



ST. AGNES
SCHOOL

Reopening Plan 2020-2021



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Based upon the directives from the Department of Catholic Schools, state madates, CDC guidelines, health advisories, St. Agnes School would like to share our plans for reopening on August 31, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year.

The St. Agnes School Day

Catholic Identity

St. Agnes School will continue to integrate our Catholic identity while navigating space restrictions in churches, limits on large gatherings, and students learning at home. In collaboration with our Pastor, Fr. Isaac Makovo, we will discuss the possibility for students to attend Mass given social distancing guidelines and will plan accordingly. Information on weekly Masses will be provided. Prayer services and outreach activities will take place in class cohorts when possible. Daily prayer will be held for all students, whether learning in-person or at home.

In Person Learning

Phase 2 in the State of Maryland, restricts the number of students who can be in a classroom. With social distancing rules currently in place, student desks will be separated, and additional furniture will be removed from classrooms (including rugs and any soft/plush items). This will allow all students to be in the classroom with their homeroom teacher. The in-person option will include attending school five days a week. If the number of students selecting this option is greater than the number that we can safely accommodate, we will implement an alternating schedule that prioritizes in person learning. In the case of an alternating schedule, students will engage in a combination of synchronous and independent learning while at home. Once we know how many students select this option, you will be informed about your child's schedule as soon as possible. Students will remain in the same classroom throughout the day. Teachers will move from classroom to classroom to provide instruction. Students will have special area classes which will be held in each cohort's classroom. Teachers will be encouraged to move classes outside when possible.

Remote Learning

The remote learning option will require that your child be available for learning at home during the hours of our school day. Students who opt for this mode of learning will be provided with synchronous learning experiences, independent work, and opportunities to meet one-on-one or in small groups with teachers. Students will engage in the same content as students learning in-person and will be assessed using the same criteria. Students will engage in remote learning five days a week and will be given the opportunity to return to school in person at the end of the first and second trimesters. For students who have chosen to learn from home (distance learning option) they will be required to log on through their St. Agnes School Google account to access the instruction from the teachers throughout the school day and follow their daily schedule. This synchronous learning will allow students from home to receive direct instruction and then practice their independent work. Students learning from home must be available for learning during normal school hours. An adult must be supervising the student at home.

The Cohort Model

Students and staff are grouped by homerooms and these groupings are kept as static as possible. This strategy helps to maintain a safe environment by strictly limiting the interaction between students and allows for rapid response and containment in the event of a student becoming infected. As part of this model, schools will strive to physically separate students in the same cohort (homeroom grouping) as much as possible to help mitigate risk.

Curriculum and Academic Instruction

At the Archdiocese of Baltimore level, three modes of learning (in-person, hybrid, and remote) have been established. At this time, St. Agnes School can accommodate our total current enrollment for in-person instruction while complying with CDC guidelines for 3-6 feet physical distancing at all times while wearing masks. All families at St. Agnes School will be provided with the option for their child(ren) to learn 100% in person or 100% remotely.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

St. Agnes School is establishing pick-up/drop-off procedures that follow social distancing guidelines. Our plans include visual cues or barriers to direct traffic flow and distancing; staggering arrival and drop-off times; limiting direct contact with visitors. Parents/caretakers will remain in the car and only students will exit the vehicle. Students will go from their car to their classroom, no congregating. Hand sanitizing stations will be placed at school entrances so that children and staff can sanitize their hands before entering the building. More information including logistics will be provided before the start of school to ensure guidelines and safety protocols are being followed.

Technology

We are well positioned for reopening due to our existing infrastructure and technology capacity. A plan for individual student and staff uses of technology tools has been established and will be implemented. It includes but is not limited to equipment, digital services upgrades, and teacher professional development. St. Agnes School is blessed to have acquired AMX Acendo Vibe camera/sound bar units for each classroom. This technology will enable educators to present synchronous instruction to students who are learning at home and in the classroom.

