

St. Michael School 2020 Reopening

Dear St. Michael School Families,

When the pandemic closed our school in March, students and teachers were thrust into a remote environment overnight without the appropriate training or resources for distance learning to operate at its peak performance. During this time we feared implementing a rigid class schedule would impose yet another burden on students and families as they too were struggling to manage their own family lives. Although our teachers did a fantastic job coordinating lessons and classes for their students, it took an enormous amount of time and effort to figure out how to present the classwork to the students. However, the situation is much different now because we have had several months to plan for the possibility of going back into a remote environment. Our teachers have been and continue to participate in varied and diverse instructional technology training and workshops appropriate for the age of the students they teach. They are more prepared and confident than ever before to set up remote classrooms that effectively and efficiently deliver content, provide feedback, and address students' individual needs all while building a cohesive, faith-based learning community. Please note that families uncomfortable sending their child to school for any reason such as not feeling comfortable having their child go into a higher-risk situation or not having transportation provided to them from their local school district may choose to opt for a remote learning option. It is our hope that most or all of the students return for direct instruction, as we believe that children learn best when in school, however, we do understand there are mitigating circumstances and we will offer a remote option.

Option 1: Direct Instruction: This is a teacher-directed teaching method. This means that the teacher presents and delivers information to his or her students. Typically, the teacher will give explicit, guided instruction to the students everyday, 5 days a week.

Option 2: Remote Learning: Each classroom teacher will provide virtual instruction for the classes they teach. Details are continuing to be refined to offer the best age-appropriate remote options for students who cannot physically be in school.

WE WILL NEED TO KNOW BY AUGUST 1, 2020 IF YOU DECIDE ON OPTION 2-REMOTE LEARNING. Please email dcornelius@youngstowndiocese.org with your intention to enroll in Option 2: Remote Learning by August 1. A waiver designating your choice will be required prior to the start of school. Those intending to enroll in Option 2: Direct Instruction need not email.

WE WILL ALSO NEED TO KNOW BY AUGUST 1, 2020 IF YOU WILL BE UTILIZING AFTERCARE.

FIRST DAY OF CLASSES

After much discussion with faculty and SMS Back-to-School task force, we have decided to delay the start of school. The task force and faculty reviewed guidance documents from the Centers for Disease Control, American Academy of Pediatrics, Ohio's Reset and Restart Education, the Diocese of Youngstown Office of Catholic Schools guidelines, along with recommendations from the Stark County Health Department. With input from the Task Force a specific plan for St. Michael School was created and approved by our superintendent.

- Monday, August 24, **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS in Grades 1-8 whose last name begins with A-L**
- Tuesday, August 25, **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS in Grades 1-8 whose last name begins with M-Z**
- Wednesday, August 26, **ALL STUDENTS Grades 1-8 return to school.**

Kindergarten Students:

August 24-28 Kindergarten Readiness Testing and Orientation - Kindergarten teachers will contact you in early August with your child's scheduled time for testing.

Monday, August 31- **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL** for ALL Kindergarten students

Preschool Students:

School will begin the Tuesday after Labor Day, September 8. Preschool teachers will contact you for the day and time.

FACE COVERINGS

Cloth face coverings are to be worn by all students and staff when physical distancing is not possible, especially when entering and exiting the school. K-2 students may remove their face mask once inside their classroom and seated at their desks. Grade 3-8 students must wear a face mask throughout the school day with the exception of lunch, recess, and at "Mask Break" times at the discretion of the teacher when students are socially distant from one another. When traveling around the building, all students will be required to wear a mask. Face coverings should be non-distracting and free of writing and slogans. Face coverings must be sanitized on a

regular basis. It is highly recommended that students carry extra face masks in their backpack. Thanks to the Sam Ranalli Family and Paramount-Elite, ICS, SMS gaiter masks have been ordered for all students.

WATER FOUNTAINS/WATER BOTTLES

To prevent germs from spreading, water fountains will not be used unless to fill up a water bottle. **All students will need to bring their own water bottle to school every day.** Please make this a daily routine, this should be done the night before so it is not forgotten in the morning.

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

Desks will be spaced 4'-6' apart where possible. Students will remain in their homeroom throughout the day with special teachers and subject-specific teachers traveling to each homeroom. Teachers will give several breaks to students to use the restroom, wash hands, and walk around the classroom.

RECESS

Staff will accommodate for recess by utilizing different areas of the school; perhaps use the ball field, the area where the convent and the rectory were once located. Usage of these areas will be scheduled so students can be socially distant.

