



St. Patricia School

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Character • Academics • Compassion • Values

GREETINGS ST. PATRICIA FAMILIES!

I hope that your summer is going well and that everyone is safe and healthy. I have been receiving many calls and emails with your questions for the school's reopening plans for the 2020/2021 school year. I am currently working hard with the Health & Safety and Academic Teams to devise a comprehensive plan that includes cleaning, safety protocol, what a school day will look like, curriculum, and so much more. This plan is part of the Reopening Certification required by the Archdiocese of Chicago and is due by August 10th.

What I can share today is the following:

The Health & Safety Team met on Tuesday evening. There are seven members of the team, including a parent member. We discussed PPE & Equipment, Daily sanitizing & cleaning of classroom/school, arrival & dismissal, inside traffic flow, and infection protocol. Currently our Health & Safety plan is in the draft stage, with hopes to complete it by early next week.

1. Masks

All students, teachers, and staff members are required to wear masks in school. Each student will be required to bring two clean masks to school each day. These masks can be cloth, paper, disposable, etc. If a student comes to school without a mask or something happens to the mask a student brings, there will be emergency masks available at the office.

The plan includes mask breaks in the form of outside classes, recess, PE, etc. with social distancing. As we know, it is very difficult to wear masks continuously all day without a break.

At mask breaks, students will be required to put their mask in a labeled paper bag. They will be taught how to remove the mask and sanitize in between mask use.

2. Air Conditioning

Due to three very generous Parents/Parishioners we are working on supplying each classroom with air conditioning for the beginning of the school year. This is a very expensive endeavor for St. Patricia. If you wish to help with the cost and would like to donate to the Air Conditioning fund, please contact me or the school office at (708) 598-8200.

3. Arrival & Dismissal

Our Arrival & Dismissal will look very different this year due to COVID. We will start Arrival in the parking lot at 7:30 am. Each car will pull up to a station, two staff members will ask each child if they have any symptoms, temperatures will be taken, the student will then be sent to either the main doors or the Primary doors depending on their grade level to have their hands sanitized. They will then go directly to their classroom where their teacher will be waiting. Classes will not begin until a majority of the students arrive. Parents are not allowed to leave the car or walk their child to the door as per Archdiocese guidelines.

Dismissal will be completed one cohort at a time until all students are dismissed. Cars will then be able to leave the parking lot.

There will be an exact map and explanation given in a later update.

4. Lunch

Students will eat their lunch with their cohort in the classroom. Students may remove their masks for lunch but must social distance. If a cohort is large, students will be separated and moved to a sanitized room with an adult supervisor to eat lunch and to allow for social distancing.

5. Recess

Cohorts will be allowed recess if the weather permits on the parking lot. Students will be able to take off their masks for recess, but must observe social distancing rules. Students must stay with their cohort and not interact with other cohorts on the playground. Recess equipment is reserved, and may only be used by the assigned cohort. All equipment will be sanitized after use.

6. Computers/1:1

Earlier this summer I sent a survey asking your thoughts on going 1:1 in the up-coming school year. Many parents responded that they could not take on the cost of a Chromebook at this time, and many said that they had already purchased a computer for their child during the stay at home order. In addition there is currently a lack of available Chromebooks to purchase due to back orders. It has been decided to put the 1:1 plan on hold temporarily. However, if we should need to return to remote learning, the school does have Chromebooks that we could loan to any family that is in need.



7. Academics

The Academics team, that includes many of our teachers, has been attending webinars and meetings to plan the school year. To streamline our remote systems, we will be using Google Classroom/ Google Suite for all grades Pk-8. The primary students will also have access to See Saw which interacts with Google Classroom. Teachers will be teaching through the Zoom platform so that there is constant interaction with students and teacher. We are also working on our website and webpages to make the format easier to navigate. The teachers have been attending classes and training on remote learning throughout the summer and will have even more training before the beginning of the school year. I am confident that this will be a much easier transition that it was in March.

Of course we are hoping that we will not need to return to the remote teaching platform, however, we feel we need to be prepared in the event that it is necessary to return.

The teachers and I are aware that our students will be returning to school at levels different from the expectations we had in the past. The teachers are prepared to meet the students where they are academically and move forward from that mark. Our focus will be on the core subjects of math, reading, language arts, science, social studies and religion.

Students will receive art, PE, computers, music and Spanish. Teachers will pull- in to the classrooms for these subjects as much as possible. If students have many teachers such as Jr. High, the teachers will move from cohort to cohort. Students will remain in the classrooms.

8. Science

The school has purchased a new science series from McGraw-Hill that has both in class components and online components. The teachers are excited to dive into the new series.

The Reopening Plan in its entirety will be shared with you soon. Once St. Patricia School is certified through the Archdiocese, I will post our completed plan for returning to school. I will continue to update you frequently and try to answer your questions as best as I can. Your continued support and patience is greatly appreciated.

Please enjoy the weekend. Many blessings for your continued safety & health.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Nowinski