

## **IN-PERSON REOPENING PLAN ST. PAUL SCHOOL 2020**

Given what we know to date, and in concert with state, local and archdiocesan guidance, this re-opening plan includes the strategies which we intend to implement in response to keeping our school and community safe and limit the spread of COVID 19. The goal is to remain as flexible as possible given resources available while doing our best to manage risk. Our number one priority is keeping our students, staff and families safe. The procedures below will be consistently reviewed, updated and adjusted as necessary.

### **RETURN TO CLASS**

#### Grades PK, K and 1

Classes are currently in session, 8:30am until 3:00pm.

#### Grades 2-5

Classes will begin on campus instruction on Monday, October 12, 8:30am until 3:00pm.

#### Grades 6-8

Assuming the successful rollout of Grades 2-5 and infection rates remaining below the accepted threshold, classes will begin on site Monday, November 2, 8:30am until 3:00pm.

### **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE CALENDAR**

In order to shift gears and prepare the learning space to welcome students back on campus, the teachers in Grades 2-5 will not offer online instruction on Thursday and Friday, October 8 and 9. A schedule will be sent out offering times those two days when families can drop off school supplies ahead of the Monday, October 12 start. (Grades PK, K and 6-8 keep to their current schedule.)

Given the re-opening health requirements to distance students into smaller learning pods and the fact that last year's budget woes severely reduced our staff size, our calendar will be revised through Christmas break to ensure the professional staff have adequate time to prepare for instruction and the custodial staff have an adequate window for enhanced weekly disinfecting.

Beginning Friday, October 16 (already scheduled as a no class day for staff professional development), each Friday until December 18 will be scheduled as an "asynchronous instruction day." Students will complete assignments at home with no online instruction while teachers are on site preparing for the coming week. Teachers will also schedule "office hours" on these Fridays in an effort to connect more closely with individuals and families. Once we get through Christmas break it is our hope to finally return to a full, normal schedule, M-F.

An updated calendar will be sent home shortly. By adjusting days already designated for holidays and in-service, we will be able to keep any in person loss of instruction to a minimum. Unfortunately, the alternative, given our very limited staffing constraints, is to continue the current remote instruction model indefinitely.

## **GENERAL PROTOCOL**

**ALL** students will be required to wear masks, wash hands multiple times during the day and strive to maintain a realistic 6-foot distance from one another.

## **MORNING DROP –OFF**

We will continue the same drop off and risk assessment routine as we have established for PK-Grade 1. Each child (PK-5) is greeted at the west door off the parking lot/playground and processed through a routine health screening. Students in Grades 6-8 will be met on the portables porch for their screening. Parents are able accelerate that screening drop off by pre-submitting the Symptom Verification found [HERE](#).

At drop-off, parents will be asked whether students passed health screening questions that morning. Student will state their name and grade, temperature will be taken, and attendance will be recorded in the official roster. These steps are necessary in order to contact trace should the need arise.

Staff members will escort students from the entry point to classroom doors and students will remain in their desk as directed by Teacher/Instructional Assistant. Non-staff adult access to the building is extremely limited and reviewed on a case-by-case basis Students will use hand sanitizer before entering classrooms.

## **MEALS and RECESS**

Students will eat snack and lunch in classrooms. Recess will be staggered as staffing allows for distanced exiting and return. There will controlled exits for classes. When classes need to line up, there will be 6-foot distancing between students.

Playground equipment will be cleaned periodically between use as staffing allows.

## **DISMISSAL TIME**

At present, we are still fine-tuning a dismissal procedure that will maintain distancing conventions and ease any unnecessary congestion. Adjustments to the routine carpool pattern will be sent out prior to October 12.

## **FAQ's**

There are questions about protocols that we will continue to address. Here are a few that we have received. We will continue to answer others that follow:

### **What should a family know about a remote option versus in-person instruction if a family chooses to have a student remain home once the building is re-opened for classes?**

We respect and understand family situations which necessitate that students remain home due to health vulnerabilities and/or risk of exposure to family members. Once we shift to in-person instruction onsite, our teachers' primary attention will focus on those in attendance. As allowable, teachers may record or live stream lessons but those lessons will not be interactive,

such as the current Zoom calls. The burden to monitor adherence to the assigned lesson and follow-up falls to the family, just as it would for a long-term absence.

