

Lighting the Way

**St. Mary School
Vineland, New Jersey**

**2021-2022
School Year Plan**

Minds at Work • Hearts with God • Lives of Service



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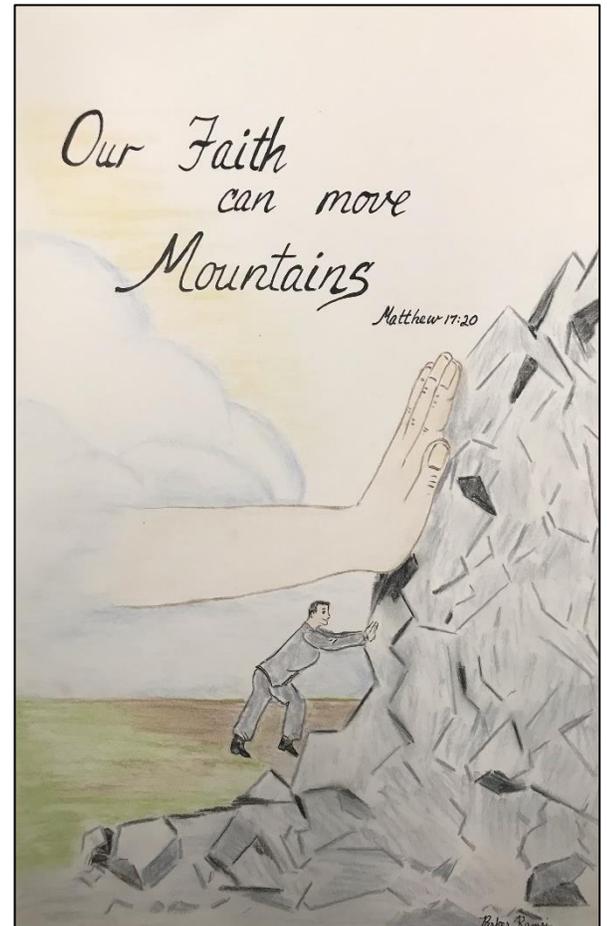
FORWARD

St. Mary School provides an environment in which we consistently model Gospel values and Church teachings and traditions in the image of Jesus Christ. All students experience an academically challenging curriculum that helps them to grow closer to God by learning about themselves and His world, while preparing them to succeed at every level.

At St. Mary School our mission is to be a welcoming community grounded in the traditions of the Daughters of Mercy. We strive to inspire minds through 21st Century learning, while our Catholic faith aligns hearts with God and fosters lives of service.

We believe that this mission is best carried out when students, faculty, and staff can be together, in person, as a Catholic community. This belief was reinforced during the 2020-2021 school year, when parents and their children, along with the leadership, faculty, and staff of our school, made personal sacrifices every day for the good of all members of the community so that the majority of students could be in school every day from September through June. We were blessed to have been able to meet our goal of having as many students as possible come to school every day safely. In the process, we learned much that has influenced our preparations for the 2021-2022 school year. Our goal for the coming school year remains the same, and we will welcome all students back to the classroom in September. Our process for achieving that goal is influenced by the lessons we learned last year, a review of current guidelines, data on the status of COVID-19 in our community, and input from public health officials, educators, parents, and others.

St. Mary School has created this plan to aid families as they prepare for the 2021-2022 school year and to guide our decisions, procedures, and protocols as a school community. It is intended to help employees, students, and families understand how we will promote health and safety together to reduce the potential impact that COVID-19 may have on our community. **It is expected that as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, new guidance may mean that aspects of this plan will need to be updated or changed.** Therefore, necessary updates will be made to this plan based on information provided by local public health officials, guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and applicable federal, state and local agencies, and our experience of how well it is working every day in school. We will inform all members of the school community of changes as soon as they occur.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In order to ensure the continued well-being of our employees and students, the following principles are the foundation that guide our planning:

- Protect the health and safety of St. Mary School students, faculty, staff, and families.
- Sustain the Catholic faith of St. Mary School Community that distinguishes us from other schools and drives our success.
- Maximize student learning through best practices in classroom and, if necessary, remote learning instruction and assessment.
- Maintain flexibility to respond to changing circumstances based on lived experience in the school and guidance from state, public health, and medical leaders in response to the progression of COVID-19 in our community.

In addition to these principles, St. Mary School is a Catholic community. As such, we are used to depending on one another. The school leadership and faculty are taking on many actions and activities to promote the safety of our community. In order for this plan to be effective, it is important that parents and students continue to take seriously our responsibilities to one another, just as we all did last year. All individuals will be asked to take actions that protect their health and that protect the health of others. The plan will have the best opportunity for success when we all continue to work together – when we all respond to Jesus’s commandment to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Start:

St. Mary School schedule remains the same. Starting time is 7:50 a.m. and the end of school day is 2:20 p.m. Morning drop off procedures will begin at 7:30 a.m. (instead of 7:40 a.m.).

