



## ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

Dear Parents of St. Joseph School,

First, we want to thank you for your collaboration and how you handled the sudden closing of our school this past Spring. Your commitment to Catholic education became clearly evident and we all recognized the need to provide as much stability for our children as possible. Please know that we have worked tirelessly this summer to put in place protocols that will allow us to offer onsite instruction beginning August 17, 2020. We are currently following the directives established by the Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas Department of Education and the Diocese of Little Rock. Our goal will be to provide as safe an experience as possible with the health and well-being of your child at the forefront of our priorities. That being said, we would like to cover several topics and questions you may have concerning the reopening of school.

### **What is the first day of school for students?**

Monday, August 17, 2020 as originally planned. Our school calendar is posted on our website at [stjosephconway.org](http://stjosephconway.org).

### **Who will be required to wear face coverings?**

Currently, the ADH and CDC recommend all individuals over the age of 10. At SJS we will require all faculty and staff and students in grades 7-12. Student masks will be worn to school and can be removed once the student is in his/her classroom. When students change classes/go to lunch they will be required to wear their mask. Of course, if parents desire their child to wear a mask all day we certainly welcome that decision. As always, the mask requirement will be based upon the current data and recommendations when August rolls around.

### **What will drop off and pick up look like?**

Additional time will be allotted for both since every student will have a temperature check before entering the building. Pick up will be staggered so that we can adhere to distancing requirements. Certainly, allowances will be made for tardies, if needed.

### **Will social distancing guidelines be observed?**

We have removed extraneous furnishings in each classroom to allow for 6 foot spacing where feasible and all desks will face forward. In classrooms where tables are utilized, we have purchased Plexiglas sneezeguards that will separate students. High school hallways will be one-way and the entire Spiritan Center Hall will be utilized for serving lunch.

**Will students at the Elementary and Middle School have recess?**

Yes. There will be outdoor playtime with restrictions that limit the number of students. Recesses will be staggered to accommodate social distancing.

**What special cleaning and sanitizing procedures will be in place?**

- Handwashing instruction delivered to all faculty, staff and students. Automatic hand sanitizing dispensers have been purchased and will be installed outside each classroom and placed strategically around all three campuses, the gym and the cafeteria.
- Loaner chromebooks cleaned and sanitized after use.
- Disinfecting foggers have been purchased and will be utilized on all campuses
- Frequently touched areas such as door handles, crash bars, water fountains, bathroom faucets, and desks will be cleaned frequently during the day. We are considering hiring a full time individual to visit each campus daily in order to ensure frequent sanitizing.
- Disinfecting wipes and sprays will be used in each individual classroom multiple times during the day.
- Each student will be asked to take home personal items each day to be cleaned and there will be no sharing of toys, books, electronic devices, etc.

**Will students and staff be screened daily?**

Yes. We have purchased infrared thermometers for carrying out this task. In addition, no staff/student will be allowed on campus if they have a temperature of 100.4\* or above or have had a temperature in the last 48 hours, a cough or a sore throat.

**What will happen if an individual becomes sick during the day or tests positive for Covid-19?**

Each campus has designated a holding area for the individual until they can be safely transported home or to a health care facility. This holding area will be cleaned and disinfected after each use. If a positive diagnosis occurs, we will contact ADH and follow the most up to date recommendations. This will include the possibility for closing 1-2 days for disinfection and individuals who may have been within 6 feet without face coverings will be notified to stay at home and monitor.

**What protocols are in place to maintain a healthy operation?**

- Flexible leave and absentee policies will be in place in order to reinforce staying at home if an individual is sick with anything.
- Nurse Kim Nutt will log daily sick room activity and look for trends within our school population
- School Counselors and Pastors will regularly support and address ongoing issues with students, staff and families
- An individual will be designated as the Covid-19 contact person should questions or concerns arise. This individual is Diane Wolfe [dwolfe@sjbulldogs.org](mailto:dwolfe@sjbulldogs.org) or 501-513-6808

**Will we be able to have athletics including Pee-Wee?**

This is a decision that the Arkansas Activities Association will have jurisdiction over and we will follow the same protocols for Pee-Wee activities. At this time no contact sports are being allowed but again, these decisions are fluid and based on current ADH recommendations.

**Will students still be offered Mass?**

Yes. At this time we may be looking at 2-3 student Masses each week in order to follow spacing guidelines.

**What happens if we have mandatory school closures again?**

We have made software subscription purchases to allow for an easier delivery of online instruction. In addition, our faculty will receive additional professional development this summer in order to become more fluent in delivering an online curriculum. We have also made provisions to train, educate and work with parents so that the best and easiest format will be available. We want this to be smooth and easy for parents and teachers will be far more accessible to parents and students alike.

Additional information about our school reopening plan is attached with this email. We felt a FAQ format might be easier to read and follow. We strongly encourage you to reading our entire plan so that you know we have tried to cover all requirements and in addition, we are trying to accommodate you as a parent. We know these are challenging times and we are seeking ways to make this not only easier for you but also keep our children safe.

God Bless,

Diane Wolfe

Teri Breeding

Matthew Tucker

Courtney Pope