



July 16, 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Over the course of the past two months, the Continuity of Mission Task Force has been planning for the reopening of school for the 2020-2021 academic year. All of the deliberations and decision-making have been informed by the guidance provided by state and local health officials, the Office of Catholic Schools, and input from experts in the field. We are grateful for the feedback provided by faculty, staff and parents which has helped us gain a broad understanding of community perceptions, needs, and interests.

The Continuity of Mission Task Force remains focused on two key objectives: 1) ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, faculty and staff and 2) providing an exemplary educational experience rooted in our Catholic faith that fosters the development of the whole child.

After extensive consultation and discussion, we are pleased to announce our re-opening plan for the new year. It is important that I share that this plan represents our “baseline” and is subject to change during the year. We will continue to monitor conditions and modify our approach as necessary. With this perspective in mind, it may be helpful to consider this plan as representative of the opening of the school year, recognizing that we will need to be flexible and adapt as necessary. While it remains our goal to provide as much in-person instruction for students as possible, the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff will remain our top priority. In this regard, we will continue to adhere to the guidance provided by state and local health officials as well as the Office of Catholic Schools and adjust our plan accordingly.

Although eligible to do so, All Saints Catholic School is not applying for an “intent to vary” from the 6-foot physical distancing guidance. This decision has been driven first and foremost by our recognition of the current spread of COVID-19 in our geographic location and the research and consultation completed by the Task Force. We believe that this is the most prudent approach for this moment in time.

### **Health Mitigation Strategies**

Our goal as a school community is to minimize the potential for the transmission of COVID—19 in our building to the greatest extent possible. In support of that objective, we will implement the following procedures.

- Daily health screenings for all students, faculty, staff and visitors
- Limiting parent and visitor access to the building
- Limiting the mixing of student groups throughout the school day
- Wearing of face coverings (masks)

Wearing of masks will be *required* for all adults in the building and for students in grades 4-8. Students in grades K-3 will be *highly encouraged* to wear them throughout

the day and *expected* to do so when physical distancing is not feasible, during transitions, and whenever actively participating in the classroom. Intermittent mask breaks may occur when students are working independently within their classrooms.

Please know that we understand that this procedure will require a period of adjustment for students, faculty and staff. We also recognize that some students will find it more difficult to wear a mask than others due to allergies or special needs and, as such, this knowledge will inform our approach and expectation for these students.

- Water bottle filling stations are being installed throughout the building so that students will no longer need to use the existing fountains
- Daily cleaning protocols of all classrooms and contact surfaces
- Weekly deep cleaning of the building through electrostatic treatment of surfaces
- Increased ventilation in classrooms and throughout the building
- Use of shields in meeting spaces, i.e. front office, administrative offices, nurse's office, etc.

### **Responding to COVID-19 Cases in our Community**

Parents will be required to notify the school immediately if their child or family member exhibits any symptoms of COVID-19. In the event that there is a positive case within our school community, our response will be determined in consultation with the Prince William County Health Department and the Office of Catholic Schools.

The room adjacent to the Nurse's Office, formerly the Counselor's Office, will now serve as our Isolation Room for any individuals in our community exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Proximity to the old breezeway entrance located near the Parish Activity Center will allow for easy exit from the building so as to reduce the potential for transmission within the school.

### **Instructional Schedule**

Since we will be adhering to the 6-foot physical distancing requirement, it will not be feasible for the entire student body to be present on campus at the same time due to both building and staffing limitations. However, after review of research and guidance provided by state and educational officials, we have prioritized in-person instruction for our youngest learners.

- **In-Person Learning: Grades K-2**

*Students in grades K-2 will receive four days of in-person instruction per week, i.e. Monday - Thursday.*

By dividing each class in half and assigning them to two classrooms, the school will be able to adhere to the 6-foot physical distancing requirement. During in-person instruction, each class will be divided into two groups: the Blue Cohort and the White Cohort, named for our school colors. For example, K1-Blue and K1-White. The homeroom teacher and instructional assistant will work closely as a team with the teacher providing instruction and the assistant offering reinforcement and support to the students. With the classrooms co-located, the teacher and assistant will travel between the two rooms throughout the day to meet the needs of their students. To accomplish this goal, we will be using the Pre-Kindergarten classrooms as well as four classrooms in the old wing for the expanded K-2 program. In support of this change, grades 4-5 will move to the middle school wing for the 2020-2021 academic year.

