

St Mary's Families,

We would like to share with you the COVID-19 protocols for the 2021-2022 school year. St. Mary's School will be following these guidelines after consultation with the County Health Department and the Superintendent of Montana Catholic Schools. These protocols are meant to (a) mitigate the risk of infection and spread of the COVID-19 virus within the student body and staff of St. Mary's Catholic School (b) align St. Mary's with local, state, federal and diocesan policies and/or recommendations and (c) model behaviors which will protect our parishioners, community and the general public. These guidelines are effective as of August 1, 2021. Please note that St. Mary's will follow all county, state or federal regulations in regards to COVID-19 and schools. St. Mary's Catholic School reserves the right to review and/or amend this plan to adapt to the status of the COVID-19 pandemic in our area.

Masks-

- Masks will be optional for students and staff of St. Mary's School, but recommended.
- Masks will be requested for all parents, guests, and volunteers who enter the school regardless of his/her vaccination status. This includes visitors and/or guests for after school activities sponsored by St. Mary's.
- The school will provide both cloth masks and disposable masks for anyone entering the building or for students that wish to wear one.
- Student mask use will be encouraged whenever there is a concern, i.e. compromised immune system, hosting guests from out of town, etc.
- Students may provide their own masks but must ensure that the masks are cleaned each day.
- Students may be encouraged to wear masks when social distancing is not practical.

Visitors-

- All visitors, guests and volunteers will be asked to wear a mask while in the building.
- If there is business that needs to be accomplished with the office, parents are asked to call ahead to limit traffic.
- Unnecessary visits will be discouraged.
- Continue 6 feet distancing while in office.
- No food deliveries for lunch.
- Parents/visitors are not allowed to come and have lunch with students.

In Class-

- Students will practice social distancing.
- Students will practice hand sanitizing when sharing materials and/or stations.
- Students will be seated 3 feet apart when possible.
- Students will be told not to touch others and keep their distance.

- Students will be responsible for their own supplies/materials. There will be no shared or community materials.

Sanitation-

- Increased, scheduled and consistent cleaning of the classrooms will be directed by teachers.
- The custodian will come in during the day to do extra cleaning of the restrooms and high traffic areas.
- Hand sanitation stations will be provided at every public entrance and exit. Students and staff will sanitize their hands before entering the building and after each recess. Students will wash their hands before snack and lunch. Correct hand washing techniques will be reviewed and practiced at every grade level.
- All parents, guests and volunteers will be asked to sanitize their hands when entering the building.

Ventilation-

- Doors will be open when students enter and leave the building to allow for better air flow and dissipation of any germs.
- Exhaust fans to the roof will be left on at all times. These exhaust fans exhaust all office spaces, classrooms and restrooms to the roof. We do not have a recirculating air system in the building.
- We have acquired air purifiers for each room in the building to keep the air flowing in addition to the exhaust fans. They will run every day while school is in session.

Bus Riders-

- Students riding a public school bus to or from St. Mary's School will be required to wear a mask for the duration of the bus ride. Bus drivers will be responsible for enforcement of this federal regulation.

Entry Times and Procedures-

- Students will remain in vehicles until the first bell rings at 8:00 am.
- Parents will be discouraged from entering the building unless there is a reason. If they enter they are asked to wear a mask to ensure the safety of our students and staff.
- Prior to entering the school students will sanitize their hands.
- Students may pick up a mask for the day, or put on the one they bring from home. Then students will go directly to his/her classroom. They will not be lining up in the hall or waiting for others.
- All students need to be in their classroom when the 8:10 bell rings or they will be marked as tardy.

Preschool Entry-

- The preschool students will arrive at 8:30 am, entering through the main doors. They will be leaving at 11:30 am, prior to lunch. Transitions will be such that they leave their classroom and go directly to the exit door.

Leaving at the End of School Day-

- The first dismissal bell will ring at 3:05 pm. K-4th will be dismissed at that time. They will be encouraged to go directly out the front door to his/her car.
- A second bell will ring at 3:10 pm and 5th-8th will be dismissed out of the front door. All students are encouraged to exit the building in a timely manner.
- No one will be allowed in the gym to shoot or wait at the end of the day unless it has been prearranged or is part of a sanctioned activity.

Lunchtime and Recess-

- We will have two meal times (exact times to be determined)
 - K-4th will eat first shift
 - 5th-8th will eat second shift
- Students will enter through the assigned door and be dismissed by table to get their tray.
- Lunch tables will be set up to allow for maximum social distancing.
- Distancing will occur at the tables as well.
- Students will have recess opposite lunch times.

Athletics/PE-

- Students will participate in PE but activities may be planned that require less contact.
- In lieu of PE, health and living skills lessons may be taught.
- If weather permits, PE will take place outside and allow for more movement while maintaining social distancing.
- Team sports will follow guidelines from MHSA.

School Mass-

- Weekly Mass will continue with additional space between students and classes.

Rapid Testing on Site-

- Rapid Testing On Site
 - One or two staff members will be trained on how to administer the rapid COVID test on site at St. Mary's. The training, materials and equipment will be provided by the Park County Covid team.
 - Testing will be conducted in the hallway between the library and office and the student will be asked to remain in this area until results are given.
 - Only symptomatic individuals will be tested. All results will be documented with the state. All positive results will be forwarded to the Park County Health

Department. All staff and students will be encouraged to follow all county health directives about quarantine and seeking medical attention.

- Parents of students exhibiting symptoms will be contacted to give verbal consent for the student to take a rapid Covid -19 test on site.
 - If a negative test results the ability to return to class will be determined on a case by case basis depending on presenting symptoms. If it is determined the student needs to go home, they must be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school.
 - If the test is positive the student will be sent home and the county will be notified. County recommendations will then be followed regarding quarantine and their return to school.
 - If a parent does not give permission for an on-site test then the student will be sent home until symptom free for 24 hours.