Dismissal:

End of day dismissal procedures will begin at 2:20 p.m.

The scheduled for drop off time for cars in the morning and afternoon may change when further information on the availability of busing for our students is known.

PreK Car Line:

- The procedures will remain the same.
- Parents will pick up students at the North entrance off the parking lot.
- Students will be walked individually to the car.

Regular Car Line:

- Students in grades kindergarten through 8th grade will be called down from their classrooms to the South entrance door located by the car drop off/pick up lane when parents pull up.
- Students waiting at the door will be 3 feet apart.
- Parents are to have their family name card placed in the right side of the front window of their car.

PART 1: PROMOTING HEALTH AND SAFETY

The health of students and all members of the school community is the top priority that ensures all other aspects of the Catholic school program can be delivered. The expectations provided below are intended to help all members of the St. Mary School community to do their part to keep themselves and each other safe and healthy.

During the 2020-2021 school year, the NJ Department of Health established the Regional Risk Matrix to describe the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in six regions of the state. St. Mary School is located in the Southeast region. Risk levels are low, moderate, high, and very high. Each risk level includes recommendations for additional health and safety measures.

Health and safety expectations for St. Mary School for the 2021-2022 school year are subject to change based on the risk level for our region or if evidence of the spread of COVID-19 within a classroom here or at any school in the diocese emerges.

SCREENING

Identifying students, faculty, and staff who may be sick is a critical component of keeping the entire school community healthy. Identification begins before students arrive at school and continues with vigilance throughout the school day. Screening and response to symptoms require faithful citizenship and partnership between parents and the school, with all school community members doing their part to identify potential sickness and respond respectfully, swiftly, and confidentially.



Screening at Home

All parents will be expected to screen their children at home for symptoms of COVID-19 and to take their temperature to ensure that they do not have a fever over 100.4°F. If children have a fever or exhibit symptoms that are not explained by other conditions, then they should stay at home. COVID-19 symptoms include:

- At least two of the following symptoms: fever of 100.4 or higher, chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose; OR
- At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell.

For students with chronic illness, only new symptoms or symptoms worse than baseline should be used to fulfill symptom-based exclusion criteria.

Parents will also be expected to keep their children home from school if they have had close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19. If this occurs, parents should notify the school immediately. Close contact is considered to be:

- Within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more
- Provided care at home to, or visited, someone who is sick with COVID-19
- Direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)
- Shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you



ARRIVAL SCREENING AT SCHOOL

PRE-K CAR LINE

- Students arriving by car may be dropped off between 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. at the PreK classroom entrance on the North side of the building by the parking lot.
- Staff will take the temperature of students in the car. Parents are to remain in the car. Students must be wearing their mask upon leaving their car.
- Pre-K students along with siblings will have their temperature taken by a Pre-K staff member. If a child has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, the child may not leave the car.
- Staff will walk students into the PreK classroom and siblings will walk in a line and maintain three feet distance from the student in front of them by walking on the floor markers until they reach their classroom.



REGULAR CAR LINE

- Students arriving by car in the morning may be dropped off between 7:30 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. at the South door of the school building. An additional ten minutes has been added.
- Staff will be present to take the temperatures of all students and assist students to the entrance door.
- Students are to be ready to exit their car once their temperature is taken. Parents are to remain in the car. Students must be wearing their mask.
- If a child has a temperature 100.4 or higher, the child may not leave the car.
- When students enter the school building, they will sanitize their hands and then form a line and maintain three feet distance from the student in front of them by walking on the floor markers until they reach their classroom.
- Teachers will be present at all classroom doors to supervise children in the hallway and classroom.



BUS

- Students will be expected to follow all directives of bus drivers while en route to school. Students will be expected to wear a face mask while on the bus for the entire time that they are on the bus. Students are expected to sit in the seat that they are assigned.
- Students arriving by bus will enter by the North entrance. Each child will be screened by a stand-up kiosk.
- If a student has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, the student is taken to an isolation room and parents are called by the nurse for pick up.
- After going through the screening process, students will walk in a line and maintain six feet distance from the student in front of them by walking on the floor markers until they reach their classroom. When entering the building students will sanitize their hands.
- Teachers will be present at all classroom doors to supervise children in the hallway and classroom.
- St. Mary School bus routes have been put out for bid to transportation providers. School districts must notify parents about transportation if it will be provided or aid in lieu of transportation.

LATE STUDENTS

- Students arriving late (after 7:50 a.m.) must enter by the front entrance.
- Parents must park their car in the visitor's parking spaces and walk their child into the building.
- The child's temperature will be taken at the temperature kiosk.
- The child will report to the nurse who will walk them to their classroom.

