



# ST. PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*A Stark County Catholic School*

303 South Main Street, North Canton, OH 44720 | (330) 494-0223 | [spsnorthcanton.org](http://spsnorthcanton.org)

## 2020 ST. PAUL SCHOOL REOPENING GUIDELINES

### RETURN TO SCHOOL OPTIONS FOR ST. PAUL SCHOOL STUDENTS:

*Option One:* Return to school for face to face classes with the safety guidelines listed below

*Option Two:* At home Remote Learning, description below

#### **Remote Learning:**

- Students will attend classes virtually through live-stream Google Meet lessons via Google Classroom from their regular classroom teachers occurring in real-time during the normal school hours (7:50am-2:35pm) with natural breaks given during snack, recess, lunch, and when there is no direct instruction occurring
  - Lessons will be recorded and posted online to Google Classroom for review if needed
  - Each homeroom will have a daily schedule posted to their Google Classroom with specific class start times and links to any lesson materials including notes and assignments
- Attendance will be taken throughout the day with active participation expected
  - Remote Learning students who are sick and unable to attend virtual classes will need to report their absence to the school office, just as if they were attending classes in the traditional manner
- Assignments will be due on the same schedule as students in the face to face classroom
- Academic honesty is expected at all times. Students are expected to complete their own assignments. Support from others may be needed at times but it should never involve someone else doing the work for the student, including parents, siblings, and friends.
- A school-issued Chromebook will be provided if needed
- A nine-week commitment is required for each quarter throughout the school year
- Home internet access will not be provided by St. Paul School and is the responsibility of the families choosing the Remote Learning option



#### **MASKS & FACE COVERINGS**

**All Staff:** Required to wear a face mask or face shield while at school, whenever around students or other staff; masks may be removed when alone

**All Students:** Face Mask or Face Covering REQUIRED when entering and exiting the school buildings during AM Drop-off and PM Pick-Up AND whenever social distancing is not possible

- K-8<sup>th</sup> grade students must wear their face mask throughout the school day with the exception of lunch, recess, and at “Mask Break” times at the teacher’s discretion when students are socially distant from each other

*\*A reusable cloth face mask and neck gaiter will be provided to all staff and students at the beginning of the school year. A breakaway lanyard will also be provided to each student to connect to their face mask to help prevent loss.*

*\*\*Any student arriving without a mask will be given a disposable mask to use for the day.*



## SYMPTOM ASSESSMENT & TEMPERATURE CHECKS

It is IMPERATIVE that students and their parents/caregivers conduct daily health checks prior to coming to school, which should include temperature checks and assessing for COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone with a temperature above 100°F or exhibiting any signs of illness should stay home.

Upon arrival at school, all students and staff will have their temperature taken. Student temperatures will be taken during morning homeroom. Any student or staff member with a temperature greater than 100°F will be sent home. Students may return to school when they have been fever-free, without the use of fever reducing medication, for a minimum of 24 hours.

### Symptoms of COVID-19:

*Symptoms range from mild to severe and may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.*

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea



## CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

Desks will be spaced 4’- 6’ apart where possible; rooms with tables, such as the middle school Science Lab, will have plexiglass or similar dividers separating students at tables.

Students will remain in their homeroom throughout the day with specials teachers and subject-specific teachers traveling to each homeroom. Students will remain with their homeroom cohort throughout the day with the exception of 7<sup>th</sup> grade Math, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math/Algebra I and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish as these classes contain a mixture of students from both homerooms. Desks will be cleaned with a CDC— approved COVID-19 disinfectant between class changes for these 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade classes.

Whenever possible, students will have their own supplies/equipment for the classroom including pencils, crayons, glue sticks, art supplies, manipulatives, etc. In the event that any resources are shared among students, they will be cleaned and disinfected in between uses.



## RECESS

Recess times will be limited to only two grade levels at a time with high touch surfaces wiped down in between different groups. Only same grade level students will share the same playground/recess space (i.e. swings and climbing structures vs. lower parking lot level). Students will be reminded to maintain social distance while on the playground. *Non-contact, socially distant play and activities will be encouraged.*

Students will use hand sanitizer before and after recess.



## LUNCH

Lunch will be consumed in the homeroom classroom daily.

Hot Lunch will continue to be offered on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Lunches will be in a “box lunch” format whenever possible. Our Hot Lunch Coordinator will deliver hot lunch to students in their homeroom classroom.



