

St. Paul's Health and Safety Measures

Re-opening of School

2020-2021



A faith-filled community committed to the safety of your family.

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St. Paul Catholic School

1900 12th Street North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33704

www.stpaul1930.org

727-823-6144

Since 1930

July 13, 2020

Dear Parents,

St. Paul Catholic School is working to ensure that the school is safe and the faculty and staff are ready to re-open our school on Monday, August 10th. We have developed a comprehensive plan that addresses the safety and well-being of our children, faculty and staff during this time of Covid-19.

While Covid-19 has upended much of our lives, it has reinforced the value and importance of Catholic Education. Our mission remains stronger than ever before during these challenging times.

Mission Statement

Inspired by the charism of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, the mission of St. Paul Catholic School is to provide students with a foundation for life through faith, academics, and service and to assist students in developing their gifts and talents, so that they may fulfill the plan God has for their lives.

We know that having the children here at school is the best way to fulfill our mission. The pages that follow will explain how we will re-open St. Paul Catholic School and the plans for blended learning and distance learning. Again, our goal is to open the 2020-2021 school year and remain open for the duration of the year. However, as the pandemic is ever changing, we want to make sure you know we are prepared to handle each learning scenario.

May God bless each and every one of you and keep you safe and healthy.

Mrs. Genny Callier
Principal, St. Paul

St. Paul's Plan Overview

The Administration, Faculty and Staff of St. Paul School are committed to welcoming students and families back to a faith-filled and safe school community. Below you will find guidelines that will be implemented to ensure a successful 2020-2021 school year. Please note that this is a living document which will be revised according to guidelines issued by the CDC, the State of Florida, the Florida Department of Education, and other health agencies in consultation with the Office of Catholic Schools and Centers.

Entrance Protocols

- It is first and foremost important to **keep sick children home**.
- Students will be screened for symptoms at the morning drop-off, including temperature-taking. Students who display symptoms will get back in the car and go home.
- Students that walk or ride their bikes to school and show symptoms will be put in an isolation room and parents will be called to pick them up immediately.
- Due to Social Distancing, we will not gather on the Plaza in the morning for the prayer and pledge until further notice.
- Students in EC-3, EC-4, Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades will be dropped-off in front of school at the main entrance door.
- Students in grades 3rd, 4th and 5th will be dropped off at the plaza and will enter school going up the stairs on the south side of the building.
- Students in grades 6th, 7th, and 8th will also be dropped off at the plaza, but will enter school going up the stairs on the north side of the building via the gym.

Dismissal

- Dismissal procedures will remain the same with the exception of spacing the students as they are dismissed. Students will remain in a class line, leaving appropriate space between each other while they wait to be picked up. (We are also working on alternative plans and will let you know if we change the dismissal procedures.)

Absence

- Parents should report an absence no later than 8:30am to the school office.
- A child with symptoms of a common childhood illness should remain home from school for a day or more. **Children should be fever free without the use of over-the-counter medications for 36 hours.** (that is an increase from the previous guidelines of 24 hours fever free)
 1. Students will receive class content and assignments from teachers
 2. Any missed assessments may be made up upon the student's return to school.
- Students must observe a **14 – day quarantine per the CDC guidelines** if a household member has travelled to a Covid-19 hotspot, or knows they have been exposed to Covid-19.
 1. Once the school is notified, arrangements will be made for virtual learning for the two weeks at home.
 2. If materials are not with the student, the family may arrange for contact-free pick up at the school.

When a Student Becomes Ill at School

- Students will be sent to the Clinic.
- If a student has a temperature of 100 or more, parents will be called to immediately pick up their children.
- If a student is displaying symptoms of Covid-19, they will be monitored in an isolation room until parents can pick them up from school.
- If a student is diagnosed with a case of Covid-19, the school will follow the directions given by Local Health Department, in consultation with the Office of Catholic Schools and Centers.

Visitors

- St. Paul School will closely monitor access to our school facilities and limit the number of visitors granted access to the school. Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving other groups may be limited.
- All visitors will check in at the office, use the hand-sanitizer, and have their temperature taken. All visitors must wear a mask.