VACCINATION

One of the most significant differences between opening school in Fall 2021 and Fall 2020 is the availability vaccines for adults and children ages 12 and older. According to the Centers for Disease Control, COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective (please see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html> for more information.) The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have also confirmed that the COVID-19 vaccines are morally permissible for Catholics (please see <https://www.usccb.org/resources/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines.pdf>). The advantages of vaccination may include significantly reduced risk of critical or severe symptoms of COVID-19, significantly reduced risk of hospitalization, increased protection from infection, and in some cases reduced transmission of COVID-19 from asymptomatic infections.

Vaccination protects the community through two important mechanisms.

- 1) **Direct protection of vaccinated individuals.** Parents, students, and employees who are vaccinated are highly protected from the worst effects of COVID-19 and have strong protection against contracting it when exposed to it.
- 2) **Indirect protection of unvaccinated individuals, especially children under 12.** On a large scale, this phenomenon is sometimes called “herd immunity.” It means that when more people are vaccinated, the virus thrives in fewer people and therefore is far less likely to spread to or from most of the vaccinated individuals. In our school, specifically, all cases of COVID-19 identified during the 2020-2021 school year were contracted outside of school. If children are primarily surrounded by vaccinated adults and family members, they are less likely to encounter a high enough amount of the virus to become infected themselves, and therefore less likely to bring it to school.

It is not known at this time how long the benefits of vaccination may last, but members of the school community will be informed if public health officials recommend additional steps for vaccinated individuals.

Parents will be asked to provide vaccination information for their children to the school nurse to aid with quarantine recommendations if they become necessary.



Visitors to the School

Visitors to the school during the school day will be limited to individuals with official business at the school (e.g., contractors, service, sales). All visitors to the school will be required to enter by the front entrance and remain in the foyer before being allowed to enter the building. Visitors will have their temperature taken and be asked to provide their name and contact information. Visitors must wear a cloth or surgical (N95/KN95) mask and sanitize their hands before entering the building. Visitors will always be required to maintain social distance while on the premises.

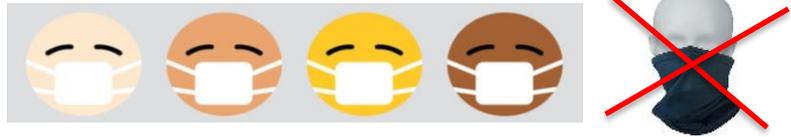
Volunteers

Adults who give their time to participate in the critical activities of the school will be allowed to volunteer on a regular schedule. Volunteers will be required to wear a mask and be vaccinated. Proof of vaccination is to be given to the school nurse.



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Personal protective equipment is an effective means to provide protection from infection with the virus that causes COVID-19. Personal protective equipment will be used at St. Mary School when necessary to promote the health and safety of the community.



Face Masks

Masks can be an important component of maintaining health in the school, especially when community spread of COVID-19 is high and students are more likely to encounter COVID-19 outside of school.

All students, grades PreK through 8, will be required to have a cloth mask with them at school every day. Students will be required to wear the mask per Governor Murphy's Executive Order (EO) 251. Please note that these requirements apply to all students, whether they are vaccinated or not.

Each family will be responsible for providing appropriately sized masks for their children. Each student should have an extra mask with them at school at all times.

All students and adults on school buses must wear a mask, by requirement of the US Department of Transportation.

Face Shields

Face shields are not required for students but allowed in addition to wearing a mask. Face shields cannot replace a face mask.

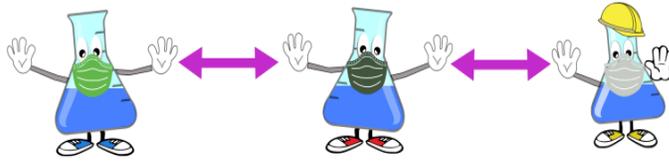
Barriers

Transparent barriers will be used in the Art Lab, STREAM Lab and PreK classrooms as an additional layer of protection.

Students will be able to remove their masks at the following times:

- While eating in their classroom
- While outside and 6 feet apart

Social distance, please



SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distance involves maintaining a specified distance from all other individuals to ensure that large droplets that are exhaled and may contain the coronavirus do not reach other people. The minimum social distance that will be maintained in classrooms and other spaces in the school is 3 feet.

It is critical that all school personnel and parents remain vigilant in reminding students of their responsibility to each other to maintain a social distance in case they are carrying the virus and may be able to unknowingly transmit it to others, even if they do not have symptoms.

Social Distancing in Classrooms

We have taken every measure possible to ensure the maximum distance between students in each classroom. These measures include spacing student desks 3 feet apart and removing excess furniture from the classroom.

Depending upon the number of students in a classroom, student desks will be 3 feet apart and all desks facing the same direction. Our approach is to combine social distancing of students in the classroom with the use of face coverings to provide a holistic approach to avoid respiratory droplets that may carry sickness reaching another child, teacher, or staff member.

