



ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN A FAITH-FILLED ENVIRONMENT SINCE 1922

Re: fall opening (August 17)

July 27, 2020

The health and safety of our students is our priority. In the sincere effort to serve the needs of families and children, St. Paul's has developed a plan that will deliver the highest quality of education and faith formation while maintaining high standards of safety and health.

First Level (initial precautions)

Our approach is to provide a high level of normalcy for students while taking several precautions. We respect that every family has special concerns, and we are prepared to support our community to their level of need and comfort.

Changes to Facilities

We have rearranged class locations and schedules to ensure the least exposure to other classes and students, while maintaining a feeling of normalcy for all students. Desks are spaced, and hand washing will be regular and frequent. Every class will have hand sanitizer, tissues, and face masks available to support parents' directives to their children and requests to teachers.

There is no common library this year. Books have been organized and shifted to individual classes where extensive reading resources are available to students. The computer lab has shifted to one-on-one devices checked out to students beginning in elementary school. Individual textbooks and supporting curricular resources have been purchased for each child so that book sharing is unnecessary. Through careful management and generous donation, these and other changes will maintain the highest standards of sanitization possible but will be pleasant and inviting for students.

There are strategic changes to the location of most classes. **PreK 3 and 4** will continue to work in the same rooms, but MS classes have shifted to the far end of the old school allowing like-aged students (kindergarten and first grade) to be in the new building where a focused hygienic protocol can be provided efficiently to the younger students who struggle with concepts of cleanliness and social distance. Less carpet, more solid surfaces, increased availability to modern sinks, appropriately sized bathrooms, more exits, and the nurse's station are all advantages to this arrangement.

Grades 2-4 will be located in the center of the school. They will focus on core academic study in the morning, allowing an early release before lunch and afternoon enrichment classes. This morning option is available to parents who feel their children will be at high risk. Teachers will send home additional work that students will complete at home in the afternoon that will be turned in on the following morning.

Grades 5-8 will be in the south wing of the old school. We have relocated lockers, renovated bathrooms, relocated the library, spaced desks, and installed a new cleaning station.

Other significant changes:

- PreK through 1st grade have separate exits so that those less aware of germs have less opportunity to spread them. Middle school and elementary school have their own exterior doors as well so that exposure is minimized while making students feel comfortable, stress-free and effective in their classes.
- Cleaning stations with approved soaps and sanitizers have been located in each end of the school and trainings will take place to use them effectively.

Changes to Schedule

Classes K-8 have a morning option that allows parents to take their children home before lunch and afternoon classes. This option will allow the student to receive most essential academic instruction in his or her homeroom class but miss the interaction with other classes at lunch, recess, and afternoon activities on Fridays. The student will take home assignments to complete at home in the afternoon, and return the assignments the next morning to his or her homeroom teacher. For this special option, the tuition remains the same as other students. Our concern is for the well-being of your family and child(ren).

PreK 3 and 4 will complete their most essential academic studies in the morning allowing the usual early release before lunch and afternoon play time. There is no significant change for the younger students except the reduced numbers in the rooms and the focus on the hygiene of the class environment. Of course facial tissues, regular washing, and hand sanitizer will support our goal of keeping students safe.

Kindergarten and 1st grade will focus on core academic study in the morning, allowing an early release before lunch and afternoon play time. This morning option is available to parents who feel their children will be at high risk. Teachers will send home additional work that students will complete at home in the afternoon that will be turned in on the following morning.

Grades 2-4 will focus on core academic study in the morning, allowing an early release before lunch and afternoon enrichment classes. This morning option is available to parents who feel their children will be at unusually high risk. Teachers will send home additional work that students will complete at home in the afternoon that will be turned in on the following morning.

Grades 5-8 will focus on core academic study in the morning in a dedicated homeroom class in which teachers, not students, switch classes if necessary. This will greatly reduce exposure to other students and maximize learning time. If a student is at greater risk, we will allow an early release before lunch and afternoon enrichment classes. Since afternoon classes in grades 5-8 are comprised of science, Latin, and PE/health, assignments for completion at home will be provided for these students.

Other significant changes:

- All classes are capped at 18 to ensure population will conform to the requirements of social distance.
- A homeroom model will be in place for the first half of the day in which teachers, rather than students, change classes. This will cut down on exposure to other students while also making the most of academic time, leading to higher achievement from students while reducing unnecessary movement in the halls.

- Elective and enrichment classes have been moved to the afternoon so that core learning may be completed in the mornings, making lunch and the afternoons the only time when students must mix with other classes.
- A child reporting symptoms will move immediately to the nurse's station and return home until testing confirms he may safely return. A positive test will require the two weeks of isolation with full support on-line and through individual curricular resources. Collection and return of work will be determined by collaboration between parents, teacher, and when appropriate, students.

Level Two (increased caution)

In the event cases occur on campus or the spike continues to raise concern, there will be a general increase to the strictness of our approach.

Significant changes:

- Masks are required rather than optional.
- All work is individualized.
- Tissues on every desk.

Level Three (high caution)

In the event that closures are required by local government or diocesan authorities, we will immediately employ a virtual platform with outstanding curricular resources for every child.

Significant changes:

Grades 1-8 move to a virtual platform in which students use a well-planned mix of take-home curriculum and on-line activities and assessments. This home-bound model will be even more effective than last year, and last year was very well executed. This year the resources have been purchased to ensure every child will have an individual academic plan that ensures full academic growth with no noticeable change in progress (provided parents play a supportive role at home). **Preschool** students will split classes, and faculty will shift their routines so that little ones may, if permissible, remain on campus with greater distancing and greater focus on hygienic protocols. In the event that we are unable to keep preschool students on campus, we will deliver packets in the same model as last year with weekly delivery and collection of materials and regular meetings and conferences.

FAQ:

Will backpack remain open?

We are completely prepared to continue all family support services as long as permitted by our governmental and diocesan authorities.

Is there a bus route?

Yes, the bus (with distanced seating) will depart Caldwell every morning and return each evening. Exact timings are available on the school web site or in the office as is a list of stops.

What if someone in my family tests positive?

If someone in your home tests positive, we ask that you keep your children at home for the duration of the quarantine. We have planned for such an exigency, and materials will be provided and supported so that no instructional time is lost.