Before and After Care

At this time, St. Agnes School will not provide Before and After Care during the first trimester of school. The Before and After Care program operations may be modified throughout the year. Our specific program information will be shared once we complete our consultation with the Maryland Office of Child Care.

Visitor Policy

St. Agnes School will be limited to faculty, staff, students, and essential visitors (deliveries, service vendors, etc.) until further notice. At this time, there can be no volunteers in any of the classrooms. Authorized visitors are required to wear a mask while on campus. If you should need to drop off materials for your child during the school day, please call the main office prior doing so. School staff will collect items outside of the main office at the door upon arrival. Visitors will not be allowed to enter the main offices. Thank you for your diligence and understanding with following these changes based on COVID-19 guidelines.

Uniform Policy

PE uniforms may be worn each day. This will allow the students to be more comfortable throughout the day and limit the handling of buttons, zippers, belts, etc. This will also assist parents with the laundering of uniforms.

Shoes and sneakers without ties (slip on shoes) are encouraged for our younger students so touching and tying shoes and shoelaces is less of a concern throughout the school day. Slip on shoes must be worn with socks and must be safe for walking (no heels, rubber soles only).

Lunch and Recess Policy

Hot lunch service will be suspended until further notice. We will re-evaluate this decision for the second trimester of the year. Students will continue to eat at their desks in their classrooms. Students must wash their hands with soap and water before and after eating. Students must bring their own lunch. Microwavable foods, refrigeration of lunch bags, or fast food deliveries are not permitted. No sharing of food/drink. Student desks will be disinfected before and after lunch.

Recess is an important part of the school day for students and will continue to be incorporated into the schedule. To mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 virus protocols for recess and using playground equipment will be established and implemented. Students will remain in classroom cohorts for recess. Playground equipment will not be shared between groups and will be sanitized each day.

Bookbags, Lunch bags, Materials, etc.,

Students will not utilize cubbies, or coat rooms until further notice. Student bookbags and coats (when needed) will remain on the back of their chairs during the school day. Students will bring home only necessary materials each day for homework and studying. Classroom materials and manipulatives will be for individual use only. Students are to bring a lunch bag, bookbag, water bottle, jacket/coat if needed each day.

Facilities Management

The school and parish cleaning company is preparing our school for our reopening. Each day, they will sanitize all areas of the school building. They will continue to institute their robust daily cleaning schedule. This includes disinfecting all classrooms and bathrooms and including those items that are frequently touched by students and teachers, including but not limited to bathrooms, doorknobs, light switches and furniture. In addition, per Archdiocesan reopening guidelines, St. Agnes School will be utilizing a non-leaching and non-migrating disinfectant and protectant (called JanPro Surface Protectant) that will be applied to all areas and surfaces of the school that lasts for 90 days and will be repeated three times throughout the school year. It molecularly binds to any surface, forms a bubble and destroys any viruses and bacteria - this is part of the persistent protection model that is promoted by the Center for Disease Control. Staff who use cleaning and disinfectant products must ensure they are used and stored correctly and safely, with adequate ventilation. This includes using disinfecting products that meet criteria of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Ventilation

Ventilation and HVAC systems will have filter enhancements (where applicable) to maximize air flow and quality. When weather permits, windows will be opened and ceiling fans (where applicable) will be utilized to increase circulation of fresh air.

Facilities Modification

- To promote all the protocols in place for safety and health of St. Agnes School students and faculty, the following upgrades have taken place:
- Signage to promote physical distancing, one-way traffic, hygiene practices, etc.
- Eliminating shared supplies, equipment, and devices HVAC filter enhancements to maximize air flow and quality,
- Sanitizing bathrooms, doorknobs, railings, throughout the school day Access to touch free hand sanitizer upon entering/exiting the buildings and hand sanitizers within each classroom
- Closing of water fountains (extra bottled water will be available if needed)

The number of students allowed in a restroom at a given time will be reduced so that appropriate social distancing can occur. In addition, every other sink in the bathrooms will be closed, as well as every other urinal and toilet, to allow for spacing between students.