Teachers will be encouraged to use outdoor space as much as possible. Teachers have access to the two outdoor classrooms on the south side of the school building. Classes may also use shaded areas on the property with students using their required 6-foot beach towel to sit on.

Social Distancing in Other Areas

In addition to social distancing measures in classrooms, we are implementing the following procedures and protocols to promote social distancing:

- Physical Education/Gym Class will be held outside. Students will participate in activities that maximize distance. Masks do not need to be worn during this class.
- The number of students who can enter the restroom at any time will be limited to ensure 3-foot distance between students. The maximum number of students allowed in a restroom will be posted on the door. Students will use assigned restrooms to limit the total number of individuals using any one restroom.
- In areas where students might wait in line (e.g., main office, restroom, cafeteria, entrances, doorways), clear markings will be placed on the ground to identify a 6-foot distance between individuals.
- Student movement through the school will be kept to a minimum throughout the day.



PERSONAL HYGIENE

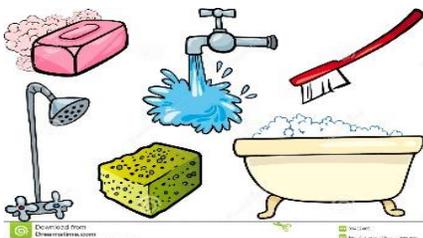
In addition to PPE and social distancing, each member of the school community will be expected to take responsibility for his or her personal hygiene, including responsibility for personal belongings and space. Teachers will provide instruction and allocate time in the classroom to ensure that students understand and can take these responsibilities seriously.

Hand Washing and Hand Sanitizing

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important defenses against the spread of all sickness, including COVID-19. The virus may survive for a period of time on surfaces that students touch throughout the day. For this reason, it is critical that students, teachers, and staff wash or sanitize their hands regularly.



- Students will sanitize their hands when entering the building at the beginning of the day and before leaving the school at dismissal.
- Each class will have a regular schedule, at least once per hour and before and after all meals or snacks, for students and teachers to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds or to use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol to sanitize their hands.
- Hand sanitization stations will be set up in the following locations:
 - In each classroom
 - At all entrances and exits to the school building
 - At the entrance to the school office
 - At the entrance to or in the nurse's office
 - At the entrance to or in the faculty lounge
- Each student should have a personal bottle of hand sanitizer and a personal container of sanitizing wipes for use in his or her personal space.
- Teachers will reinforce hand washing and the importance of students avoiding touching their faces and masks, particularly with those in the primary grades.



Personal Space and Belongings

Personal responsibility is an important skill for students to develop and exercise as a defense against the spread of COVID-19. Students have a responsibility to each other that they demonstrate through hand washing, social distancing, and the use of PPE. Taking responsibility for their own belongings and contributing to cleaning their workspaces are additional ways that students can be accountable to each other for maintaining the community's health.

- All students will need to have their own set of school supplies.
- Where supplies must be shared, such as science lab equipment and math manipulatives, only one group of students will use those supplies at a time, and they will be cleaned and disinfected between use.
- Lockers at the back of the classrooms will be used. Personal items such as coats and book bags will be hung on separate hooks. At the beginning and end of the day access will be staggered to ensure proper social distancing.
- When students use spaces that may be used by others, they will wipe down the space with a disinfecting wipe after they use it.

Students in grades 5-8 will return to switching classrooms as they have in the past for different subjects. We will closely monitor the impact of these procedures on student health and make adjustments, including returning to teachers switching classrooms instead of students, if necessary.

Backpacks, Clothing, etc.

We are asking all students to limit the number of items they transport between home and school. Students may bring a backpack and lunch box to school. We recommend that students remove shoes immediately upon returning home and that all school clothing be washed promptly after students return home.

HEALTHY FACILITIES

An important part of maintaining the health of the school community is ensuring that the school grounds and systems support the health of students and employees. St. Mary School will continue our attention to the cleanliness of the school grounds, facilities, and environment.

Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection

We have developed protocols to ensure that all areas used by students or staff are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected every day.



Classrooms

will be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each day. This includes:

- All desks, tables, and chairs
- Any barriers present in the room (e.g., sneeze guards in the Art Lab, STREAM Lab and PreK classrooms)
- Bookshelves, windows, and blackboards/whiteboards
- Carpets (vacuum) or floors (mop)
- Frequently touched objects, (pencil sharpeners, coat hooks, door handles, light switches)

For classrooms that are used by multiple classes, including shared use spaces, frequently used objects (e.g., doorknobs, pencil sharpeners) and all student seating (chairs, desks, tables) will be disinfected after every class. Students will disinfect their desks/seats with a disinfecting wipe before the next student uses them.



Bathrooms

will be cleaned and disinfected twice daily, including at the end of the day. Restroom faucets and high touch areas will be sanitized hourly.

School Facility

In addition, frequently used objects in common spaces, offices, and other rooms throughout the school will be disinfected multiple times per day.