Student Expectations on Campus and in the Classrooms

- Students are to put their belongings away in their lockers and report to their classroom after being screened and given clearance to enter the school.
- Students in EC 3, 4 and Kindergarten will wash their hands with soap and water. Students in 1st through 8th grades will use hand sanitizer.
- Students age 4 and under are not allowed to wear a mask, as it is unsafe per the CDC.
- Students in Kindergarten through 3rd grades may wear a mask if they desire, but it is not mandatory at this time. There is a concern that with younger students, mandatory mask use will be counterproductive to containing risk as they will most likely touch the masks more so than older students. Masks can also hinder proper teaching of phonics, enunciation of words, spelling and social cues for younger students. (Masks must be a solid color and not a distraction)
- Students in grades 4th through 8th must have a mask, it is suggested that these students wear "Neck Gaiters." Neck Gaiters are worn around the neck making it easy to pull up so when they move from class to class, they simply pull up the gaiter as they pass in the hallway. Since they are worn around the neck, students don't have to worry about misplacing them or mixing them up with someone else's. They can choose to wear the mask in the classrooms if they wish, but because they will be spread out, it is not mandatory at this time. They can also wear a mask if they choose to. (Both Neck Gaiters and Masks must be solid in color and not a distraction)
- Students should carry their own **clear** refillable water bottles with their name written on it in permanent marker. Drinking fountains will only be used to refill water bottles.

Classroom Reorganization

- **Smaller Class size**

Students in grades 5th through 8th will be divided in half for most classes.

4th grade is a small class and will remain together.

Students in 1st through third grades will be divided in half for Language Arts and will work in small groups of 5 or 6 for Math.

EC 3, 4 and Kindergarten will work in small groups throughout the day.

- Classrooms will be set up to allow greater distance between students seating.
- We will minimize sharing of high touch materials. (any shared items will be cleaned and disinfected after each use)
- A chrome book will be assigned to each student for his/her exclusive use.
- Hallway patterns and changing class periods: one-way patterns for transitions will be observed in the hallways.

Lunch

- Every child will wash or sanitize their hands before proceeding to lunch.
- Lunch will consist of pre-packaged or box lunch options.
- Three classes eat lunch at the same time. They will be spread out in the following way:
 1. One class has lunch spread out in the cafeteria.
 2. One class has lunch spread out in the shade of the courtyard outside.
 3. One class has lunch spread out in the shade of the convent backyard outside.
 4. EC-3 and EC-4 will always eat at the small tables in the cafeteria.

Classes will rotate between the three areas. (When it rains, students will eat in the gym or the classroom)

- Cleaning protocols will take place after students leave the tables by the staff.

Recess

- Each class will be given a designated area either on the playground, parking-lot, or field to play at recess. This enables the students to spread out and remain in one area. The classes will rotate on a weekly basis.
- Cleaning protocols will take place after recess by the staff.

School Mass

- We will continue to have a school Mass on Wednesday's, however, we will only have three classes attend each week. For example, Kindergarten through 2nd grade attends one week, 3rd through 5th attends the next week, and 6th through 8th attends the following week. We will post a Mass Schedule once school begins.

Feldtrips

- Students will not participate in any off campus fieldtrips until further notice.

Sports and After School Activities

- Sports and After School Activities will be addressed in the future as soon as information becomes available.
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Blended Learning

While our intention is to remain open for the school year, we may be required if state Covid-19 metrics worsen and it is determined additional restrictions are necessary. In the event that happens, we will move to a Blended Learning Model. Blended Learning is a combination of both on campus and off campus learning. Students will engage in a mix of virtual and in-person learning experiences. Some of these experiences take place at a set time together while others are completed independently. We want to ensure that students are receiving a well-balanced and academically fulfilling experience.

When discussing the types of Distance Learning please note the descriptions below of Synchronous, Asynchronous and Hybrid Distance Learning.

1. Synchronous distance learning

'Synchronous' means 'at the same time'. In this context, it is learning that involve live communication through either on Zoom online, or sitting in a classroom. It is one of the most acclaimed distance learning types that are most suitable for engaging in continuing education programs.

2. Asynchronous distance learning

Again, 'asynchronous' typically means 'not at the same time'. In this regard, lessons will be recorded and available through "Google Classroom." This allows learners and parents to schedule learning at a time convenient for them. It is also one of the most popular distance learning types because students can communicate with each other classmates and teachers seamlessly through online notices/emails.

3. Hybrid distance learning

As the name suggests, hybrid distance learning combines asynchronous and synchronous learning to form a structure where learners are required to meet at a particular time on Zoom and the classroom.

If we have to move to a Blended Learning Model, our plan of action can be found on the next page.

Split School Week

Half of the school would attend on campus on Monday and Tuesday while the other half is learning from home remotely and independently. Everyone works remotely on Wednesday and the other half of the school comes on Thursday and Friday. Example is below:

- By alphabet, (A-M) would attend on Monday and Tuesday, while the other half has distance learning at home. Distance learning will include assignments given to the students from their teachers when they were in school, plus students will have access to their books digitally and teacher lesson videos.
- Everyone has distance learning on Wednesday, while the school is being cleaned. (Distance learning procedures are stated above)
- By alphabet, (N-Z) would go on Thursday and Friday.
- Students will be equipped with a remote-learning kit.
- Students and Parents will receive information and training on the technology, tools, and systems used for Blended Learning.

