

Plans for Starting the 2020-21 School Year

In thinking about and planning for the 2020-2021 school year, the apostle Paul's words to the Philippians have been at the forefront of my mind, as well as the minds of our church leaders and School Board members. "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others"(Philippians 2:3-4). As you know from the many people with whom you regularly interact, there are many different opinions on how to handle this pandemic. Everyone has different beliefs on how our society needs to move forward in this COVID-19 world. The entire School Board and teaching staff at St. John's respects everyone's individual beliefs. As we reopen, we ask that you respect other opinions and in everything think about the needs of all of our students and school staff.

Many of you have probably heard of or read different recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Both institutions have provided valuable research and suggestions on how to open schools in the fall of 2020. It is key to remember that everything the CDC and DPI have provided are suggestions. At this point, there are no laws or mandates on how to reopen schools. In Wisconsin, it is up to local school districts on how to best open. Your school leaders have been working hand in hand with our local public school leaders and the Health Department.

When we reopen, the School Board and the teachers want to make sure that we do so as safely as possible for our students, staff, and families. We plan to start the school year with a strong safety plan, with the hopes that we can relax some of the items as the year progresses. With the ever-changing nature of the pandemic and the scientific findings connected with it, these plans and procedures are subject to change throughout the year based on changing scientific evidence, government guidance or mandates, and the like.

As we begin the school year, the most important thing you can do as parents is to support your children in the Christian training they are receiving at St. John's (whether in person or at home). Maybe you do not agree with every guideline and procedure that is being enacted; that is okay. Please communicate any concerns you have with these guidelines to the school leadership so we can evaluate how best to proceed. But in order to have success, it will be important that your children understand the adopted guidelines and procedures and that they see you supporting them. Please read through all of the guidelines and procedures and help explain them to your children. If you have any questions, please ask. Thank you for all of your comments, questions, and feedback throughout this planning process (including on the survey).

We now ask for your continued prayers as we prepare for a new school year. One of the greatest strengths St. John's has is the strong family feel that our students and families experience. As a St. John's family and as brothers and sisters in Christ, let's remember to continue showing love to each other and supporting each other through this difficult time. With God's guidance, we know we will come out of this pandemic stronger than ever.

In Christ's service,
Mr. Sellnow and the St. John's School Board

2020 St. John's COVID-19 Rules and Procedures

DISCLAIMER: Any rules and procedures that follow are subject to change throughout the year based on changing scientific evidence, government guidance or mandates, and the like.

General Points of Information

- St. John's will plan for on-site instruction, 4 1/2 days per week (1/2 Wednesday), as often as we are able to do so.
- St. John's will implement increased cleaning and disinfecting regimens.
- St. John's students, teachers, and family members may get COVID-19. St. John's will implement reasonable and feasible safety protocols and procedures so we can do our part to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and make our school a safe place for our students and teachers.

Family Education

- Anyone with COVID-19, living in the same house with someone who has tested positive to COVID-19, or has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 needs to stay home for a 14 day self-quarantine.
- The most prevalent COVID-19 symptoms in children tend to be mild and cold-like and may include fever, runny nose, cough, fatigue, aches, vomiting, and diarrhea.
- Students and staff should stay home if they have any signs of sickness, especially those which are known COVID-19 symptoms.
- It is up to the discretion of the school to send home a sick student.
- If we have a confirmed positive case in our immediate school family (students, parents, or staff), St. John's will move to Distance Learning for a period of three weeks.
- Please assess your child's health each day. Do not send your child to school under any of the following circumstances:
 1. Child has or has had in the past 24 hours a temperature of 100.4°F or greater.
 2. Child has or has had in the past 24 hours potential symptoms of COVID-19, such as excessive or persistent coughing, shortness of breath,

vomiting, diarrhea.

3. Child has been given medication to lower his/her temperature in the past 24 hours.

4. Someone in your household has COVID-19 or your family has been targeted by contact tracing regarding Covid-19.

Student Education

- Teachers will spend time going through and teaching proper cleaning and hygiene practices, including handwashing. (see Phil. 2:3-4 above)
- Signs throughout the school will encourage students and staff to practice proper hygiene.
- Teachers will schedule time throughout the day for handwashing/sanitizing.
- Drinking fountains will be shut off. The water bottle filler will remain on. Each student will be asked to bring a water bottle to school for his/her use only.
- Students will not be allowed to share snacks or other school items.
- Teachers will emphasize the importance of personal space. (Please note that it will be impossible to properly social distance in all situations at school.)

