

Saint Agatha School



2020-2021 School Year Reopening Plan

It is the intention of Saint Agatha School to return to school in a full, in-person learning model, but we will reevaluate daily with medical and educational personnel if we need to utilize another plan. The safety of our students and staff must remain at the forefront of our decisions.

While this is uncharted territory, and the first day of school will be like no other, it is the intention of Saint Agatha School to continue to provide academically rigorous instruction in a safe environment while adhering to all safety requirements and best practices. We will continuously monitor our plans and policies, make adjustments when and where necessary and regularly communicate any and all changes with families.

This document lists the changes that have been made due to the Covid-19 restrictions, and it is predicated upon agreeing to an “all day, everyday” educational experience. It is expected and vitally important to the good health of all of us while we reopen Saint Agatha School, that students and families are socially responsible, exercise sound judgement and precaution in all their activities to reduce the transmission of this virus. Face coverings, repeated hand washing and social distancing on a consistent basis in all areas of your daily routine is vitally important to the school being able to remain open safely.

Students and staff are expected to stay home if they are ill or symptomatic.

Plans for the Extended Day Program are ongoing and will be shared as they progress.

A plan for a Hybrid and Remote Model has also been included in the plan if it is in the students’ best interest to move to one of these models.

Opening Days

KO & K1	Teachers will be in touch with a meet and greet schedule for
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only	September 8 - September 11
K2- Grade 4 only	Tuesday and Wednesday, September 8 & 9th 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Grades 5 - 8 only	Thursday and Friday, September 10th & 11th, 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

The first full day of school for all students is September 14th

School Start Time

The school day will continue to begin at 8:00 for grades 1-8; however, this year teachers will be in their classrooms as early as 7:30 to accept students. When students arrive they will report directly to their classroom. The period from 7:30-8:00 is to be used as a quiet independent study or reading time, and it is hoped that the staggered arrival will help to reduce traffic and congestion in the parking lot and hallways. The start time for K0-K2 is 8:15.

Any child arriving after 8:00 must enter through the main office door. **Please remember, parents will not be able to escort their child into the school.** Please plan accordingly to have your child on time for the beginning of the school day.

Drop off Procedure

In an effort to reduce congestion at the doors, we are instituting a rolling drop off in the morning. Staff will be in the parking lot to safely guide your child from the drop off lane to their designated door. Staff will also be monitoring the entry doors at dropoff. We ask that you exit the parking lot once your child has been met by a staff member. **Please use the drop off lane and do not park your car to walk your child in. Parking in the school lot is prohibited during the drop off period.**

KO- K2 will enter the school via the rear parking lot door. Follow the blue line on map below.

Grades 1-8 will enter at the front of the school. Follow the red line on the map and drop your child near the statue of Mary in the front of the building.

- **Grades 1-4 will be directed to enter the main entrance - see red dot on map.**
- **Grades 5-8 will be directed to enter the school via the door near the gym - see yellow dot on map.**

Please take notice of the map for your drop off and pick up point.



Adams Street Entrance

Dismissal

Grades K0-K2 will dismiss at 2:15 via the rear door.

Grades 1-4 will dismiss at 2:30 p.m. through the main door near the office.

Grades 5-8 will dismiss at 2:20 p.m through the door closest to the gym.

Again, we kindly ask that you pick up your child at their designated time and that you exit the parking lot once you have done so.

Social distancing prohibits congregating in the parking lot. Please help us to keep the parking lot free from congestion by exiting the parking lot in a timely manner. Children will not be allowed to remain and play in the parking lot.

Siblings in different grades will not be allowed to be dismissed together. They will each come out their respective doors with their cohort groups.

In-Person Learning Model

The careful study of our facility indicates that a full return to school is possible. Keeping at least three feet between students across grade levels is feasible with no more than 19 students in a classroom.

Necessary signage has been added throughout the school to remind students and staff to maintain 6 feet of distance.

Our classrooms have been reconfigured to maximize the floor space of our physical space, and staff will circulate between classrooms to teach their discipline. All soft furnishings, rugs, and non-essential furniture have been removed from classrooms.

The lunchroom will be configured to allow for 6 feet of distance between children during lunch, and children will all be seated facing the same direction.

Lunch boxes are permitted but should be handled only by the student. Please make sure all objects containing food or drink (thermos, juice box, plastic containers, straws, water bottle, yogurt, plastic baggies, etc.) can be opened independently by the student.

Lunch staff will wear gloves to assist students in Pre-K and K1 who may require help with this in the beginning of the school year

Food cannot be heated or refrigerated for students.

Please provide the necessary utensils (spoon, fork) for your child.

Water bottles are permitted in the classroom. Water fountain use is prohibited, and the water bubblers will not be functioning. Students may refill their water bottle from the contactless water fountain in the cafeteria if necessary. We are in the process of securing funding for additional contactless water fountains.

Masks

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly endorses the use of safe and effective infection control procedures to protect children. For coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), effective infection control and prevention requires the use of a cloth face covering. (AAP.org)

Masks will be required for all staff and students in grades 2-8 and highly encouraged for Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grade 1. Wearing a cloth face covering that covers the nose and mouth is required to enter the building.

- **Reusable or cloth face masks should be washed daily.**
- **Surgical masks should be changed daily.**
- Masks/face coverings cannot display any inappropriate message or design that is in opposition to the teaching of the Church or containing political, cultural or social messaging.
- No bandanas or gaiter type facial coverings are allowed.
- Mask breaks will be scheduled during the day - most likely outside, weather permitting
- Masks will be removed for lunch, as our lunch room allows for 6 feet of social distancing with students facing the same direction. Masks can only be removed when a child is seated in their assigned seat in the caf. Masks must be worn when not seated at the lunch table (i.e. filing in or out of the cafeteria.)

