

As you know, we are working hard to establish a safe opening of St. Joseph School to ensure the health and wellbeing of our students and families. Here is an insight into what school will look like when we open our doors in the fall. Please keep in mind that we are still in an ever-changing environment. These protocols remain fluid as we move forward.

Students and Visitors

August 20, 2020 – First day for students.

- Upon arrival, students' temperatures will be taken while waiting in the drop off-line. A staff member will meet you at your car to take temperatures through the window of the car.
- We ask that visitors in the school be limited to only checking out or dropping off a student.
- Everyone who enters the school building will have their temperature taken before entrance is granted.
- Everyone is required to wear a mask inside the school building.
- Students will wear a mask in common areas of the school, such as bathrooms and hallways. Students do not have to wear a mask in the classroom while they are in their learning environment.
- Students will be asked to bring a water bottle to school each day.

Sanitation and Safety Measures

- We will conduct temperature checks in the morning and the afternoon of all students and staff.
- Classes will be held outside whenever it is possible.

- Windows throughout the school will be opened to ensure fresh air circulation throughout the day.
- Where possible, desks will be placed 6 feet apart in the classrooms. Plexiglass dividers will be placed on desks that are not spaced 6 feet apart.
- Specials will travel to classrooms instead of students traveling to specials.
- Students will have P.E. class in the gym or on the playground.
- Good hygiene measures such as handwashing will be practiced throughout the day.
- The school will be cleaned/disinfected frequently throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be located throughout the school.
- School water fountains will not be used by students throughout the day. Teachers will refill water bottles as needed.
- The school janitor will conduct a deep cleaning of the school each evening.

Serving Meals

- Students may purchase lunch or snacks at school each day.
- Students and staff will wash their hands before and after meals or snacks.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided for students and staff.
- Students will not be allowed to share food.
- Lunchroom staff will serve plated lunches for students.
- Students will stagger eating in the cafeteria and eating in the classrooms to allow for social distancing. We will use outdoor space as practicable and appropriate.
- Students will follow common space protocols when going to lunch.

Academics

- We will ensure that the high academic standards of Catholic School Education are being met each day.
- The Catholic identity of the school will continue to be met each day through religion classes, practicing gospel values throughout the day, and school liturgies. We are still working through the details of how school liturgy will look this year to ensure the safety of our students and staff.
- St. Joseph School teachers will be trained and ready to teach in a virtual environment, should the need arise again. We are working to ensure that a uniform platform is used throughout the school.
- There will be a full time virtual, homeschooling option available through St. Joseph School and the Diocese of Birmingham.

School Response to COVID-19

- Students who are identified as having a fever and/or symptom of COVID-19 will be placed in an isolation area and monitored by a trained staff member.
- If a student has a fever of 100.0 or symptoms of COVID-19, the parent will be called for student pick up and asked to report to their health care provider for further instructions.
- If a parent/guardian or another immediate family member of a student tests positive for COVID-19, please notify the school office.

After School Activities/Sports

EDP will be available for students in the morning and in the afternoon. Please remember that this could change.

An open house has been suspended as of now.

Students will not attend field trips until further notice Parent/Teacher Conferences will be determined as we approach the end of the first nine weeks with a possible virtual option.

Athletics are still a work in progress.

What Parents Can Do To Ease The Transition

- Practice good hygiene at home such as proper handwashing
- Practice wearing masks at home so that your child is not wearing a mask for the first time when school begins.
- Show your child what a 6-foot distance looks like.
- Have your child practice not touching their face.
- Discuss these new measures with your child ahead of the school start date. The more that they are aware of these changes, the easier the transition will be for them.
- Ask questions. If you have concerns with something in this plan or have additional questions, please feel free to contact the office.