 cases and that we will be advised we can safely bring small groups of children with their parents to campus. These Open Houses will be strongly encouraged, but optional, and will run over several days and times. We plan to send out Signup Geniuses so that we keep numbers of students and adults in the classroom under a safe capacity and families with multiple children can come just once. Our small group open houses will be orientation sessions where parents and children will get to see in-person our new policies, practices, and systems. Students will bring their school supplies and set up their areas with their parent's assistance. Please keep a few materials at home for use until we fully return to campus.

By Wednesday, September 2nd, we will require all families to make the decision to elect in-person or virtual/distance learning for their students for the remainder of the first quarter (through October 16). More information about the process for selecting will be available soon.

STAGE FOUR: September 8 - October 16 **In-Person Instruction – return to campus**

St. James Catholic School is committed to providing a quality Catholic education for our students with a strong focus on in-person instruction. Our faculty and staff are dedicated to ensuring the spiritual, mental, and physical growth of each child.

Teachers will utilize itsLearning to guide and facilitate instruction, while also providing enriching in-person experiences. Students will utilize the program to submit some of their assignments and also submit assignments in a traditional manner. Our students will be able to effortlessly transfer from one medium to another - they will be 21st century learners! Continuity in education with a digital platform will be uninterrupted even in the event of temporary quarantines or closures.

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- Specials, lunches, and recess will be by class and held in cohorts.
 - Before school and afterschool care will be offered.

Distance Learning Option

For families who choose our Distance Learning option, there will be a strong focus on asynchronous instruction in the beginning. Students will be required to log on to our learning management system (itsLearning) and complete and submit assignments on a daily basis. Families must commit to having an adult available to help and assist their student. Teachers will have virtual office hours available.

THANK YOU!

We can only be successful with the support and faith of our **Parents as Partners**. We look forward to the opportunity to learn together during this 20-21 school year. **CHANGES WILL HAPPEN, BUT WITH PATIENCE AND GRACE WE WILL BUILD SPECIAL AND LASTING MEMORIES AT ST. JAMES CATHOLIC SCHOOL.**

God bless us all.