Distance Learning

Distance Learning is designed to provide an educational alternative to in-person instruction when it is not safe to open St. Paul Catholic School. St. Paul Catholic School would move to all-school distance learning if according to guidelines issued by the CDC, the State of Florida, the Florida Department of Education, and other healthy agencies in consultation with the Office of Catholic Schools and Centers. Students engaged in Distance Learning will maintain a connection to their teachers and classmates. The teachers provide instruction to all students exclusively in a virtual environment.

- Students will be equipped with a remote-learning kit.
- Students and Parents will receive information and training on the technology, tools, and systems used for Distance Learning. (“How-to” videos)
- Lessons will be recorded so families can adjust their schedules to meet their needs.
- We will create Virtual Schedules and Routines.
- Live class meetings will be scheduled and given to both the parent and the student.
- Teachers will be available via email throughout the day.
- Teachers, Counselor, Resource teachers, and Administration will check in with parents when necessary.

Vulnerable Students

If you have children with an underlying health condition, or choose for them not to be in a traditional classroom learning environment due to high-risk status for disease, you must fill out the form in the appendix and send it to school by July 24th, for planning purposes.

More information on who is at higher risk for severe illness due to COVID-19 is available from the CDC.

APPENDIX



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Virtual Learning Request Form – 2020-2021 School Year

This form is mandatory for all school families that are requesting that their child(ren) be placed in the Virtual Learning program and must be submitted to Mrs. Callier on or before **Friday, July 24th**. You may drop off the form or scan and email to: gcallier@stpaul1930.org

Family Last Name: _____

Student Name: _____ 2020-2021 Grade: _____

We are formally requesting that our child(ren) be considered for the Virtual Learning Program at St. Paul Catholic School. As stated by the Diocese of St. Petersburg, we understand that our requests meets the following guidelines: Children should attend school unless prohibited by local public health mandates or because of a unique medical or familial need. Children who are not physically present will be required to document the reason for not attending school and comply with the school’s alternative educational program. Tuition will be the same whether a student attends classes in person or opts for the virtual learning program.

_____ **Option 2: Virtual Learning**

Reason for choosing virtual learning (required by the Diocese of St. Petersburg):

Name of Parent/Guardian (Please Print)

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT ❖ OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS & CENTERS

Pastoral Center ❖ PO Box 40200 ❖ St. Petersburg, FL, 33743-0200 ❖ PH: 727-347-5539 ❖ Fax: 727-341-6848

Statement of Understanding and Release of Liability in Regard to Covid-19

COVID-19 has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. In order to resume regular school operations, the Diocese of St. Petersburg and St. Paul Catholic School have put in place reasonable preventative measures and standards of behavior to reduce the spread of COVID-19 at School and School activities. Even with implementation of safety protocols, the School cannot guarantee that you or your child(ren) will not become infected with COVID-19; attendance at School and/or participation in the School activity could increase your risk and/or your child(ren)'s risk of contracting COVID-19.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK: The (*Diocese of St. Petersburg/St. Paul Catholic School*) cannot prevent you or your child/children from becoming exposed to, contracting, or spreading COVID-19 while attending School and related activities. It is not possible to prevent against the presence of the disease. Therefore, if you choose for your children to attend School, your child and/or other family members may be exposed to and/or at increased risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19. I/we have read and understood the above warning concerning COVID-19. I/we hereby choose to accept the risk of contracting COVID-19 for myself/ourselves, my/our child/children, and/or other family members in order for my/our child/children,

(Name of Minor Child)

to attend school and related activities. By signing this agreement, I/we acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and that my/our child(ren) and I/we may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by attending and/or being present at school, and/or by participating in school activities, and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death.

WAIVER OF LAWSUIT/LIABILITY: I hereby forever release and waive my right to bring suit against (*Diocese of St. Petersburg/St. Paul Catholic School*) and its owners, officers, directors, managers, officials, trustees, agents, employees, authorized volunteers, or other representatives in connection with exposure, infection, and/or spread of COVID-19. I understand that this waiver means I give up my right to bring any claims including for personal injuries, death, disease or property losses, or any other loss, including but not limited to claims of negligence and give up any claim I may have to seek damages, whether known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen.

CHOICE OF LAW: I understand and agree that the law of the State of Florida will apply to this contract.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ALL PROVISIONS OF THIS RELEASE, AND FREELY AND KNOWINGLY ASSUME THE RISK AND WAIVE MY RIGHTS CONCERNING LIABILITY AS DESCRIBED ABOVE.

I am the parent or legal guardian of the minor named above. I have the legal right to consent to and, by signing below, I hereby do consent to the terms and conditions of this Release.

(Parent/Guardian Name – Printed)

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)

This form must be signed to attend school on St. Paul's campus

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