**When is a student eligible to rejoin his/her class if the family decides to remain in remote instruction following school re-opening?**

If a family decides to keep a student home after we re-open, that choice will remain in effect until Thanksgiving. Once we accept children on campus, we will seek to establish a “bubble pod” as much as is possible, meaning we will strive to limit the introduction of any additional new individuals into the daily “bubble.” Our goal is to ease back into on campus instruction with the least risk of exposure for both students and staff. For that reason, we cannot allow back-and-forth or partial enrollment.

**If a teacher or student tests positive for Covid, does the entire school shut down?**

The entire school does **not** shut down. We will follow the [Symptom Screening Flow Chart](#) and contagion distance guidance provided by King County to determine the required course of action. Typically, only the class grouping or “pod” being taught by the teacher or in which the student is assigned would be required to quarantine for 10 days following the first positive test **IF** it is determined that the student or adult in question was in direct contact with individuals within the 6-foot halo for a confirmed 15-minute period or longer.

**What if a family member, living in the same household is diagnosed with Covid. Is the St. Paul student required to stay home?**

Yes, the student would be required to stay home for 14 days or 10 days past any symptoms if the student were to subsequently test positive.

**What if a family member, living in the same household travels for work? Will students in that family be required to quarantine for 14 days before being allowed in school?**

Only if the family member tests positive, then the student would be required to stay home. Currently, there are no states that are on the list of travel bans. One of the daily screening questions asks about travel to a known Covid "hot spot" within the last 14 days.

**Will teachers or staff be required to have a Covid test prior to opening?**

No, we cannot require testing unless symptoms are present. If a staff member answers, "yes" to any of the daily health screening questions (developed by the CDC) they would not be allowed to be in the school until they have met the universal quarantine guidelines.

**Where do we find the numbers that the school is using to determine the case count for King County?** We are using the King Co. Dashboard and Key Indicators. The daily dashboard can be found at: <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/data.aspx> and the Key Indicators page, which is updated weekly, on Wednesday, can be found at: <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/data/key-indicators.aspx>

As general guidance for our region states, positive cases have to reach a level below 75 per 100,000 for 14 days for us to return our K-5<sup>th</sup> grade students back into the school building.

Currently, they have been at 55 positive cases per 100,000 people for two weeks. If there happens to be a dramatic spike that indicates an upward trend, we would have to return to remote learning. Positive case numbers have been trending downward since July 27<sup>th</sup>.

**What if a student has a cough or runny nose but not a temperature? Are they required to stay at home?**

If the student's answer is "yes" to any one of the daily health screening questions, the student would be required to stay home. We would need a doctor's note if the drop off adult reports the symptom as something other than Covid-related. (e.g., allergies, etc.) If a sibling or carpool student does NOT show similar symptoms, that child IS allowed attendance.

**What if a student develops symptoms of illness during the school day?**

If a student develops symptoms of illness during the school day, he/she will be isolated and parents will be called immediately for pick-up. We will ask parents to contact their family physician for documentation that the symptoms are not Covid related.

**With students returning to class, will the school and parish begin hosting adult and or family themed events?**

It is still the opinion of King County Health that community events are discouraged and any gatherings that do occur must follow the maximum attendance thresholds for the listed Phase of re-opening. Currently, that still precludes any in-person hosted school-wide events at this time. The next planned announcement of easing any of those restrictions appears to be this coming November.

**LOANED TECHNOLOGY**

If you are a family who signed out one of the school chrome books during this remote instruction phase, that chrome book – and the charging cable – must be returned to school on the first day your child is returning to class.

**The safe return of students to our school strongly depends on the commitment of our parent community to monitor and protect all of us. We will do everything we can here, to have the CDC protocols in place. We are asking all families to strictly adhere to masking, distancing, hand washing and avoiding crowds where exposure is possible.**