- **Blended Learning: Grades 3-8**

*Students in grades 3-8 will receive two days of in-person instruction per week.*

Each class will be divided into two groups. The Blue Cohort will attend school on Mondays and Wednesdays. The White Cohort will attend school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students in these grade levels will participate in virtual learning on days when they are not present for in-person instruction. Class and cohort assignments will be forthcoming.

- **eLearning Fridays: K-8**

*All students in grades K-8 will participate in eLearning (distance learning) every Friday.*

Each Friday will be allocated for student completion of independent work that reinforces the learning that occurred earlier in the week. Faculty members will participate in lesson planning, assessment of learning, collaboration and professional development activities designed to sustain the complexity of hybrid learning. Additionally, more extensive cleaning of the building will occur each Friday while the students are participating in eLearning.

- **Virtual Learning Option: Grades K-8**

We understand that some families are not yet ready for their child to return to school and would prefer an eLearning option. We are looking forward to providing additional details in the weeks ahead about our virtual learning program for families who prefer not to participate in the in-person instruction option.

## **Special Subjects & Middle School Program**

In an effort to minimize the mixing of student groups within the building, special subject teachers for all grade levels will provide instruction in the homeroom classrooms rather than the special subject rooms with the exception of P.E. Additionally, middle school teachers will rotate from class to class throughout the day with students remaining in their homeroom.

## **Technology**

*All students in grades 3-8 will be provided a Chromebook for use at home and in school.*

Additionally, All Saints will be utilizing Schoology, a learning management system that will allow for a more seamless transition between in-person instruction and eLearning. We are currently exploring ways that we can further leverage technology to allow for synchronous learning for all of our students by allowing those who are at home to view and participate in live lessons broadcast from the classroom.

I wish to thank the many parents who participated in the Reopening School Survey two weeks ago. The responses we received from the community informed our process and enhanced our planning. A summary of the survey results can be found at the following link.

[Reopening of School - Parent Survey Results](#)

Although we are still refining many of the details that will help our students, faculty and staff safely navigate the school day at All Saints, I recognize the priority of sharing with you the

instructional schedule for 2020-2021 at this time. Please know that there will be many more details to be announced in the weeks ahead.

There is much yet to be done as we continue to rally as a school community to prepare for the new year. Nevertheless, what we have accomplished thus far has only been possible through the great dedication of the members of the Task Force, the commitment of our faculty and staff, and the support of our entire community. Although the path ahead appears daunting at times, I am confident that we will continue to thoughtfully and prayerfully work through the challenges ahead, all for the benefit of the children entrusted to our care.

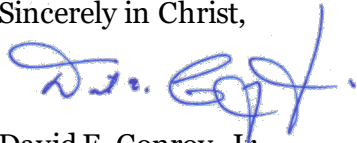
Next week we will forward to you an *Enrollment Commitment Form* by which you will be asked to confirm whether you wish for your child to attend in-person instruction or eLearning. This information will be very important for our planning and enable us to finalize arrangements so that we can support all of our student learners.

Through the years, at All Saints we have been intentional in creating an environment of high expectations where students are challenged while feeling nurtured and encouraged. Our students know that they are loved and cared for by the administration, faculty and staff. Our capacity to deliver this experience day after day will enable us to “soften the edges” of the many procedures that will surround life within our building as together we create a new normal. All Saints will continue to be a place where we focus on the development of the whole child, always doing so in a joy-filled and ever hopeful manner. While our circumstances have changed, the shared faith and relationships upon which our community has been built remain a firm foundation, one which will see us through this moment and from which we will emerge even stronger.

As always, should you have any questions or wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to let me know.

*With God all Things Are Possible!*

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. E. Conroy, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

David E. Conroy, Jr.  
Principal