The Clorox Total 360 machine will be used to “mist” the entire school. The Clorox Total 360 provides the additional benefits of disinfecting hard to reach places that might be missed during manual cleaning. It also provides disinfection of electronics, upholstered chairs and furniture.

Kitchen

Frequently used objects in the kitchen and food service preparation areas will be disinfected multiple times per day. The entire kitchen and food service preparation area will be cleaned and disinfected at the end of the day and no one will be permitted to enter or use the area for any purpose until the next school day.

Ventilation

Ensuring proper ventilation at our school is an important component of maintaining health and safety for all members of the community. Increasing the amount of fresh air and air flow when indoors can help to reduce the concentration of the virus that causes COVID-19 in classrooms and other indoor spaces if it is found there.

St. Mary School will be implementing the following measures to ensure proper ventilation at the school.

- Opening windows and doors to increase outdoor air flow. Please note that students may wish to bring in additional layers of clothing during cooler months, as windows will remain open.
- Ensuring that filters in the central heating and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are maintained and changed according to manufacturer recommendations.
- Using portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtration systems to enhance the cleaning of circulating air.
- Taking students outside frequently for classes and other activities.



PART II: MANAGING POTENTIAL ILLNESS

St. Mary School is taking the precautions above to limit the transmission of sickness, especially COVID-19. However, we recognize that some students and/or staff may still show symptoms of COVID-19, or students, employees, or their family members might be exposed to or test positive for COVID-19. Our response will be conducted in collaboration with the Atlantic County Department of Public Health.

RESPONSE TO COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

Students and Employees who Show Symptoms of COVID-19 in School

Any adult or student who shows symptoms of COVID-19 upon arrival at school or at any time while they are in the school building will enter a protocol to protect them and other members of the school community that will result in their leaving the school building as soon as practicable.

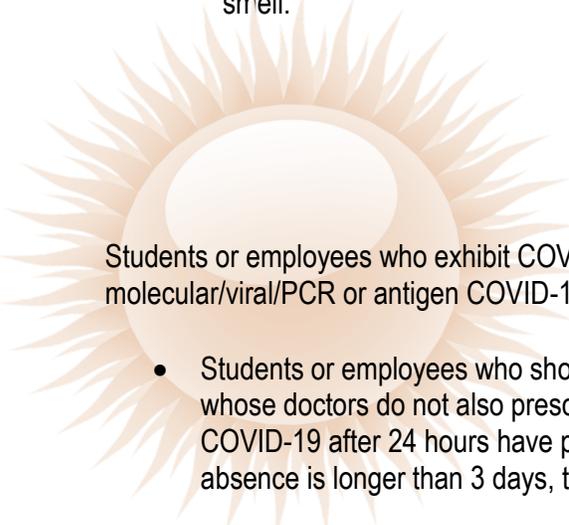
- Students, employees, and any other adults in the school will enter an isolation area if they show symptoms of COVID-19.
- All students, employees, personnel, and others in the isolation area will wear a mask and gloves and maintain a 3 foot distance from each other as practicably as possible.
- A parent, guardian, or authorized adult will be called to pick up any student who shows symptoms of COVID-19.
- Students will be isolated safely and respectfully, with continued supervision and care and respect for their privacy, until an authorized adult can pick them up. The isolation area will be thoroughly disinfected after it is used by symptomatic students.
- If symptoms appear after the school day has begun, the teacher and students will wash their hands thoroughly and immediately. The class will meet in an alternate location for the rest of the day.
- The Atlantic County Public Health Officer will be notified that an individual with symptoms that are potentially due to COVID-19 has been sent home. This contact will be made confidentially to protect the individual.
- The County Public Health Officer will advise the school about whether or not any additional steps, such as asking other students to self-quarantine, need to be taken. It is important to understand that such decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis, depending on the circumstances. Not every case of an individual with symptoms that are potentially due to COVID-19 will lead to self-quarantine for other individuals, a class, or the school.
- Students and staff who show symptoms that could be attributed to COVID-19 will be advised to seek the advice of a physician about whether isolation is necessary and will be required to have a negative COVID-19 test before returning to school.



Students & Employees who Show Symptoms of COVID -19 Outside of the School

Students or employees who show symptoms of COVID-19 outside of school that are not explained by a known, noncontagious prior condition, should not come to the school and should visit a physician to determine the cause of the symptoms. Symptoms include:

- At least two of the following symptoms: fever of 100.4 or higher, chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose; OR
- At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell.



Students or employees who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, whether at home or in school, must obtain a molecular/viral/PCR or antigen COVID-19 test before returning to school.

- Students or employees who show symptoms of COVID-19 and receive a **negative** COVID-19 test, and whose doctors do not also prescribe another confirmatory test, may return to school with the negative COVID-19 after 24 hours have passed without symptoms, including fever-free without medication. If the absence is longer than 3 days, the individual is required to provide a doctor's clearance to return to school.
- Students or employees who show symptoms of COVID-19 and receive a **positive** COVID-19 test may return to school after 10 days from the date the sample was taken, if they have been symptom free for 24 hours, including fever-free without medication.