Student Entry to the Building - before school procedures

- Students are allowed to begin entering the building at 7:30 a.m. No students will be allowed into the building prior to 7:30 unless the parents have contacted the teachers regarding special circumstances.
- Students will enter the building using the back gym door (exception: bus riders will enter at the front doors).
- Please follow the entry/exit procedure, keeping your vehicle in a line which winds through the back of the parking lot.
- All students will be screened upon entry by having their temperature taken each morning at the point of entrance. Parents, please stop to drop off your children in view of the door, staying in the drop off/pick up line so you can be given a thumbs up after the temperature check before you leave the school.
- Students in grades 3-8 will wear face coverings (mask or shield) when entering the building. Face coverings may be removed once students are in their classrooms. Face coverings will be worn when instructed by the teacher. Face coverings are optional for Preschool – 2nd grade.
- Teachers will wear masks or use face shields during school hours (7:30 – 3:15).
- Students who have a temperature of 100.4°F or higher will be sent home. (Bus riders will be taken to the conference room to be re-screened after a couple of minutes, and parents may be required to come pick them up.)
- Students who pass the temperature check will go immediately to their classroom.
- Students who go home with a fever, or have a fever when checked at home, must be fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medications for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Each school staff member will self-screen on a daily basis according to the four statements on the previous page.

Student Groupings and Spacing

- Students will be grouped by classroom and any inter-class interaction will be extremely limited.
- K-2 students will eat lunch in the church basement in order to spread out and for sanitizing purposes.
- Classrooms will be arranged to provide as much physical distancing as possible among students, with an emphasis especially on maintaining personal space.

Face Coverings/Masks

- Each student in grades 3-8 will be required to have a clean cloth face covering at school. The school has some to give out as needed.
- Children may be required to wear masks at various times throughout the day, such as when there could be inter-class interaction.

Lunch

- Students will eat lunch in their classrooms (exception K-2).
- Hot lunch through the Kwik Trip and Subway programs may still be available as announced.

Recess and Phy. Ed.

- Recesses will be scheduled so as to cut down on interaction between members of different classrooms.
- Phy. ed. classes will be outside whenever possible.

Chapel

- Chapel will continue to be held in the church one day per week.
- Classes will be distanced while seated in the church.
- Singing will be avoided during chapel.

School Visitors

- Due to the nature of the pandemic, visitors to the school during the school day will be discouraged.
- If it is essential for a visitor (parents included) to come into the school, the visitor will be required to wear a mask when in the school building and will be asked to sanitize and have a temperature check upon building entry.
- If a parent needs to pick up their child during the school day, they should enter through the front school doors and wait in the entryway.
- Parents are not allowed to come into the school building without making prior arrangements with a teacher.

Dismissal Procedures

- Students will be dismissed from their classrooms at 3:00 (12:10 on Wednesdays).

- Parents picking up their children should wait for their children in their vehicles and are asked to follow the drop off/pick up procedure.
- Students in grades 3-8 will put on their masks prior to leaving the classroom.
- Students will stay in their classrooms until dismissed by the teacher.

School Supplies Items

- Students in grades 3-8 will be asked to bring a mask to school each day (a limited number are available at the school).
- Students must bring a water bottle to school exclusively for their own use. It may be filled up at the water bottle filling station in the school hallway.
- Students should not share their personal items throughout the day (pencils, markers, crayons, glue, etc.).
- In general, the sharing of school supplies among students will be limited. If any supplies, materials, or items from school would be shared among students, they will be disinfected before the next use.
- Handwashing stations or hand sanitizers will be available in each classroom and the hallway.
- Student use of school games or items may be limited.

Miscellaneous

- Handchimes (grades 5-8) practices will be in the church sanctuary where some amount of distancing is possible.
- Singing will be avoided as much as possible during the school day.
- Instead of student groups singing in church, songs by the students may be recorded and played during the worship services.
- Field trips will be limited this year but may be scheduled at the discretion of the classroom teacher and the principal.
- Sorry, for now, no classroom treats should be brought from home (including birthday treats).
- Distance learning will be provided for students that cannot attend due to health risks, or to those whose parents choose to not have their children attend for face-to-face instruction. This decision must be made quarterly, and cannot go back and forth unless a health emergency causes the change. (See Distance Learning Plan)

Sports and other Events

- As of right now, we are planning to offer our sports program since high school sports are currently scheduled to happen. Obviously, this is dependent on the number of students that we have signed up to play.
- Students choosing not to attend school for face-to-face instruction will not participate in our sports program.

Bus Transportation (guidelines according to Montello Public School)

- Buses will socially distance students to the extent possible.
- Masks will be provided, but not required, on buses.
- Buses will have hand sanitizer at entrance/exit.

- Buses will be sanitized between/after routes.
- Courtesy routes of students living inside of the transportation policy attendance area (2 miles) will not be provided.

Cleaning Procedures

- High-touch surfaces will be disinfected throughout the day.
- Disinfectant wipes will be in the classrooms for teachers and students to use throughout the day.
- Classrooms and other school areas will be cleaned with special Covid procedures in mind after each school day.
- Our school will be thoroughly cleaned throughout the day.

May God watch over us, guide us, bless us, and keep us healthy and safe as we implement these new measures and procedures and as we begin a new school year in His name. May God be glorified in all we do!