



Planning a Safe Learning Environment for Face-to-Face Learning

July 14, 2020

We pray for you that this update finds you and your family healthy. We also pray that you have had some time to relax this summer.

St. John will have the first day of school for K – 8 on Monday, August 31, with a half-day of school. It is our intent to return students to classroom routines that are as close to normal as possible, with added safety protocols. By following the requirements, recommendations, and guidelines from the Michigan Department of Education through the task force created by Governor Whitmer, the [MI Safe Schools Roadmap](#), and in conjunction with the Michigan District of the LCMS and the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools (MANS), below are the guidelines for St. John being back on campus for the start of the school year. With Governor Whitmer's executive orders, all schools, both public and non-public, need to follow the required protocols. This is only a snapshot, and more in-depth procedures will continue to be developed and provided to you throughout the summer.

Staff Training: Staff will invest professional development time in the following:

- Building sanitizing time into the classroom routine and who will be responsible for this task
- Reminding students about the need to practice "Best Practices" in personal hygiene and safe distancing
- Assessing and recognizing symptoms of COVID -19

Screening/Testing at the Start of the Day:

- Families are encouraged to take each student's temperature at home every morning.
- Parents, please answer the following questions each morning:
 - Do you or anyone in your household have a fever, cough, diarrhea, a rash on your hands or feet, or shortness of breath?
 - Does anyone in your household have any symptoms of a communicable disease like the cold or flu?
 - Do you live with anyone who has had close contact with person diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
- Families are encouraged to select an emergency contact who can be available to quickly pickup their child if they become ill while at school.

Limits on Visitors:

- Guests and visitors will be limited in the school building. Signage will encourage distancing.

Personal Protective Equipment: (PPE)

- In Phase 4, facial coverings are required for all staff; preschool-8 students in the hallways and common areas; students in grades 6-12 in classrooms; and all people on buses.
- In Phase 5, facial coverings are recommended but not required for all staff and preschool-8 students in hallways and common areas.
- Exceptions are made for anyone who cannot medically tolerate a facial covering.

- Students may use their own homemade facial coverings, or disposable level surgical masks which must be disposed of at the end of each day. St. John will be able to supply disposable masks.

Hygiene:

- Each room will be sanitized as part of our off-hours cleaning.
- In Phase 4, St. John is required to provide supplies including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, paper towels, tissues and informational signs; teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or use hand sanitizer before entering buses.
- In Phase 5, it is strongly recommended that students wash hands or use hand sanitizer after changing classrooms and before entering buses.
- As part of classroom routines, students will be taught to sanitize their area under the teacher's supervision.
- All learning environments will be deep-cleaned this summer.

Safe Distancing:

- All seats will be placed at safe distances and face one direction.
- Modifications will be made to areas with shared table space or soft furniture.
- We will work to eat lunch in the gym as usual. We will be going from two lunch shifts to three.

School Day:

- We expect to follow a regular, full-day, Monday through Friday Schedule.
- St. John is also looking into the idea of a virtual school option. Expect more information about this topic in the next few weeks. Please respond if you are interested in a virtual learning approach instead of face-to-face learning.
- Recess will be conducted outside, weather permitting, with appropriate distancing and cohorting of students.

Again, St. John will continue to update families as more guidance and updates become available and as plans continue to be updated. St. John has been in communication and meetings on a weekly basis with other area Lutheran Schools so that we are all updated on the incoming information.

We will continue to provide an excellent Christ-centered education. We will continue to deliver a Christ-centered education. We will continue to meet the needs of your children academically, socially, and most importantly, spiritually. We will continue to share the Good News so that we all can take to heart what 1 Peter 5:8-11 says, "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen."

In His name,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Todd Pehlke
Principal