Infection Control

Physical distancing will be enforced in the classroom, lunchroom, hallways, staircases, restrooms, and playground area.

Hand sanitizing dispensers have been installed in all classrooms and public areas.

Students and faculty will regularly wash hands and use hand sanitizer throughout the day. While handwashing with soap and water is the best option, alcohol-based hand sanitizer is acceptable when hand washing is not available.

Students should sanitize their hands as frequently as possible -

- before and after preparing and eating food
- after using the bathroom
- after blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing

Daily cleaning practices will be compliant with CDC recommendations, including the types of cleaning products used and the frequency of cleaning. Special attention will be paid to the cleaning of high touch surfaces throughout the day. Nightly disinfection will be carried out with sanitizing sprayers.

Further information regarding disinfecting supplies and their ingredients be supplied in the coming days. Please see attached document for further information on cleaning agent ingredients.

Classroom windows and doors will be open in each classroom to allow for maximum air circulation.

Suspected Positive / Confirmed Positive Covid-19 Scenarios

Saint Agatha School has protocols in place for dealing with suspected positive cases and confirmed positive cases. These policies are based on the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and will be modified as warranted by the CDC. We have a Registered Nurse on staff 5 days a week and all staff are trained in First Aid, CPR and COVID-19 awareness.

Scenario	Student/Staff Plans	Classroom Plans	Family/Sibling Plan
Covid -19 positive Student / Staff	Quarantine 14 days	Quarantine for 14 days or provide proof of a negative test	- Quarantine for 14 days or provide proof of a negative result - Isolate from positive family member
Covid-19 suspected Student/Staff	Quarantine until testing result. Return to school after a negative result.	Classroom notified that the student is being tested and of negative result.	No action required

Covid-19 Symptomatic/not tested/staff or student	Quarantine for 14 days, testing recommended	Classroom notified, testing recommended	Close monitoring for symptoms
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If a student in Pre-K-grade 1 needs attention from the nurse, that student will be required to put on a mask while being evaluated. All teachers will have extra masks in their classrooms.

In accordance with the CDC guidelines, any child that presents with Covid-like symptoms will be moved to isolation, parents will be notified and an authorized adult must pick up the child within 30 minutes. **We ask that all parents provide the school with three contact numbers of adults that will be available to pick up your child.**

Parents/Guardians picking up sick children from the isolation room will not be granted access to the building. Instead, they will be asked to pull their vehicles up to the front office entrance/exit and your child will be escorted from the building.

When the school is notified that a student has tested positive for Covid-19, the teacher and students from that cohort will remain in their classroom for the remainder of the day. All families involved in that class will be notified via email that their student has been exposed to a Covid-19 positive student and must isolate for 14 days. Testing is recommended. Students do not need a negative test to return after 14 days.

Information about specific students, family members or staff of your child's class will be communicated through email. It is the parents responsibility to check their email several times a day. All information will be kept confidential and no identifying characteristics will be provided. Questions about any aspect of this virus including transmission, symptoms, suspected exposure or positive cases should be communicated to the school nurse for a confidential resolution.

Please be advised that we will continue to seek guidance from our state and local government, the CDC, and our local board of health and will use their recommendations to inform and adapt our models and reopening plans moving forward.

Travel

Communication regarding out of state travel in accordance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, August 1st, travel order, which states that all staff, students and family who have traveled out-of-state are asked to notify the school nurse to ensure they have complied with the travel order. Please note that the list of low risk states that are exempt from this order is frequently updated.

Hybrid Learning Model

Week One	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Learning in school	Group 1	Group 1	Group 1 (Half-day)	Group 2	Group 2
Learning at home	Group 2	Group 2	Group 2	Group 1	Group 1
Week Two	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Learning in school	Group 2	Group 2	Group 2 (Half-day)	Group 1	Group 1
Learning at home	Group 1	Group 1	Group 1	Group 2	Group 2

In a Hybrid Scenario, Saint Agatha School will continue to teach the Massachusetts learning standards in a rigorous model. This hybrid model allows for 6 feet of physical distancing between students and for fewer children in the learning environment.

Siblings will be placed in the same learning group.

Remote Learning Model

Our remote learning model will build and improve upon our experience this past spring. Using best practices for remote learning, our teachers will continue to deliver a rigorous curriculum.

Students will follow their normal daily schedule from home via an online platform, either Google Meets or Zoom.

A seriousness of purpose will be emphasized for all grade levels with carefully planned lessons, traditional grading, and consistent feedback to students.

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken daily for each class period. Students will attend at least six sessions of live instruction per day including a homeroom morning meeting and an end of the day wrap up session with the homeroom teacher. Specific daily learning schedules for each grade level are being finalized at this time and will be communicated at a later date.

Students should dress the same as they would for attending classes while participating in video classes. Please have your student attend their remote class wearing a school shirt. Saint Agatha School gym shirt, polo shirt or school blouse are all acceptable.

Video cameras must be turned on during a video class in order to be considered present for the class.

Microphones should be muted during a video class unless the student has been recognized to speak. Students must use their proper name.

When speaking, and using the chat feature during a video class, students should adhere to the same courtesies that they would use when interacting in the classroom. **Students should not be eating during their remote class.**

**THIS PLAN IS IN THE EVENT OF FULL REMOTE LEARNING BEING NECESSARY
DUE TO HEALTH CONCERNS.**

Parent and Student Attestation Form

Homeroom teachers will be emailing you a Google form which will serve as an attestation and will confirm that you have read and understood the guidelines within this plan. Completion and submission of the Google form will be necessary for admission to school.

Please stay tuned for an opportunity to ask questions of the Reopening Committee via a digital platform.