If a member of the school community receives a positive test for COVID-19, it is imperative that the individual (if an employee) or his or her parent (if a student) contact the school so that the school can conduct proper contact tracing and inform the rest of the school community. The school principal, nurse, or other staff will send a letter to the school community confirming that someone who has been in the school tested positive for COVID-19 and will conduct contact tracing (see below) to determine whether any students or adults are considered close contacts and recommended to quarantine. Any student recommended to quarantine will be contacted separately by the school.



CLOSE CONTACT WITH COVID-19

Close Contact at School

If someone who has been in the school building tests positive for COVID-19, the school will conduct contact tracing in collaboration with the Atlantic County Department of Health.

Some students and/or teachers may be considered close contacts and advised to quarantine for a number of days, depending on the date of the contact and the regional risk level at the time of contact. The beginning of the quarantine period will generally be the date of last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19. Close contact is considered to be:

- Within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 cumulative minutes over 24 hours, regardless of whether masks were worn
- Provided care at home to, or visited, someone who is sick with COVID-19
- Direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)
- Shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

During times of low or moderate risk, individuals who are advised to quarantine by a physician or a public health official are expected to stay in the home for a period of 10 days, or 7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days. During times of high risk, the quarantine term will be 14 days. Quarantine may be longer if the individual shares living space with a person diagnosed with COVID-19. Students who do not show symptoms during this period will be expected to participate in school remotely.

Students and staff members who are fully vaccinated will not be required to quarantine unless they show symptoms of COVID-19.

Close Contact Outside of School

It is critical that any member of the school community who has had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 outside of school alert the school as soon as possible. The school will work with the Atlantic County Public Health Officer, while maintaining confidentiality, to determine the length of any quarantine period necessary. This includes employees of the school, students, volunteers, and family members of students.

Students and staff members who are fully vaccinated will not be required to quarantine unless they show symptoms of COVID-19. However, even if a student or staff member who is a close contact of someone who tests positive for COVID-19 is fully vaccinated, it is important that the individual inform the school.

PART III: SUSTAINING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Academic excellence is a hallmark of Catholic schools. We will adapt and continue some changes to instruction for the 2020-2021 that were effective in helping all students learn. Most students will be in classrooms, onsite for the 2021-2022 school year, with temporary remote learning available only for students who are positive for COVID-19 or have to quarantine due to close contact. It is also possible that the progression of COVID-19 in our community and/or in the state may require us to transition to full time remote learning for all students temporarily as we did during the 2019-2020 school year. The instructional plan leverages technology so that instruction and learning are as fluid and transferrable as possible between onsite and remote learning.

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Continued strategic use of technology will allow teachers to personalize learning and provide instruction that is fluid across onsite/in classroom learning and at home.

Hardware

All students in grades kindergarten through 8th grade will be issued a device.

Students in kindergarten through 2nd grade will each receive a Chromebook. K-2 will use these devices during in-person learning daily at school. K-2 will not be able to take their device home. If there is a mandated school closure, K-2 will be able to take home their device home for remote learning.

Students in 3rd grade and 4th grade will each receive a Chromebook. The devices will be used in the classroom daily. Third & fourth will use these devices during in-person learning in school and will not be able to take their device home. If there is a mandated school closure, 3rd & 4th will be able to take their device home for remote learning.

All devices in grades K-4 will be wiped-downed daily before placed in the charging station located in their classroom.

Students in 5th through 8th will be issued a Chromebook for use in class and may take their device home. Middle School students must wipe down their devices before returning to school each day.



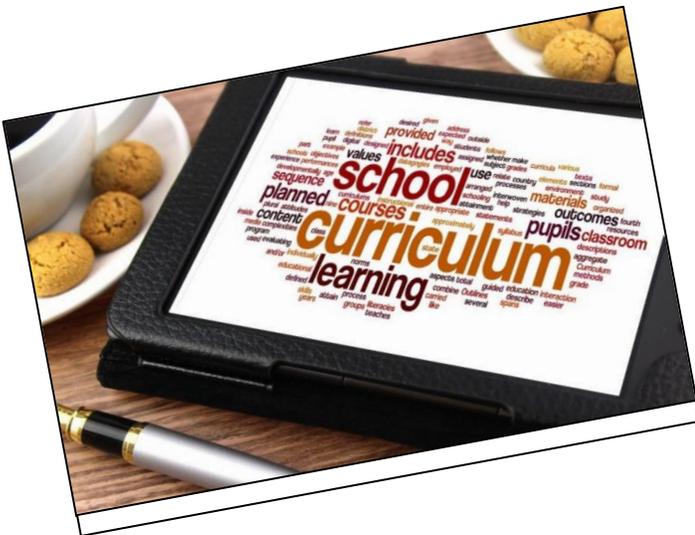
CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT, AND INSTRUCTION

Some changes will be made to the instructional program to ensure that all students show appropriate growth from the previous year.