## WATER BOTTLES

All students will need to bring their own water bottle to school every day. Water bottles will be able to be refilled at our newly installed no-touch bottle filling stations. The traditional drinking fountain spigot will not be permitted to be used at this time.



## SANITIZATION

No-touch hand sanitizer dispensers are located in each classroom and also in the hallways next to each water fountain/bottle filling station. Students will be instructed to sanitize their hands whenever entering and exiting the classroom, including before and after lunch, recess, restroom breaks, etc.

All classrooms, restrooms, and hallways will be sanitized on a two-day rotating schedule using our Clorox 360 machine, a CDC approved electrostatic disinfectant. The disinfectant is effective on all surfaces for 48 hours. Additional cleaning procedures will take place throughout the school day.



## RESTROOM

Restroom breaks will be permitted as usual throughout the school day. Restrooms will have limited occupancy depending on the square footage of each restroom. Signs will be posted stating occupancy limits and promoting social distance.

Students will receive instruction in proper hand-washing techniques, including washing with soap and water for 20 seconds and the proper way to apply hand sanitizer. Signs will be posted with visual reminders of hand-washing and safe hygiene techniques.



## COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

Any student or staff member exhibiting potential symptoms of COVID-19 will be assessed by the school nurse and sent home if deemed necessary. Staff and students who start to show symptoms or have a temperature above 100°F while at school, will be isolated from others in a designated space while waiting to go home. Areas of the building occupied by the individual will be thoroughly sanitized. Any student or staff testing positive or presumed positive for COVID-19 must quarantine for 14 days, per the current guidance from the health department and the CDC. A doctor's Return to School/Work note is required to return to school after a positive COVID-19 test.

*\*The Stark County Health Department will identify through contact tracing if additional students and staff need to quarantine upon news of a positive test result within a classroom or school community.*



## MANDATED SCHOOL CLOSURE – REMOTE LEARNING FOR ALL

St. Paul School will remain open for face-to-face classes unless it is deemed necessary to close due to health and safety concerns from the Stark County Health Department, Ohio Department of Education, or the Governor of Ohio. If this is the case, we will move to Remote Learning for all students following the At-Home Remote Learning plan as listed under *Option Two* on page 1.



## VISITORS

School visitors and volunteers will only be permitted in extenuating circumstances with limited access.

Parents wishing to meet with a staff member are encouraged to hold a phone or video conference or communicate via email. Parents should contact the staff member directly to schedule a meeting time.



## SCHOOL MASS

Our weekly school Mass will continue to be celebrated on Tuesdays at 8:15am. Due to social distancing requirements, students will attend Mass in the church on an alternating schedule based on their grade level. Students not attending Mass in the church will watch the live-stream feed in their homeroom.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, school Mass will only be open to students and staff at this time. Visitors and guests will not be permitted. Family members will be able to watch and join in worship through the private live-stream link.



## LOCKERS/COAT HOOKS

Lockers and coat hooks will not be used for the start of the school year. Students will keep their backpack and other belongings (jacket, lunch, etc.) with them at their desk.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Will there be temperature checks for students and staff each day?**

Yes, as indicated in our plan, students' temperatures will be taken each day in their homeroom classrooms. If their temperature is above 100°F, they will be sent to the nurse for further evaluation. We ask that parents also take your students' temperature at home prior to coming to school so that you can catch a fever before they ever enter the classroom. If your student requires fever-reducing medication in order to come to school, they should remain at HOME.

### **Will all students be sent home to work online if there is an outbreak of COVID-19 in the school?**

Whether or not students will be sent home will be determined in consultation with the Stark County Health Department. If, however, the staff members of the school become ill and there are not enough teachers to properly staff classrooms, the school will take this into consideration.

### **What should I do if my child has been exposed or has a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19?**

Pursuant to Ohio Department of Health guidelines, families, caregivers and staff should notify the school if they have been exposed to COVID-19 or if they, or any members of their households, have been diagnosed with or presumed to have COVID-19. They also should notify the school if they are quarantined. Moreover, staff and students with known exposure to someone with diagnosed or presumed COVID-19 may be required to self-quarantine at home for 14 days in accordance with recommendations from the Stark County Health Department.

