



**SCHOOL
REOPENING
HIGHLIGHTS
2020-21**

GREETINGS!

August 5, 2020

Good Day,

I hope that this message finds you well.

As you know, *Catholic Schools Opening: Moving Forward Together*, the official guideline document for our school to reopen in September, has been sent to you by the Archdiocese of New York. I have been working on our SJS Local Implementation Plan (LIP), which I hope to finalize over the next few days, this then will be submitted for approval to our Regional Superintendent. In the meantime, I would like to provide you with some highlights from the SJS LIP that will answer many of your questions and hopefully alleviate many of your concerns, as our goal is to open SJS SAFELY. Please keep in mind that the SJS LIP has not been approved yet and these highlights may be subject to change by the Regional Superintendent. The SJS LIP is based upon documentation from the Health and Safety Task Force of the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, Center for Disease Control (CDC), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the State of New York and local government.

REOPENING HIGHLIGHTS

OVERVIEW

- The philosophy of the Archdiocesan plan is to allow for in-person schooling while maintaining health, safety and care for students, faculty and staff returning to our school building.
- Saint Joseph School is planning to open 5 days a week for in-school instruction for all students while maintaining social distancing. As the Parent Survey offered, parents can choose one of three learning models:
 - (1) Full In-School Five Day Model
 - (2) Hybrid Model (A Day-B Day) Model
 - (3) Full Remote Learning Model

*The parental choice of learning model must be maintained for the first quarter of the year, unless switching to Full Remote Learning, after communicating this choice in writing to the school principal.

OVERVIEW (continued)

- SJS will reopen in 4 stages, with Stage 1 beginning on the first day of school, Wednesday, September 9th, 2020. Please be advised new school hours are now 7:45 AM to 2:45 PM to alleviate congestion on Meadow Avenue. Please see Archdiocesan plan for a full description of the 4 stages, in which each new stage lessens restrictions.

SOCIAL DISTANCING & INSTRUCTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS at SJS

- Our daily routine, beginning with lining up for entrance into the building until dismissal, will adhere to the mandate that (masked) students maintain a distance of 6 feet from each other at all times.
- Grade-level cohorts may be in different Homeroom classrooms than were previously assigned.
- Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten will be in their specially designed classrooms, which adhere to their developmental needs, as well as, New York State regulations. For example, both Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classrooms have a full bathroom attached.
- Grades 1-8 will be placed based on logistical data, including the number of students, the size of the students and required desk size for each grade, to allow for social distancing. Grades with larger number of students, larger students and larger desks will be in larger classrooms.
- Grades with more than the number of students that can be safely socially distanced in one classroom may be split or instructed in a space large enough to accommodate them, such as Cafeteria. These areas will be outfitted with classroom equipment, such as Smart Boards and white boards.
- Special Subject Teachers will provide instruction in Homeroom classrooms to minimize cross-contamination and student movement. Students will also remain in their Homeroom classrooms while eating lunch.
- Recess will be staggered with social distancing guidelines in place.
- Technology will accommodate students who are adhering to the Hybrid Model or Full Remote Learning Model.

HEALTH and SAFETY at SJS

- Faculty, staff and students must stay home if they do not feel well, if they are within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time or if they have a fever of 100.0° F or higher.
- Parents are encouraged to take their children's temperature every day before coming to school. Students will be screened for temperature prior to admittance into the school building. Individuals found to have a temperature of 100.0° F or higher will not be permitted to enter the school building.
- Strict procedures will be maintained for individuals who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day. These will include isolation in the "Guardian Angel Room" and prompt dismissal from school. These individuals are advised to seek medical attention as soon as possible and will be able to reenter the school building after meeting three criteria:
 - (1) the individual must provide proof of two negative COVID-19 tests
 - (2) the individual must provide a note of medical clearance if the individual tests positive for COVID-19
 - (3) the individual must not have had a fever for at least three days

HEALTH and SAFETY at SJS (continued)

*The principal will be responsible for reporting protocols. All individuals must maintain HIPPA confidentiality regulations in regard to the symptomatic individual.

- Students will be expected to wear a facial mask. Breaks, preferably outdoors, during which students may remove their masks while maintaining social distancing of 6 feet will be incorporated into their schedule.
- Our school building will be cleaned and disinfected daily and regularly throughout the school day, giving special attention to frequently touched surfaces and bathrooms, using CDC approved cleaners.
- Sharing of personal materials will not be permitted. Objects that are shared inadvertently will be sanitized.
- Only non-touch, sensor driven water fountains may be used. Manual water fountains, lockers, hand air dryers and vending machines will not be used.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be located throughout the building. Children will be supervised when using hand sanitizer.
- Parents should review the CDC guidelines for hand washing. Proper hygiene and handwashing techniques will be reinforced and incentivized in school.
- Our goal is to maximize ventilation, windows and classroom doors will remain open as much as possible with use of our in-classroom, wall-mounted air conditioners and ceiling fans.

SIGNAGE

- Signage will be used to indicate distances of 6 feet for students, including during line up, in classrooms and movement through hallways.

SJS STRONGER THAN EVER!

In closing, I am praying that SJS will reopen; paramount are the children's safety, social-emotional well-being and academic progress. I believe that TOGETHER, we can achieve these goals for them.

God bless you and yours!

SJS Stronger Than Ever!

Respectfully,

Mary Ellen Sanchez

Principal, SJS