LUNCH

Lunch will be eaten in the classroom, unless an outdoor space or cafeteria space is available where students can remain 4-6 feet apart. In order to minimize vendors coming into our school to deliver food or milk, we have discontinued our hot lunch program and distributing milk. **Students will need to bring a packed lunch and drink every day since our cafeteria will be closed. We request that no canned pop or drinks in glass bottles be sent to school. Forgotten lunches should be dropped off at the table outside the office with your child's full name, grade, and teacher clearly marked. PLEASE NOTE: Our cafeteria and kitchen is closed and all students need a packed lunch EVERY DAY.**

RESTROOMS

Restroom breaks will be permitted as usual throughout the 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.

VISITORS

For the safety of our students and staff, we will restrict visitors only to those persons essential to our educational program. If a student forgets something from home, a table will be set up for items to be dropped off. We ask that you clean the article before you drop off and it will also be cleaned before given to the teacher or student. Please clearly label the item with your child's first and last name, grade and teacher.

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

Unfortunately, social visits from alumni and other guests cannot be permitted at this time.

SCHOOL MASS

We still plan on having weekly mass but need to determine what our numbers are and if it will be necessary to have 2 masses on Wednesday to accommodate all of our students with social distancing. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, school mass will only be open to students and staff at this time. It is our hope that we can live stream the mass so that family members will be able to watch and join in worship through live-stream. More info to come.

UNIFORMS

We are eliminating ties from our school uniform for this year. In the past, ties have been required for mass days. After mass, students typically toss these into their backpacks, on the floors, etc. In an effort to eliminate the additional spread of germs, we are discontinuing ties at this time. We will re-evaluate this item in our uniform policy at a future date. The students may wear regular school uniforms to mass. Boys can wear a white oxford shirt or white or green polo. Girls should wear jumpers or skirts. Appropriate length shorts will be permitted for the warmer months. Please no short, shorts. Gym or tennis shoes MAY BE worn with uniforms. Loud or bright colors are NOT permitted, .i.e. red, purple, orange, lime green, etc. or flashing lights.

GYM CLASS

Students in grades 4-8 will be permitted to wear their gym uniform on their assigned gym day even if it's a mass day. More clarification to follow.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

ARRIVAL:

Bus riders will again be dropped off at the carport; there will be a staff member located at each entry point conducting visual wellness checks of all students upon arrival. Thermal temperature scanners will be located at all entry points. All students should enter the school wearing a face mask. Upon arrival students will be encouraged to sanitize their hands at one of the multiple hand sanitizing stations located throughout the building as well as in each classroom.

To minimize contact and encourage social distancing guidelines, students will not be permitted to congregate in hallways. Students who arrive at school between 7:30 am and 7:45 am should go directly to the classroom. All students will still be permitted to bring backpacks to school. However, backpacks should be cleaned and sanitized frequently.

DISMISSAL:

Bus riders should remain seated in their classrooms until they are called down to their bus over the PA system.

Car riders will be dismissed on a staggered schedule in order to ensure that hallways do not become overcrowded. Pre-assigned pick-up areas will be assigned before the start of school.

Students in grades K-2 will be dismissed at 2:30 pm

Students in grades 6-8 will be dismissed at 2:35 pm

Students in grades 3-5 will be dismissed at 2:40 pm

**Please keep in mind this plan may need to be altered.*

ALL FAMILIES ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN THEIR CARS DURING PICK UP.

Students will be dismissed to their vehicle in the order in which the vehicles are lined up. To ensure that this process is smooth and efficient, we will provide each family with a name placard that can be placed on the car visor or dashboard.

SCREENING AT HOME

Please keep in mind we are strongly encouraging all families to take their child's temperature daily before sending them to school. Anyone with a fever of 100 degrees or higher should stay home.

Students should be screened for COVID-19 symptoms prior to coming to school. If your child complains about not feeling well or exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 during

the school day he/she may be sent to the nurse's office to be evaluated. Teachers will take his/her temperature in the classroom with an infra-red thermometer.

School staff will also be asked to screen before leaving for school and to stay home if they have symptoms.

Temperatures will be taken on entrance into the building or classroom. The school will notify the Stark County Department of Health of confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19. Students and staff with confirmed cases of COVID-19 should notify the school through our ordinary absence procedures so that we can monitor the incidence of the disease in our school. If at any time a case is reported, parents will be notified and individual names will be kept confidential.

CLEANING /DISINFECTING GUIDELINES

St. Michael School will follow the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention cleaning and disinfecting guidelines.

The guidelines include requirements for cleaning high touchpoints (door handles, light switches, bathroom surfaces, etc.) at the school throughout the school day. The school has ordered individual hand sanitizing stations for every classroom.

SANITIZATION

No-touch foaming stations will be located in each classroom and also at all entrances. Students will be instructed to sanitize their hands whenever entering and exiting the classroom, including before and after lunch, recess, restroom breaks, etc.

More information to come. Blessings to all of you. Please stay healthy.

Ms. Claire Gatti

St. Michael School Principal