- St. Mary School will continue to follow the curriculum for the Diocese of Camden.
- All students, grades 1-8, will participate in the Star Assessments in Reading and Math to help teachers identify their growth and customize their learning.
- All teachers will use the educational technology infrastructure and the expertise they developed last year to incorporate blended learning into their classrooms to the extent possible. Blended learning incorporates technology into instruction to assist teachers with personalizing instruction for all students. Blended learning in the classroom can also help prepare students for learning at home, if necessary.

Social Emotional Learning

Given the current state of affairs in our society on many levels, the social, emotional, mental and behavioral needs of our St. Mary School students will be a priority. St. Mary School will place intentional focus on social and emotional skill building. This involves working with students on the process through which they acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. The skill building will emphasize self-awareness, self-management, social-awareness, and attitudes and beliefs about self, others, and school. Social and emotional skill development builds confidence, and yields more positive social behaviors, stronger peer relationships, fewer conduct problems, less emotional stress, improved grades, and a desire to come to school.



REMOTE LEARNING

We anticipate that there may be a need for temporary remote learning during the 2021-2022 school year for students who have a positive COVID-19 test or who have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19. Therefore, we will support temporary remote learning when necessary for students who are in need of it so that students learning at home can stay as up to date with their learning as possible.



Temporary Remote Learning Criteria

Students who are informed by the school or a public health officer or department that they need to quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19, and those who have tested positive for COVID-19 but are healthy enough to participate in class, will be able to participate in temporary remote learning. Temporary remote learning is intended to serve students who are out for health reasons (such as COVID-19-related isolation or quarantine) for longer than they would be in a typical year. Students may not choose not to come to school for reasons other than illness and learn remotely on that day.

Temporary remote learning will not be available for any reason other than close contact or a positive COVID-19 test. Students who are out sick with COVID-19 symptoms but do not yet have test results will not have access to live remote learning. Temporary live remote learning will also not be available for students who are home sick for non-COVID reasons, for students who travel, or for any other reason. The school reserves the right to request verification of the need for temporary remote learning (e.g., positive COVID-19 test result for a family member) before approving it.

Temporary Remote Learning Process

There will be a one-day transition period to participate in temporary remote learning once it is determined that the student needs to remain out of the school building. This transition period will allow teachers to prepare and/or adapt their schedules and lessons to accommodate the students who will be participating remotely.

The intent of temporary remote learning is to ensure continuity of education students who are out of school. Teachers will do their best to ensure that students are as up to date as possible with their learning while they are quarantined.



Academic Integrity

St. Mary School expects that its students will take pride and ownership of their own schoolwork. While remote learning (due to quarantine) is an environment that allows students to have open notebooks, the internet, and access to all class materials, we expect that students will adhere to the expectations that St. Mary School has set forth in its policies for academic integrity. This means that students who share answers or use resources without giving proper credit or citations will face academic and disciplinary consequences.

Attendance

The attendance policy will be adapted for the 2021-2022 school year to accommodate students who may be learning remotely. When in-classroom learning is occurring, attendance will be marked as: Present, if in school; Remote, if learning remotely (present for live teaching and turning in assignments within class time expectations), or Absent, if home and too ill to participate.

If the school building is closed for all students due to advice from a public health official or an order, then attendance categories will be Remote or Absent. It is expected in this scenario that students learning remotely will attend all live instruction and submit all assignments on the deadlines expected. Any family who would like special consideration for an alternate deadline due to supervision or childcare challenges must ask for such consideration in writing. Students who are sick or who do not attend classes and do not submit assignments will be marked as Absent.



Student Services

St. Mary School will continue to maintain a relationship with Catapult Educational Services to provide services to students with specific learning needs. All of these services will continue in the event that the school needs to move to a remote learning program at any point during the school year.

Dress Code

Students are expected to be in the formal uniform each day. Students may opt to wear the Summer/Spring uniform in September through mid-October and after Easter Break through June. Students should wear school regulation school dress shoes. All other policies regarding the school dress code (e.g. make-up, haircuts, jewelry, etc.) remain in effect. Please refer to the dress code policies in the Parent/Student Handbook.



BEFORE CARE & AFTER CARE

We will continue to offer before care and after care. **We ask that only those families who need these services use them, and that they not be used for convenience.** Students in Before Care and After Care will be grouped with family members or members of their homeroom class to reduce the number of interactions across groups of students. The Before Care and After Care program will be located in the Media Center and former Kindergarten room. Those utilizing the program will enter and exit at the door connecting the west and east sections of the school. (This is the entrance/exit doors near the nurse's office.) Further details of the program will be provided to those who will be enrolling in the program.

