

RE-OPENING CAMPUS 2020

Our Phased Approach To Re-Opening

Dear Families,

St. Joseph Catholic STEM School remains committed to providing our students and families with an educational experience of excellence grounded in our Catholic faith. As we look to the future, we have designed a comprehensive plan that is flexible enough to be responsive to the ever-changing impact of COVID-19 on our local community.

The current plan is in Phase 3, In-person, In-school Learning with the option of Distance Learning. Our re-opening plan encompasses guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health, the CDC, and the American Academy of Pediatrics and was developed with the help of colleagues around the Archdiocese.

There is still much unknown about COVID-19 and how it will impact our community in the year ahead. Our plan is flexible and will adapt to significant shifts in our community.

We are eager for our students to return to the classroom for in person learning. While things may look a bit different, we remain the same at our core: A school that loves your children and wants to partner with you to help them grow and thrive as learners and young people of faith. Thank you for putting your trust in us during these uncertain times.

Sincerely,

Principal Bruce Richards

Our Current Status : Phase 3

July 29, 2020

Phase 1 : Distance Learning
(Fully Online | March 2020 - May 2020)

Phase 2 : Summer Saints Learning
(Partially Opened for Summer Cohorts | Summer 2020)

Phase 3 : In-person, In-school Learning with Significant Restrictions
(In-person, In-school with Option of Online | Autumn 2020)

Phase 4 : In-person, In-school Learning with Fewer Restrictions

Phase 5 : Normal In-person, In-school Learning with No Restrictions

PREPAREDNESS FOR FLEXIBILITY IN LEARNING

We are prepared to pivot between phases should the situation improve or, God forbid, decline. Should a regressive shift occur, parent support will be essential for the growth and success of each child.

Note: As the situation develops and changes, we ask that you be patient and respectful to all members of our community.

For updated information, please visit <https://school.stjosephwaconia.org/covid-19-preparedness/>.

PHASE 1 : DISTANCE LEARNING*

Exclusive to Phase 1, all students and faculty will remain home while learning fully online, as in Spring 2020, with the addition of more synchronous learning and interaction.

PHASE 2 : SUMMER SAINTS LEARNING

Phase 2 allows for part time in-person, in-school learning. When necessary, online synchronous and asynchronous coursework will be utilized.

PHASE 3 : IN-PERSON, IN-SCHOOL LEARNING WITH SIGNIFICANT RESTRICTIONS*

Phase 3 allows for in-person, in-school learning. Anticipated restrictions include but are not limited to masks, social distancing, hand washing, etc. For those who choose the Distance Learning platform, online tools, technology, and support will be available.

(See below for more information)

PHASE 4 : IN-PERSON, IN-SCHOOL LEARNING WITH FEWER RESTRICTIONS

Phase 4 allows for in-person, in-school learning. Phase 3 restrictions will be adapted to the possible change in CDC guidelines.

PHASE 5: NORMAL IN-PERSON, IN-SCHOOL LEARNING WITH NO RESTRICTIONS

Phase 5 allows for in-person, in-school learning with normal health and safety protocols.

*Online tools and support are available in Phases 1-3 for students who are ill, manifest COVID-19 symptoms, are in quarantine, or live with immune compromised family members.



PHASE 2-4: OUR COMMITMENT TO HEALTH AND SAFETY

St. Joseph School is dedicated to the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff through routine cleaning and screenings. When we are back in school, teachers will remind students not to touch their face, to demonstrate proper handwashing techniques, and to practice social distancing.



Daily Screening

At the start of the day, all students will be screened for fever upon entry to the school building.



Hand Washing

Elementary School teachers (K-3) will ensure all students wash their hands 4-5 times a day with proper technique. Intermediate (4-5) and middle school (6-8) teachers will remind students of proper hand washing.



Respiratory Etiquette

Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, dispose of tissue, and wash hands immediately afterward.



Sanitation

St. Joseph School has established a schedule for routine cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces and shared equipment throughout the day. The maintenance program complies with the best accepted practices.



Students with Symptoms

Any person with COVID-19 related symptoms or who has tested positive for the virus will be required to follow quarantine procedures.



Prayer

Continued prayer for the health and safety of the St. Joe's family, as well as those who are sick or may become sick.

OUR FAMILIES' COMMITMENT

It is extremely important for our parents to participate responsibly in keeping our community healthy by conducting daily COVID-19 symptom monitoring for each student every morning before school. If your child is sick or displaying COVID-19 symptoms, please keep them home. We also ask that students and parents respect the diversity of opinions of everyone within our community by following school guidelines.



