



St. Mary's School COVID-19 Question and Answer Guide

When will my child be required to wear a mask?

The amount of time wearing masks will vary depending on the phase in which we find ourselves. Students will be required to wear masks while transitioning throughout the building and as outlined in our Back to School Plan. When required, we hope to provide times when students can get out of the building and social distance from time to time during the day. Additional mask wearing may be required from time to time by local health authorities.

Will my preschooler have to wear a mask?

Currently, preschool students will not be required to wear masks in the classroom. They will be required to wear them in the hallway and during transition periods. The Early Learning Center will have their own separate protocol plan.

Can my child use their own mask?

Children may bring their own mask as long as it is not a distraction, much like the rest of our dress code.

Will the school provide masks? How will they be cleaned/sanitized?

The school will provide masks. Each day as they leave students will leave them in a soiled mask bucket. Each evening, those masks will be washed and sanitized in a washing machine. If they are made from material that will not shrink, they will be washed in the hot sanitize cycle.

Will the playground be open for recess?

We may have to limit access to the equipment, but we anticipate that most days we'll be able to enjoy the outdoors.

Will the lunch room be open?

We are planning on offering lunch to our students and staff as we have in the past. We will have part of our students at recess while the others are eating and then switch.

Can I come have lunch with my child? Can I take them out to lunch?

Until we are able to open up to visitors, lunch with your child will not be allowed. Leaving the campus throughout the school day should be limited as much as possible, including lunch dates.

What happens if someone displays symptoms in the classroom?

If a child has any of the symptoms outlined by the CDC they need to stay home. We will be checking the temperatures of our students as they enter the school. Those with a fever will be quarantined and sent back home. The protocols will require a doctor's note for those who have been displaying symptoms of COVID.

My child suffers from allergies, how will these symptoms be addressed?

We hope to soon have a copy of "Is it safe for my child to go to school?" This will give guidelines to the school and parents as to how to deal with issues such as allergies.

Will we receive off-site learning assistance if we are exposed and under quarantine? How will this affect my child's grades?

Teachers are planning on ways to record or livestream core lessons. If your child is unable to attend school, teachers will accommodate and assist them as much as possible. We are exploring different ways in which to do this. Tasks may be modified by the teacher as they see fit, but content will be delivered and families will be supported. Grading will vary depending on age and subject. Students will be expected to complete work assigned for them during their absence and will be graded accordingly.

What happens if the teacher gets sick?

We are working on developing a group of substitutes who will be able to assist with the classes. These substitutes may include some of our parents who have taught in the past, some of our pull-out teachers or even our priests.

What does the typical day look like in my child's classroom?

We will enter the building by cohorts between 7:50 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. Most of the day will look much like it has in the past. During Phase III and Phase II we hope to keep each homeroom class as they currently are. If we move to Phase I, we will split the classes into two classes which will continue to stay together as a cohort. The same content will be provided to both cohorts.

What will Mass days look like for students during this time? Are masks required?

Students preschool through 8th grade will attend mass weekly. The school will follow the protocols for church attendance that have been set out for us by the diocese in conformity with state directives. We will have spacing between individual students and classes. Masks will be worn if that is required for Sunday Mass attendance. Guests and parishioners will be asked to sit in the back of the church in designated pews and also follow the current guidelines for Mass attendance. Students will not be allowed to sit with family during school Masses; they must remain with their cohorts.

Will the drinking fountains be available for use?

All students are asked to bring a full water bottle to class each day. The water fountains will not be in use except for the bottle filling component on the dispenser in the middle of the main hallway. Students may fill their bottles but staff will discourage extra hallway time and

passes used just for getting a drink will not be available. Please provide your child with a drink in their lunch if they are not having milk as cups of water will not be available.

How are you handling snacks?

All snacks need to come from home with your child each day. The vending machine will not be available and snacks will not be provided in the classroom. Each teacher will be responsible for their own classroom snack policy.