

SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL

August 2021

Dear Parents,

I send you my warmest greetings and hope that you are having an enjoyable, relaxing, and safe summer.

I would like to give you an update on our Opening of School and Covid Guidelines.

Students in Grades Kindergarten to Grade 8 will open on Thursday, September 9th at 8:00 AM. September 9th and 10th will be 12:00 Noon. All students will assemble in the playground on the First Day.

Principals will begin on Monday, September 13th at 8:00 AM.

As you know in my previous e-mail a few weeks ago, I announced that by order of the State of New Jersey Governor's Office and the Archdiocese of Newark Superintendent of Schools, ALL Students, Teachers and Staff must continue to wear masks.

Because of the current surge of COVID cases due to the Delta Variant, we must take a most responsible approach as we begin the New School Year. All of the COVID Guidelines will be revisited if the COVID infection rates begin to drop as the school year continues.

Basically, we will begin the school year continuing most of the guidelines we practiced last year:

- ALL Students, Teachers and Staff will have to wear masks
- 3-foot distancing will take place in classrooms
- Students will have lunch in the classrooms at the start of the school year. If things begin to turn around regarding COVID numbers, perhaps we will be able to return to the lunchroom a little later in the school year.
- Good ventilation in classrooms will continue to be practiced with the opening of windows, use of fans, and each classroom will have an air purifier that will be used
- Desk shields will be used on each child's desk
- Each student will be required to bring their own personal bag of supplies (pens, pencils, rulers, crayons, etc.) **No sharing of supplies**
- Students will be provided Chromebooks – again NO SHARING
- No birthday parties or sharing of food. **ALL students should bring their own snack**
- Presently, no field trips will be allowed
- Upper Grade students (Grades 5-8) will remain in their classroom. Teachers will switch classes for now
- Classrooms will be cleaned and sanitized each day by a professional cleaning company
- Hand sanitizer, liquid soap and cleaning materials will be available to students and teachers
- Limit of 2 students at a time in the restrooms
- For the first couple of weeks we will continue to do temperature checks at the entrance doors. However, after a few weeks, teachers will begin to do temperature checks in the classroom when students arrive in the morning
- We will continue to use our 3 school entrances as we did last school year.
PRE-K – Grade 1: Will enter and be dismissed at Front Door of school
GRADES 2-3-4 : Will enter and be dismissed at Parking Lot Door
GRADES 5-6-7-8: Will enter and be dismissed at Playground Doors
- We will be having Before Care Program for families that will need it. Further information to follow

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- We will be having After Care Program for families that will need it.
Further information to follow
- You will be contacted if your child has a fever

- Parents are reminded, because of safety precautions and COVID guidelines, **you will NOT be allowed to enter the school building without an appointment.** Please call the school office ahead of time to make an appointment. A health screening questionnaire must be filled out before returning to main office.
- **Parents will NOT be allowed to enter the building with students because of continued COVID restrictions.**

The most important thing is that we want to keep our students, teachers and staff safe.

I hope this letter answers some questions that you might have had. As previously stated, as the school year goes on, perhaps the guidelines may change in the future. I will certainly keep in touch with you. Looking forward to seeing you in September.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

God Bless You,

Mr. John Richards