### **If it becomes necessary for my child to remain at home because they have been quarantined for two weeks, will they be able to attend school through remote learning?**

Yes, students who need to quarantine at home throughout the school year will be able to access their schoolwork through our Remote Learning option, as described in *Option Two* of our Reopening Plan. Students who have chosen to attend school in-person for the 2020-2021 school year who are required

to quarantine will not have to commit to Remote Learning for a nine-week period, but rather will only be using Remote Learning temporarily during their quarantine period.

**What if someone in the home gets the virus? Does the child have to stay at home for two weeks and isolate?**

If a child/adult has someone in their home with COVID-19 it will be necessary for them to follow the directives of the local health department, which is currently a 14-day quarantine. Because the directives change, it will be dependent upon the recommendations at that time.

**How does the school plan to social distance the classrooms?**

All student and staff desks in classrooms will be arranged to meet social distance requirements of 4-6 feet with 6 feet being the optimal distance when possible. The only exception to this is in the middle school science lab where students sit four to a table. These tables will have plexiglass dividers separating the students across from and next to each other.

**How will you keep students away from each other in the hallways and restroom?**

Student travel in the hallways will be as minimal as possible. When in the hallways, all students and staff members will be required to wear a face mask. When use of the restroom is necessary, students will be limited as to how many can use the restroom at one time.

**How will students be socially distanced on school bus transportation?**

Bus safety procedures are set by the public-school districts. When we hear about the protocols that specific school districts are using for safety in transportation, we will make sure to distribute this information to our families. Currently, our public-school districts are requiring all students to wear a face mask when riding the bus.

**My child prefers wearing a face shield instead of a face mask. Is this permissible?**

Face coverings are to be worn by all students and staff members when physical distancing is not possible. When traveling around the building, going to the restroom, walking in the hallway, etc.... students and staff will be required to wear a face mask. A face mask provides the maximum amount of protection. ~~However, when a student is at their desk, in the classroom, they are permitted to wear a face shield if your family chooses, since they will already be socially distanced from classmates.~~ *(Update 8/25/2020: Face Shields are not permitted to be worn by students in accordance with the Diocese of Youngstown Return to School Plan. Face Shields may be worn by teachers, if desired, while following all guidelines and requirements set forth from the Ohio Department of Health.)* When appropriate, teachers will allow “Mask Breaks” during times when students are seated at their desks and socially distanced from others.

**Is there a certain color face mask that is required?**

No, students can wear the face mask they feel comfortable with as long as it does not have any offensive or disruptive designs or references that are not aligned to our Catholic values.

**It seems that the school is making contingency plans for another closure. Are you going to be closing the school again?**

The school has every intention to maintain a normal five-day-a-week schedule. However, whether the school closes again will be determined by consulting with the following agencies, Stark County Health Department, Ohio Department of Education, the Catholic Diocese of Youngstown and the Governor of

Ohio. Because a decision like this may happen quickly, the school has been planning for contingency plans so that we are prepared at a moment's notice for remote learning.

**Will Latchkey be available this year?**

Yes, we have every intention to continue to provide after-school care to our families. We understand that many of our families rely on this service and safety protocols that will be followed during the school day will also carry over to our after-school latchkey program.

**Will sports still happen this year? If so, what will this look like?**

At this time, all sports activities have begun with safety protocols in place. The determination of what they will look like is regulated by the health department and the Ohio High School Athletic Association. This is changing on a daily basis. At this time, the school cannot answer exactly how they will look.

**Will after school activities occur (scouts, drama, etc.)?**

Each activity will be addressed individually as we move through the school year. It is our hope for our students to be able to have as close to a “normal” school year as possible, but we need to keep the safety and health of our students and staff at the forefront of all decisions.

**Will doors and windows be open as much as possible?**

Classroom doors will be kept open in order to provide additional ventilation and to minimize surfaces touched throughout the day. Windows may be open throughout the day whenever needed to allow for additional air circulation.

**If the students are bused to school, what is the screening process prior to them getting on the bus and how will you keep them safe on the bus?**

Each school district will have their own set of protocols for bus safety. Once students arrive at St. Paul, they will be expected to wear a mask and have their temperature taken as they enter the building. Please communicate with your local school transportation department to learn more about their safety protocols.

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*The following guidelines and policies have been developed with input from a committee of St. Paul School staff and parents using research and guidance documents from the Ohio Department of Education, American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control. St. Paul School understands that adjustments to this plan may need to be made based upon new information that may emerge. Moreover, the school will always consult with the Diocese of Youngstown and the Stark County Health Department.*