



## Return to School for 2020

Hello Everyone,

I have met with the archdiocese several times during the last few weeks. After much discussion, new guidelines were issued this past Friday. I met with my Health and Safety team (Mrs. Fitzpatrick, Ms. Morrow, Ms. Prieto, and Ms. Reale) today and we have adapted the guidelines to fit the needs of our students and staff.

The archdiocese has advised us that all students will return in September for full day classes and full weeks. There are no plans at this time (guidelines are ever changing) for a virtual return or a hybrid return (part home, part in school). With this in mind, I want to share what we have worked out.

**Partnership:** Together we will work to keep your children and ourselves safe. We ask that you monitor your child's health daily. If your child is experiencing **fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea,** you will need to keep your child home until medically cleared to return to school.

**Morning Arrival:** Students will exit cars, have their temperature checked, sanitize their hands, and immediately go into school to their classroom. Bus students will exit the bus, have their temperature checked, sanitize their hands, and go into school by way of the gym to their classroom. Should there be a questionable temperature, the student will go to the designated room in the school (by the main office) and await parent pick up. Car riders will have their parent wait until they have passed the temperature check.

**Dismissal:** We will dismiss every day as we do on inclement weather days. One bus will be called at a time and students will be taken out to their bus. Car riders will be dismissed and employing safe distancing, move through the gym to their parent's parked car. CARES will be called last and head into the gym.

**Classrooms:** Students will stay with their class (their cohort) and not mix with other classes. Prayer Partners will continue but will be virtual. Special teachers (Art, Music, Spanish, Library, and Tech) will travel to the classrooms instead of the students traveling to them. At this time,

library books will not be sent home. Gym classes will be held outside if possible or safely in the gym.

**Recess:** Students will sanitize their hands, go to recess and play with their cohort. They will exit the building one cohort at a time. Each class will have their own playground toys which will be sanitized when they return to the classroom. No equipment from home please. Students will sanitize their hands when they head back into school.

**Lunch:** Students will eat lunch in their classrooms.

**Pretzels:** The pretzels will be bagged individually at the pretzel factory. Mrs. Johnston will be sending you the forms for ordering soon.

**Good Weather:** Students will have classes outside whenever possible and eat lunch outside as well. We suggest that you send a towel for your child to sit on when they are outside. The towel will go home every Friday to be washed.

**Closed:** The playground and the water fountains will be closed. A water bottle should be sent in for your child. Please no metal bottles.

**Food and Special Toys:** Food may not be shared between students. Students are not to bring in toys etc from home (unless it is for show and tell).

**Birthdays:** We will announce your child's birthday as we have always done. Prepackaged individual treats may be brought in for your child's class. We would like the treat to be sent in 3 days prior to the birthday. Children will not be visiting other classrooms, teachers with their goodies.

**Restrooms:** Lower grade teachers will take their classes to the restroom and monitor how many students are in there at one time. There may not be more than 2 children in a bathroom. For children who need to go to the restroom without a full class, we will have special passes that are magnetic and the student will post it on the door so others will know how many are in the bathroom.

**Mass:** We will continue to have classes "attend" **Daily Mass**. We will be streaming a Mass to those classes. For **First Friday** we will have a grade prepare a prayer service which will be in the gym and live streamed to the other classes and the parents.

**Opening Celebration on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>:** We are planning a prayer service in the parking lot at 10 AM. The entire student body will sit with their class safely distanced from one another and other classes. Parents will be invited to attend and sit in their lawn chairs by the rectory area.

We will announce the awards for each class (from June) and wish Mrs. Byrnes a happy retirement.

**CARES:** Ms. Morrow will be sending home directives about CARES.

**Video:** We plan to make a short video featuring the team so you can familiarize your child with what new plans will look like.

**Busing:** No directives yet from the school districts.

**Cleaning:** We will have a team routinely sanitizing the high touch areas. At the end of each day, the staff will clean the classrooms. Our cleaning service will continue as it has in the past with cleaning the school.

**REP:** The REP program will be virtual until January and it will be reassessed at that time.

**CYO:** No directives yet.

**Third Grade:** They are a large class of 25 so they are being moved to the art room for this school year. The painting and set up has already begun.

**Preschool and Kindergarten:** Knowing how difficult it is for these children to wear a mask, we are installing a Plexiglas area at each round table so that the 3 children sitting at a table will be safe.

**Staggered Start:** We would like to stagger the number of students in the school for the first two days so we can walk them through the new plans.

**Tuesday 9/1- Grades to report:**

- PreK (Meet and Greet -8:00 to 11:30)
- Kdg. (Meet and Greet- 8:00 to 11:30)
- 1<sup>st</sup>
- 4A
- 6<sup>th</sup>
- 7<sup>th</sup>

**Wednesday 9/2- Grade to Report:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 4B

- 5<sup>th</sup>
- 8<sup>th</sup>

**Thursday 9/3-** all students report.

**Masks and Shields:** Teachers will wear shields so that the students can hear them properly and see their facial expressions. Students will wear masks when they travel through the school, in their classroom or outside if social distancing is not able to be maintained.

Thank you for your support and confidence. We will keep you informed if plans change and areas need to be refined.

God's Graces to you,

Mary Ann