PHASE 2-4: LIFE ON CAMPUS

We will be on campus 5 days a week for Phase 3 : In-Person, In-School Learning. A Distance Learning platform will be available for students unable to attend due to various vulnerabilities, illness, symptoms, in quarantine, or for those who choose to do Distance Learning.



Masks

Masks / face shields are required for everyone.

Elementary School (K-3): Masks may be required if unable to maintain a minimum of a 3-foot distance from others.

Intermediate (4-5) and Middle (6-8) School: Masks may be required for the duration of the day excluding PE, lunch, band class, or outdoor classes.



Arrival & Departure

K-8 students will enter and exit through either the parking lot Door (#1) or the Office Door (#4). As noted above, students will be screened upon entry to the building.



Classroom Arrangement

Classrooms will be arranged to ensure as much social distancing as possible (minimum of 3 feet).



Lunch

K-8 students will be allowed to purchase hot or cold lunch at school. Students may bring their own lunch from home.



Mass

Students will attend mass every week. Proper social distancing will be implemented.



Sports & Activities

Sporting events will follow the guidance of the MSHSL and MDH.



Movement on Campus

Students will remain in their classrooms whenever possible. Some teachers will travel to classrooms for instruction creating limited movement through the school during the school day.

PHASE 2-4 : VISITING GUIDELINES

Necessary visitors (e.g. parent pick ups, vendors, etc.) following a required screening will be allowed to enter with a face covering.



REQUIRED PROTOCOLS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

Educating young people in the light of Christ is foundational to the mission of the Catholic Church. While the Church has carried out this work of education in the midst of social, health, and political crises, the current global COVID-19 pandemic has prompted unprecedented reflection on education and the central role of the physical school community in promoting the academic, spiritual, and emotional growth of the child. In preparing for the start of the 2020-2021 school year, our local Church and the wider educational community throughout the state and the country will be required to make morally responsible decisions for how we educate the future citizens and leaders of our society during a pandemic, with special consideration for those children who are most vulnerable among us.

With the information that is currently available, we affirm that the most prudent decision for Catholic schools is to plan for the safe re-opening of its school buildings at the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

Prohibiting Behaviors that Spread

Students, employees, and visitors showing no signs of illness will be present in the school building.

Maintaining Healthy Facilities

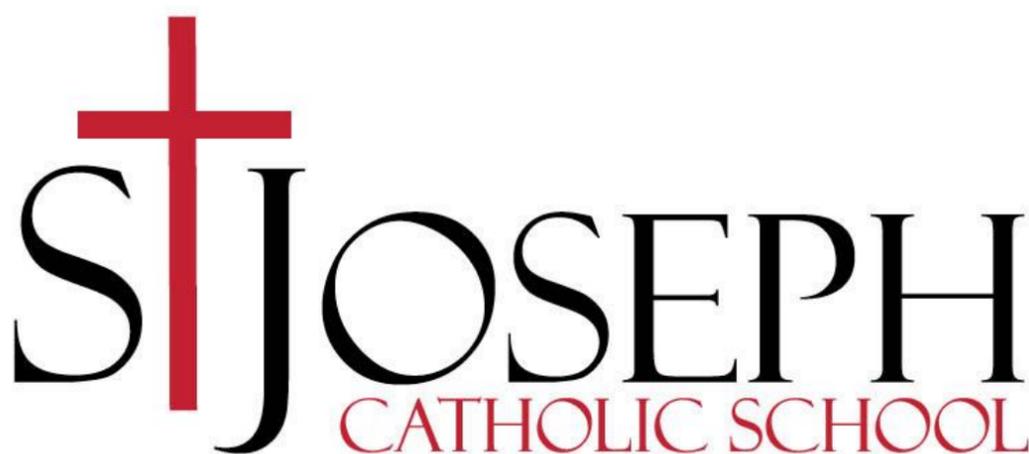
There will be routine cleaning and disinfecting of classroom surfaces, restrooms, lunchrooms, meeting rooms, and drop-off/pick-up locations.

Maintaining Healthy Operations

Families, students, and employees will be informed and encouraged to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 through regular health checks.

Communicating, Training, and Educating

Parents, staff, teachers, and all others in the school community will be educated on health and safety procedures for shared involvement and responsibility.



As the situation develops and changes, we ask that you be patient and respectful to all members of our community.

Please Note: This plan is fluid and subject to change.

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July 29, 2020