

COVID-19
Guidance and Procedures

Saint Laurence School
Upper Darby, PA

September 2021-2022

Introduction and Philosophy

Introduction

This document will provide information regarding the plan to return to St. Laurence School for the 2021-2022 school year. Before we discuss the specific aspects of the plan, let us start with an introduction to five key foundational principles that the plan is built upon. ***Please note that this document will be updated as federal, state, and local guidelines in regards to COVID-19 are announced.***

Foundational Principle #1: Social Distancing

Social distancing is deliberately increasing the physical space between people to avoid spreading illness.

Keeping your distance from others lessens the chances of catching and spreading COVID-19. Travel in the hallway, lunch periods, and classroom instruction have all been planned to maximize social distancing.

1. Desks will be placed a minimum of 3 feet from the center of each desk to the center of the next desk.

Foundational Principle #2 Strategic Use of Masks

Masks will be mandatory.

1. Masks are **mandatory** for students in the following situations:
 - Travel in the hallway
 - Entering and exiting the building
 - On the bus
 - In the lavatories
 - When travel or activity about the classroom is necessary without effective social distancing.
2. Masks are **not mandatory** for students in the following situation:
 - When students are outside or taking part in physical education class.

Foundational Principle #3: Enhanced Cleaning

The school will increase cleaning and disinfecting with approved cleaning supplies. With this enhanced cleaning, a safer environment can be established.

1. Frequent cleaning throughout the day of common areas and highly used features.
2. Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles to school, as common water fountains will not be in use.

3. Students will sanitize their hands upon entering the classroom, before and after morning recess, before and after the lunch period, and before exiting the classroom.
4. At the conclusion of each school day, the building will be sanitized.

It is important to emphasize that much of what will be done, we already do on a daily basis. However, we will be taking extra precautions.

Foundational Principle #4: Monitoring Health

Every day, parents are primarily responsible for monitoring the health of their children.

1. **Students who are experiencing symptoms (such as fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea) need to be kept home until medically cleared to return to school.**
2. **Parents are expected to take their child's temperature daily.**
3. Teachers will check the health of their students during any common activity.
4. Temperature monitoring will be available at school.
5. HIPAA laws will be respected.

Foundational Principle #5: Parental Partnership

Partnership –With parental cooperation in this matter, we will be able to keep the schools open and safe. This cannot be possible unless the school and the parents agree to the importance of monitoring your child's health daily. Most importantly, this means that children who are experiencing symptoms – such as fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, parents need to keep their child home until medically cleared to return to school.

General Principles for the Building

Introduction

There are several key practices that should be implemented in each building to help maintain a safe learning environment.

Philosophy

Foundational premises when designing a safe learning environment are the concepts of mask wearing, social distancing and frequent cleaning. The use of these practices is recommended by

the CDC and other health agencies to help control the spread of any viruses and manage any possible outbreaks.

Process

1. High touch surfaces should be cleaned frequently.
2. Signage should be in each classroom and throughout the building reminding students to practice good hygiene.
3. Hand sanitizers available in classrooms and in other strategic areas.
4. As part of group prayer, reminder to social distance and to wash hands.
5. Students need to provide their own supplies. (masks, hand sanitizer, tissues, etc.)
6. Only food that is store bought and sealed may be brought in for the classroom. (Birthdays, Holiday parties)
7. Ventilation is important - windows should be opened if possible. Air purifiers are on backorder.

Catholic Identity

Introduction

Excellence in education is characterized by having a strong curriculum, engaging students, utilizing quality instructional methods, making good use of data and communicating regularly with parents and stakeholders. What is at the heart of learning at St. Laurence School is the inclusion of faith and Catholic identity in all we do.

Philosophy

Catholic schools have a two-fold charge: providing an education that is academically excellent and one that is deeply rooted in Catholic identity. The challenge, then, is to ensure that the education that is delivered (no matter what the mode of delivery) meets this standard.

Process

1. Starting in September, students will attend school wide Masses monthly, separate from the parish.

2. Students will wear masks and practice social distancing during the liturgy.
3. Visitors to mass will be required to wear masks.
4. Each afternoon, our community will pray the prayer of Pope Francis.

The Prayer of Pope Francis during the Coronavirus

Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: “Do not be afraid” (Mt 28:5). And we, together with Peter, “cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us” (1 Pet 5:7). Amen.

Building Operations

Entering the Building

Introduction

Entering the building every morning is the activity which unofficially begins the day. It is important that this is smooth, stress free, efficient and conducted in a manner that keeps students safe.

Philosophy

A foundational premise when designing a safe entry throughout the day and controlling transmission of any virus, is to help keep it from the building.

Process

1. Parents take the temperatures of their children before they leave home.
2. Students should immediately sanitize their hands by using sanitizers or washing hands.
3. Empty buses one at a time per entrance, so social distancing can be maintained and each child’s hands can be sanitized.
4. Have each entrance monitored by staff to help ensure students maintain a social distance.

Lunch

Introduction

Lunch in school serves multiple purposes, it is a time to replenish and nourish as well as a time to socialize and get a brain break. It is important to provide all these goals and keep children safe.

Process

1. Students should wash/sanitize hands before lunch.
2. Students should remain socially distant during lunch.
3. Tables should be wiped down before and after each meal.
4. There will not be any shared meals.
5. Lunch will be monitored by staff members in a similar manner to morning duty.
6. Students should sanitize hands after lunch.

St. Raphael Room

Introduction

When students are experiencing discomfort or potential symptoms of COVID, there needs to be a removal to a place where they are isolated from others with enough room that several students could sit in the room and be socially distanced.

Philosophy

The concept is to provide a safe supervised staging area where students can wait until they can get transportation from school.

Process

1. Our area will be located on our main floor.
2. Area will be sanitized after each use.
3. Social Distancing will be strictly enforced in the area.

Playbooks: Guidance for Dealing with COVID Case:

Schools will make efforts to monitor the health of their students and staff, although it is not required or suggested by the CDC. Specifically, they suggest schools and Child Care programs are **not expected** to screen children, students, or staff to identify cases of COVID-19. If a community, or specifically school, has cases of COVID-19, local health officials will help identify those individuals and follow up on next steps.

Below is some specific guidance related to situations involving the school, community and COVID-19.

If a member of the school community has been exposed to or has a confirmed case of COVID-19

1. Notify the local health officials – follow their guidance. Notify the Archdiocese and the Pastor.
2. Parents will notify school and classroom teachers of any COVID case or exposure.
3. Classroom teachers will develop a plan for each individual situation.

CARES

Introduction

It is integral for our schools to provide a CARES program especially during the current circumstances. For many of our students, this will be their first re-entry into the school setting. CARES is an offshoot of the regular school day; thus, all procedures in place for the school should be adhered to during the CARES program.

Philosophy

It is paramount that we provide a safe, healthy and sanitized environment for those students entrusted to our care before and after regular school hours. It is important to engage these students in a social setting which they have not experienced in months and to provide a pleasant atmosphere for them. We are the protectors and providers for these students during the hours they are entrusted to us.

Process

1. CARES will follow the same procedures as recess and lunch.

After School Activities

All after school activities will follow school protocols, CYO guidelines if applicable, and CDC and local health department guidelines.