



8/24/2020

Hello All Saints Families,

I wanted to reach out concerning some of the new health procedures for welcoming everyone back to the school building for the 2020-2021 school year. I am looking forward to sharing the responsibilities with all of you to provide the students with a safe, positive and successful learning experience. I wanted to review and highlight the most important factors in limiting the transmission of SARS-COV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. We have planned our reopening to mitigate the risk of exposure for all persons entering the school. I hope a lot of this information will mimic your healthy behaviors at home and complement your discussions with your children about the changes to expect this school year

In accordance with the CDC's most recent guidelines and the newest understanding of the virus, there are a few daily routines that I strongly encourage all families to consider making a regular part of each student's day. **1), Monitor your children for signs of infectious illness every day.** I realize this is a task parents do without thinking about it, but during this crucial time, it is helpful to acknowledge any change in a child's complaints or physical being. We will have seasonal allergies starting and other common colds and viruses. It would be very helpful if you could take a few minutes to let me know of any of these type of symptoms in advance; via email or a phone call. The school will provide a daily temp check for all persons on entry to the building. We also have a very efficient plan to check student temps at carpool arrival. I will be providing videos on all these preventive measures prior to the start of school. Also, I have included a Planning Checklist, from the CDC, for "parents preparing for the return to school". It would be helpful to review and let me know of any concerns or questions.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Back-to-School-Planning-for-In-Person-Clauses.pdf>

2) Face coverings are another important measure. . The use of face coverings is a key public health measure to decrease viral spread because the coronavirus is primarily transmitted person to person via respiratory spray. When a person coughs, sneezes, or talks a spray of droplets enter the air. Wearing a mask is showing respect for others and protecting them from possibly being infected from an unknown source. This is one layer of protection in helping lessen the spread of illnesses and disease. There is a very informative document from a press release on July 16th from the American College of Chest Physicians, American Lung Association, American Thoracic Society and COPD Foundation in response to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation for facial coverings to be worn in public settings during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic: it may be helpful to answer some of your questions and validate the importance of face coverings. They also discuss face shields for children. All Saints will not allow Masks with valves, or Gaiter style masks, we are asking masks to be in

line with CDC guidelines with 3 ply and earloops. I welcome any concerns or conversations concerning face coverings at school.

<https://www.lung.org/media/press-releases/accp-ala-ats-copd-foundation-urge-masks-for-all>

3) Social distancing is also a crucial measure. We have prepared a safe and comfortable space for teachers and students so that they can concentrate on maintaining the highest standards of an All Saints Catholic School education. I think we can all agree that the further away you are from an infected person, the less likely you are to get a virus. We are using the physical distancing of six feet guidance as another important layer to risk mitigation for all persons within our building. The faculty and staff will be asked to wear a face covering at all times. The students may be given intermittent breaks in class when working independently. We will be asking for face coverings to be worn if a six foot distance cannot be maintained. This will occur mostly during bathroom breaks and in the common areas, such as the hallways and entries. There will be signage on the floors and sidewalks as reminders of physical distancing. The schedule of breaks, recess, etc. is being taken into account to lessen the number of students in the hallway at one time. They will have outdoor recess and PE time to play without face coverings. We will encourage maintenance of physical distancing during this time.

I look forward to the reopening of our school and I hope that your children will be excited to return as well. We have incorporated the most important aspects of health and safety for everyone involved. I will continue to pray that this school year will include not only a safe and healthy school environment, but also a growth of commitment to our Catholic faith and values. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,
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