Health and Wellness

Temperature Checks

Faculty and staff will be required to take their temperature prior to entering school facilities. Preschool students will have their temperatures taken by a parent, witnessed by a teacher and recorded upon arrival per Maryland Office of Child Care requirements. Students in Grades K-8 will be required to have their temperature taken by a parent or guardian prior to arrival at school. Anyone registering a temperature greater than 100.4°F will be required to stay home.

Health Suite Procedures

Our school nurse will always be available in school. We will have a designated room where a student who becomes ill can be isolated. Parents will be called and asked to pick up any sick student as promptly as possible but within a 30-minute window. School parents will call the main office to sign the student out and then will go around to the front building main entrance to meet their child. No mints or crackers will be given out for students with upset stomachs. Refillable water bottles should be sent to school daily with each student. Reminder- all medications provided to students by the school nurse require a physician's order.

Proper Protective Equipment (PPE)

Each member of the St. Agnes School community will be required to wear masks per directives from the State of Maryland. Masks may be removed for brief periods of time under certain circumstances such as lunch and outdoor recess. When removed, individuals must abide by social distancing rules, staying at least 6 feet apart. ST. Agnes School will provide one cloth mask with our school logo to students for free. Any additional masks desired must be purchased through the main office. It is the responsibility of the families to supply additional masks for their child/children to wear to school every day. Families should purchase their own masks of soft cloth, paper fiber, or fabric masks with layers of material that fully covers the student's nose and mouth. Masks must always be worn with BOTH the nose and mouth covered. Students will need at least one extra mask in a disposable baggie or washable pouch, in their backpack. Fabric or reusable masks must be washed before re-use.

Paper masks should be disposed of after one use. Disposable masks will be provided in the event a student or staff member forgets to bring their cloth mask to campus. We have amended the uniform policy to include guidance relative to the color, design, and style of the cloth face masks that are permitted to be worn by students. Cloth masks may be any color or pattern, but may not have any slogans or phrases, political messages or controversial material, or any images that are not aligned to our vision and mission. Masks should be labeled with the student's name. Face shields and neck gaiters

are not permitted. Schools will have a supply of additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff who are caring for a student or staff member who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.

COVID 19 TESTING

Students and staff whose possible exposure to COVID-19 is being investigated, and those who are exhibiting symptoms, will be required to be tested in accordance with recommendations of state and local health authorities. In the case of a positive COVID-19 test within our St. Agnes School community, the Baltimore County Health Department will work collaboratively with the school and lead the efforts in the contact tracing process. This may result in faculty, staff, and students quarantining for a defined period.

Out of State Travel

Out of state travel is discouraged during the school year. If out of state travel is necessary, students must remain home for 14 days prior to returning to in person instruction. Students will be provided digital instruction during the 14-day quarantine period.

Co-Curricular Activities

SAS Clubs and Activities

Once the school year begins, clubs and activities will be evaluated based on risk, availability of space, and size of the program. This includes clubs/activities that occur during the school day as well as those after school such as Robotics Club, Creative Arts, etc.

Campus Events

Campus Events, Gatherings During the School Day, Schoolwide gatherings and assemblies will not occur until further notice. Some activities may occur virtually or through livestream capabilities when possible. All large gatherings, meetings, HSA and campus events are suspended until further notice. We will re-evaluate for the feasibility of other events ongoingly. Virtual or digital options will be available when applicable.

Field Trips

All field trips will be suspended until further notice and will be reevaluated for next year.

Reversal to Phase One

If the cases of COVID-19 increase, and we return to Phase 1 based on directives from the State of Maryland and/or Baltimore County we will return to Distance Learning. Our cameras and sound bars will allow teachers to meet with students daily and provide direct instruction followed by independent learning activities. There will be designated times that each academic subject area will meet, along with the number of minutes spent with instruction and independent practice. All students in grades 3 to 8 will be provided a school issued Chromebook. Students in PreK through grade 2 will continue to use their family devices. Devices can be provided to families in these grades on a situational basis if needed.