



ST. JAMES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

A Stark County Catholic School
400 W. Lisbon St., Waynesburg, OH 44688 | (330) 866-9556 | stjameschoolwaynesburg.org

July 23, 2020

Dear St. James Parents,

This letter is to inform St. James School parents/guardians of our restart plan for the 2020-21 school year. Based on the current guidelines from Governor DeWine, the Ohio Department of Education, The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Stark County Health Department, we are now able to announce our tentative plan.

Please understand that details are subject to change. The school, in cooperation with the Stark County Health Department, could elect at any time, to return to remote (online) learning if cases within the school (or county) begin to escalate to a severe risk level. However, at this time our goal is to share information to help families plan for the upcoming school year.

St. James School is committed to decreasing the likelihood of infection and keeping our community safe through additional hygiene, cleaning and safety procedures. Please understand that being in a school environment is a public place and a certain level of risk cannot be eliminated.

NOTE: We are delaying the start of school to Monday, August 31 for grades K-6. The new school year calendar is attached and can be found on our website at: starkcountycatholicschools.org/stjames_home.aspx

SAFETY PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING IN SCHOOL CLASSES:

Students should plan on attending school full days, with the following safety protocols and adjustments in place:

- **Before leaving home:** Parents are expected to perform a health check each morning to ensure an appropriate temperature (below 100 degrees) and the child is feeling well and not exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms before they get on a school bus or are dropped off at school. If a student is exhibiting any symptoms they are not to attend school until they are symptom free for 72 hours (without medication).
- **Transportation:** Face coverings will be required for all students, grades K-6, on bus transportation.
- **Face coverings:** Teachers and staff will wear face masks and/or shields unless they have medical issues that prevent wearing a mask.

Children in grades K-6 will be required to wear a mask when they enter the building and when they move around in the classroom or the building, unless they have a medical condition that prevents wearing one. The children will not be required to wear masks when working at their desks, eating lunch or during outdoor recess.

- **Temperature checks and screening:** All children will have temperature checks using infrared no touch thermometers every morning at the front door of the school. "Any student or staff member with a fever of 100.4 degrees or greater or symptoms of possible COVID-19 virus infection should not be present in school." (AAP). Any child with a fever will be quarantined until an adult arrives to take them home.



- Social Distancing: All classrooms will plan to maximize the greatest possible social distancing. We are small with plenty of space so desks will be placed 4-6 feet apart, facing the teacher.

Students will stay in the classroom for music and technology, rather than moving to another room.

- Lunch: Lunches will be grab and go. We are still undecided whether to eat in classrooms or separate into 2 different lunch groups in the cafeteria.
- Cleaning and Disinfection: Every classroom has hand sanitizer at the entrance to the room. The children will be instructed to use it when they enter and leave the room, and after they move around the room.

Teachers will sanitize Smartboard markers after each student uses a marker. Children will wash hands before and after eating lunch and when using the restroom. Staff will sanitize restrooms and common areas several times throughout the day. Desks, door handles, Smartboards, stair railings and commonly used items will be sanitized every evening.

- Latchkey Before and After School: The number of students will be limited to 15 in the group. The morning group will social distance while watching movies. The afternoon group will play outside as much as possible. When indoors they can use computers, work on crafts, play with toys, and chat with each other while social distancing.
- Water bottles: All children will be permitted to keep a water bottle at their desk to avoid germs at the drinking fountains. The children should bring fresh water each morning and take the water bottle home at the end of the day to be washed and refilled.



- Arrival and dismissal: Procedures will be refined to avoid congestion in any one area.
- Recess: Will be altered so playground areas are utilized safely and with fewer students at one time.

PROCEDURES FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING

- St. James is offering virtual learning to 8 students who have requested it due to health issues or parent preference. Our teachers and aides are completing training in Class Dojo (gr. K-2) and Google classroom (gr. 3-6). They will record the teacher giving instruction during the day. The videos and assignments will be uploaded and sent to virtual learners at the end of the school day so the students can complete the work at home the following day and turn it in online.
- The videos will allow virtual learners to feel connected to the teacher and stay current with the classroom curriculum. Every Friday they will be able to Zoom in for social time with their classmates. They will be able to Zoom in to the classroom for project presentations, show and tell and the Mass.
- Contact Mrs. Kettler by Friday, August 7 if you decide to choose this method of instruction. We will conduct training on virtual learning for parents and students who have chosen that option during the fourth week in August.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 330-323-6730. I am working to meet the needs of your family during this difficult time. Know that your safety and the safety of our staff is of the utmost importance. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks.

Peace be with you,

Kathy Kettler, Principal

