



St. Mary Catholic School Planning Ahead Team Special Update

July 29, 2020

Memorial of St. Martha

Student Orientation Sessions

Mark Calendars!

- St. Mary Teachers will provide a recorded on-line **Student Orientation Session** for primary, intermediate, and middle school on **August 24th**, followed by a Q&A session with their homeroom teachers on **August 26th**. Stay tuned for more details.

Parent Orientation Session

Mark Calendars!

- The St. Mary Administrative Team will provide a **Parent Orientation Session** on **Thursday, August 20th at 6:30 pm** via Zoom. Stay tuned for more details.
- **New SMCS Families** will soon be offered an SMCS “**Mentor Family**” as part of our **SMCS Welcome Wagon** program to support our new families. Stay tuned!
- **New SMCS Families** will also be offered a special Orientation Session of their own, hopefully as an Ice Cream Social. Stay tuned!

Masks

- Students will be required to wear masks both indoors and outdoors each day as part of the school uniform.
- There will be regular, frequent “**Mask Breaks**” throughout the day both during class time as well as lunch/recess time, especially with younger children.
- Parent are asked to provide children with two masks for each school day.
- Masks should be “appropriate”, that is, simple, with minimal graphics/writing, such as the SMCS “**Tag Day Shirt**” expectation.
- Extra masks will be available for students as needed.

Lunch

- Lunch will be in classrooms, supervised by school staff.
- The SMCS hot lunch program will continue as a service with a fee, likely in the form of boxed lunches delivered to classrooms. Stay tuned for more details.

Distance Learning Option

- St. Mary Catholic School is offering this option to families who complete the “**Intent Form**” by **Monday, August 3rd**.
- One “Intent Form” must be completed for each child.
- Once enrolled in the Distance Learning mode, children will be required to remain in that mode for the **ENTIRE TRIMESTER**.
- However, children who opt for “In School” learning, may change to “Distance Learning” upon parent request, but must then remain in the Distance mode for the remainder of the trimester.
- SMCS will provide all students with the necessary device for LIVE Distance Learning
- Distance Learning will be **LIVE and SYNCHRONOUS**, not recorded, at SMCS. The same work expectations will apply to Distance Learners as In-school learners.
- Class schedules will be provided closer to August 31st, and students will be required to “attend” and interact with the teacher according to this schedule.
- **Testing** methods and details will be explained later by teachers, but please know that all testing will be completed **ON LINE** in video mode.
- In a spirit of solidarity with peers, and respect for our hard working teachers, students enrolled in Distance Learning will be expected to “attend” class wearing their regular full **SMCS UNIFORM**. We also ask for students to “attend” in a space other than a bedroom, and that **VIDEO remain ON** at all times during instruction.

Health and Illness

- If a child (enrolled in on-site learning) becomes sick while at home, our first advice is to stay home for rest and healing, and set aside school work.
- If a child is sick, but still feels well enough to participate in school work, we certainly encourage staying at home, and parents may choose to use our **Distance Learning Option** until the child is well enough to return to school. SMCS will provide guidelines and criteria for a healthy and safe return to school.
- If parents observe symptoms that seem COVID-19 related, it is imperative that the child stay at home and the school be notified immediately.
- If symptoms seem to be merely allergy-related, we still advise staying at home as a caution.
- If a child (or staff member) becomes ill or shows symptoms while he/she is at school, we have a newly constructed, spacious, designated isolation space at SMCS, supervised and maintained by our school nurse, **Paula Radley, BSN**. Nurse Radley will follow Archdiocesan protocols along with the Washington County Health Dept. to trace all contact with other members of our SMCS community and take appropriate action according to the same guidelines and protocols. Children must be picked-up from school within 30 minutes with ill symptoms.

- Medications needed during the school day must be arranged with the school nurse by email and arrangements made for drop off to the nurse only. NO medications can be transferred in a student's backpack.
- All students will be required to bring their own water bottle. No hydro flasks.

Classroom Spacing

- Children will be spaced at least three feet apart in every classroom as per CDC and Archdiocesan guidelines.
- Information from Intent Forms will help determine class grouping.
- Students will stay in "Cohorts", staying in the same location, while teachers (especially in middle school) rotate to classes as needed.
- Math groups in middle school will be split as usual.

Sanitation

- All surfaces in every school space will be cleaned and sanitized regularly, according to CDC and Archdiocesan guidelines.
- Please refrain from dropping-off any materials, lunches, etc., once your child has entered the building.

Visitors and Volunteers

- Visitors will not be allowed into the building.
- Parent volunteers will be welcome, but we will establish a rotating system that will be limited to a "Core Team" with a designated timeframe and work space to facilitate contact tracing as needed. Stay tuned for more details.
- Volunteer "hours" will be re-evaluated and edited for the new school year. Stay tuned!

Immunization Requirements

- All new students, updated students, and new 7th grade immunizations **MUST be SUBMITTED by the FIRST day of School**, August 31st, to SMCS Nurse Paula Radley, BSN. For questions, please email Nurse Radley at pradley@stmarycatholicschool.org

After Care

- St. Mary Catholic School will **NOT offer After Care** for the 20/21 school year. This will be re-evaluated mid-year for any possible change. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause our families.

Prayer to Mary

"We Fly to Thy Patronage"

We fly to Thy Patronage, O Holy Mother of God. Despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.