FOOD SERVICE AND RECESS

Food service, including lunch and snacks, and recess are important parts of the school day. They will be particularly important this year as opportunities for students to socialize and exercise during the school day.



Lunch and Snacks

Lunch is provided by Duke Catering of Cherry Hill.

Students will eat lunch in their homeroom. Additional time has been added to the lunch period in order for students to be able to sanitize their hands and desks.

Before and after lunch, all students will be required to sanitize their hands. Students will also be asked to sanitize their desktops before and after lunch.

The lunch count will be taken in the morning during activity period. Students who bring a lunch may order a drink and dessert.

Hot lunch will be brought to the classroom in a sealed container with plastic wear. The student's name will be printed on the food container.

Students will have a snack break in the morning. Only one snack item will be sold each day for students who do not pre-order on-line. Water will also be sold. All snacks will be pre-packaged.

Parents can order daily snacks on-line through Duke Catering (www.ezschoollapps.com).

Recess

- Students are not required to wear masks for outdoor recess or breaks if they are able to maintain a 3-foot distance from one another. They may wear them if they feel more comfortable doing so.
- Students will participate in outdoor recess by classroom group. Each grade will have their own area to play. Students from different classrooms/homerooms should not come within 3 feet of each other.
- Sufficient adult supervision will be provided to ensure social distancing protocols are adhered to on the playground.
- Playground and sports equipment will not be used. Students cannot bring playground or sports equipment from home to school.
- Students will wash or sanitize their hands before and after recess.
- In case of inclement weather, recess will be held in the classroom. Students will play with personal activities supplied by parents.



Water Bottles

Water fountains will not be in use during the 2021-2022 school year. Students are required to bring plastic water bottles to school. Water may be purchased mid-morning during the snack break and ordered as a drink option for lunch.

PART IV: CATHOLIC IDENTITY

A Transformational Journey of Growth

A St. Mary School education is not a transactional experience. Rather, it is a transformational journey of growth. It is an environment where pastors, administrators, teachers and staff who care deeply about our students' human dignity, tend to the development of the whole child. The needs of the whole child are exactly why we are working so hard to open school full time, in-person learning in September. However, we are committed to provide a fully Catholic education in every environment we offer. Whether in-person or remote, our students will learn the joy of a Christ-centered life.

Families should not lose sight of why they have chosen St. Mary School for their child's education. We provide the welcoming and loving atmosphere your child needs to thrive in these challenging circumstances. Our mission of Minds at Work, Hearts with God and Lives of Service will make your child blossom this year.



Across the Curriculum

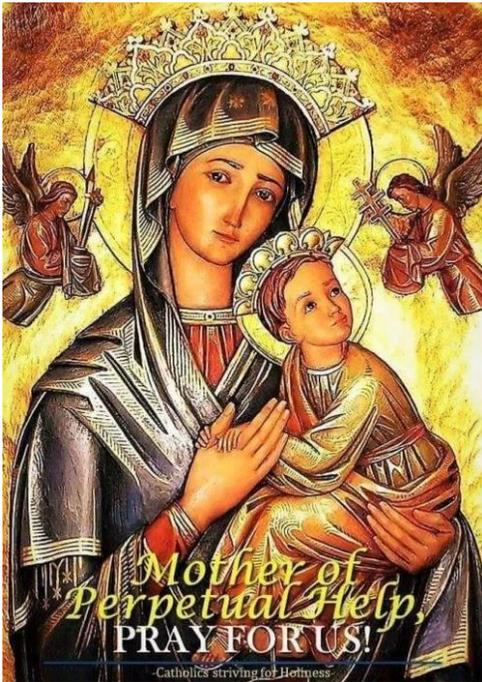
No matter the model of instructional delivery, our Catholic identity will be strong. In all classes and all grade levels, teaching and learning will be intentionally Catholic. Our students will grow in virtue and character as a result. They will gain wisdom appropriate to their age and experience, while also preparing them for an advanced and ever-changing world.

Catholic Traditions of Prayer

There will be scheduled all-school masses for each month. Each grade will be assigned a month to plan and participate in the liturgy. Masses will be in person in the school gym. Attendance at morning Mass at St. Mary Church is suspended this school year.

Traditions as May Crowning, Stations of the Cross, Prayer during the school day, etc. will continue this school year.





Daily Prayer to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Mother of Perpetual Help, you have been blessed and favored by God. You became not only the Mother of the Redeemer, but Mother of the redeemed as well.

We come to you today as your loving children. Watch over us and take care of us. As you held the child Jesus in your loving arms, so take us in your arms. Be a mother ready at every moment to help us. For God who is mighty has done great things for you, and God's mercy is from age to age on those who love God.

Intercede for us, dear Mother, in obtaining pardon for our sins, love for Jesus, final perseverance, and the grace always to call upon you, Mother of Perpetual Help

