

Return to School Plan for 2020/2021

Here is a brief synopsis of some changes that will occur this year, in order to be in compliance and reopen for in-person instruction. Please keep in mind that these are subject to change with state guidelines.

Before School Begins:

- Ensure that your family has a plan ready in case your child has to stay home due to illness or an unexpected school closure
- Buy your child a mask or face covering and help them get used to wearing it. As per PDE guidelines for reopening for in-person instruction, masks must be worn upon entering the building and whenever moving around in the halls. Students do not have to wear masks when they are seated and socially distanced in their classrooms.
- Have a positive attitude and know that we are doing everything we can to ensure your child's safety and education while staying in compliance with health guidelines

School Procedures: Arrival & Morning Latchkey

- Latchkey will still be available starting at 7:00 AM. They will social distance in the cafeteria.
- Please do not bring your children to school any earlier than necessary.
- All students and staff will have their temperatures taken before entering the building. A temp of 100.4 or higher will require a minimum of two days out of school. You must be fever free – without the aid of medications – for at least 24 hours before returning.
- Students will go to their classrooms at 7:45, instead of staying in the cafeteria.
- Breakfast will not be served this year. If you choose, your child may pack a light breakfast to eat in the cafeteria before they go to their classroom. Students must be done eating by 8:15.
- Students arriving late (after 8:25) must use the entrance near the school office so that they can have their temperature checked before going to class.

School Procedures: During the School Day

- Students will remain in their classrooms for most of the day. Special classes, such as art and music, will be held in their homerooms.
- An extra lunch period has been added so that the students may still utilize the cafeteria to eat. They will be spread apart, seated on one side of the tables.
- Recess will be held as usual. Students will go outside as long as weather permits.
- Water fountains will not be available for individual drinks, however, students are permitted to have a water bottle with them during the day. We have purchased two water fountains that have bottle fillers. Please send a full bottle with your child each day to help ease the wait time at the fountains. Water bottles should have a removable top so that they can be filled without touching the mouth part to the fountain.
- Students will not be changing clothes for gym classes. They will be permitted to wear sneakers to school on their designated gym days, even during months when the uniform code states dress shoes only.

- All grades will be utilizing Google Classroom online, even while we are having in-person instruction. This will enable everyone to become familiar with using it and lead to a seamless transition to hybrid or online learning if that happens in the future.

School Procedures: Mass

- School mass will be held at 9:00 AM on Fridays.
- We will alternate which grade(s) attend Mass at the church each week. The rest of the students will watch a live stream of the Mass from their classrooms.
- The church will not be open to anyone else during Mass, however, parents are welcome to watch live via our private Facebook group.
- Only the students who are going to the church will be required to wear Mass uniforms. You will receive a schedule and it will be listed on the school calendar.

School Procedures: Dismissal and After School Latchkey

- Bus students will dismiss as they always have
- Parent pick-up in the back will be drive-through only. Please do not park and get out of your cars. Students will be called down for dismissal as you arrive, and the teachers will escort the students safely to your car. Please be patient as we work this new procedure out. More details on this will be sent in your summer packets.
- Students must register to stay at after-school Latchkey. This is to ensure that we have adequate staffing to maintain social distancing. After school Latchkey is to be used for necessity only. Please do not let your children just stay to play with their friends. We have to maintain social distancing, and extra students will make that very difficult. There will be details on how to register for Latchkey in the summer packets.

Please know that the above policies may change before school starts. We are doing everything we can to ensure that we return for in-person instruction, and that means following all of the guidelines put forth by the PA Dept. of Education and the CDC. We cannot make up our own rules for things like masks and cleaning procedures. If their regulations change, we will change our policies accordingly.

I am very thankful to our Return to School committee for their many hours spent trying to think of every possible scenario we may encounter next year! We will continue to meet as situations change and new guidelines are put into effect. Please keep our committee, along with all of our teachers, in your prayers. This year will be a very challenging one, but we are committed to your children and to providing the excellent education they deserve. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Sincerely,

Sheila Clancy