

St. Mary School Reopening Plan

Our goal is to return to normal school operations to the fullest extent permitted by health and safety regulations established by the CDC, the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Department of Health, the Diocese of Columbus and the Marion Public Health Department. We will be open five days a week with in-person classes unless a mandatory stay-at-home order is issued by the Governor's office.

We will begin the school year with a phased-in approach to allow adequate time to prepare students for the new procedures and protocols we have put in place. Classroom and common area rules, especially regarding social distancing, will be addressed. Students will be assessed to gauge their academic skills so that proper learning plans can be developed to meet their needs.

Social Distancing

Student desks will be arranged to maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible. Desks will all face the same direction. Signs and floor marking will be used as guides to keep a six foot social distance in hallways and common areas of the building. The tables in the cafeteria have been rearranged with all seating facing one direction and only two chairs per table. Panels will be installed to create additional barriers where needed.

Hygiene/Cleaning

Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes and cleaner will be in every room. Students will be given ample opportunities to wash and sanitize their hands. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be placed at the main entrance, in the classrooms, in the cafeteria, and in all common areas of the building.

High touch areas will be cleaned throughout the day. Efforts will be made to reduce the need to touch surfaces by propping doors open where possible. Students will not share their school supplies and the use of shared materials will be minimized. The drinking fountains will only be used to refill water bottles. Students must not drink directly from the water fountains.

The building will be sanitized throughout the day. Classroom surfaces will be wiped down at lunch and at the end of the day. Playground equipment will be cleaned between and after recess periods to the fullest extent possible.

Health Precautions

Parents MUST conduct a health assessment every morning including taking the temperature of each child. Children with a fever may not come to school. Students must be fever free without medication for 24 hours before returning. Do not send a child who is not feeling well to school. Parents who work need to have plans in place for childcare, as needed.

Students who exhibit a temperature above 100° or other severe symptoms upon arrival or during the school day will be moved to a designated separation area. The student will be monitored by the school nurse or other staff member, who will wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) provided

by the school in accordance with OSHA standards, and maintain physical distance when possible. Parents will be called immediately and the student must be picked up within 30 minutes. Parents will be directed to pick up their child at the exterior door of the separation room. The parents should contact the health care provider of any student who is sent home from school with symptoms of COVID-19 and follow their advice as to testing requirements and returning to school.

Staff members or volunteers will conduct a health assessment daily and will not report to school if ill or with a temperature above 100°. If they exhibit symptoms or have a temperature above 100° during the day, they will likewise be separated from students, other staff and volunteers and be monitored by a staff member wearing appropriate (PPE) in accordance with OSHA standards, and maintaining physical distance. The staff member or volunteer will contact their health care provider for advice as to testing requirements and must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.

Families, caregivers and staff should notify the school if they have been exposed to COVID-19 or if they, or any members of their households, have been diagnosed with or presumed to have COVID-19. Personnel and student with known exposure must self-quarantine at home for 14 day. Anyone with a suspected case should contact their health care provider or the Marion County Public Health Department.

Face Coverings (Masks)

All students, staff, teachers and visitors must wear cloth face coverings into the building. Masks must cover the nose, mouth and chin. Students must have a mask in place before boarding the buses or leaving their vehicle when arriving by car. Parents are responsible to provide a clean, well-fitting mask for each child, every day. The students will wear their mask home from school. Also provide a small zip style sandwich bag, labeled with your child's name, to be used to keep masks clean when students are permitted to remove them, such as during the lunch period.

The use of face coverings by students while in the classroom and seated at their desks may vary and will be adjusted according to the mandates of state and local health officials. Masks will be worn when students are moving about the building and in all common areas. Parents are responsible to teach their children the proper way to apply and remove their mask and how to store it in their bag to keep it clean.

Please note that face coverings are an effective tool in reducing the spread of viruses. Wearing a mask is an act of kindness, protecting those around you. We suggest parents have their children practice wearing a mask and stress the importance of keeping their hands clean and away from their face.

Limiting Visitors

While we normally welcome parents and visitors into our building, we will be strictly limiting such access for the safety of our students and staff. Visitors will be greeted at the door and business will be conducted there to the fullest extent possible. Should a visitor need access to the building, they will be asked to pass a temperature screening and short health assessment survey. Parents may make an appointment to meet with teachers, staff or administrators.

Student Arrival

Students arriving at school by bus will be entering the cafeteria. Temperature screenings will be conducted before the students are permitted inside. Any student whose temperature measures above 100° will be moved to the separation area and the parent will be called. The child must be picked up within 30 minutes of notification at the exterior door of the separation room.

Breakfast will be provided in a “grab and go” bag prepared by our cafeteria manager. The children will exit the cafeteria using the south door and walk to the main entrance of the school.

Students arriving by car must enter through the gym door. The door will open at 7:40 am. The teacher monitoring the door will conduct a temperature screening through the car window. Students may not exit the car if their temperature is above 100°. Breakfast bags will be available in the gym for students who normally use this service.

If you arrive with your student after the gym door has been closed at 8:00 am, you will need to park and walk your child to the main entrance. When you ring the bell, someone will meet you at the door with the sign-in log. The student will have to pass the temperature screening before being admitted to the building. Please make every effort to arrive on time.

No student can be dropped off and left to enter either the cafeteria or the school building alone!

Early pickup

Should you need to pick up your child before normal dismissal time, please call the office (740-382-1607) prior to arrival and specify the time you need us to have your child ready. When you arrive at the door, ring the bell and your child will be escorted to the door. You will be required to wait outside. The person escorting the child will have you sign your child out. If you have been called to pick your child up due to non-COVID-19 illness, you will follow the same procedure.

Dismissal

Dismissal time is 2:15 pm. Students who go home by bus will be taken to the north parking lot where the buses will be waiting. Car riders will be taken to the gym. All parents must remain in their vehicles and pull up to the gym door where students will be waiting. Students will be spaced out to follow social distancing guidelines.

It is more important than ever that parents communicate transportation changes as early in the day as possible. While we realize emergencies may arise, make every effort to send a note in advance if there is a change to your child’s normal transportation at the end of the day. Last minute phone calls disrupt our plans to dismiss students in an orderly fashion. Our dismissal procedures are designed to keep everyone safe and avoid chaos at the end of the day. Students experience less stress when they are aware of changes and know in advance how they will be going home.

Attendance/Seating Charts

Daily attendance will be reported to the school office. Attendance will be monitored for trends. Students will be given assigned seats in the classrooms, gym, and cafeteria with accompanying seating charts. Local districts transporting our students by bus will also provide seating charts.

Remote Learning

A new platform for remote learning, called Digital Academy, is being implemented across the Diocese of Columbus. We will move to this platform if we are placed under a “stay at home” order and required to close the building. The teachers are preparing for this option, although it is our fervent prayer that we will remain open and functioning as normally as possible. Students will be using Digital Academy on a regular basis as part of their technology classes so that they can more easily transition to remote learning should it become necessary. Parents will be provided with login information and instructions so that they can monitor student progress and help facilitate distance learning as required.

Students who are absent due to illness, a short term medical condition or quarantine requirements, but feel well enough to participate in classroom sessions, may access Digital Academy via the internet. In such cases, the teacher will live stream during instructional time. Students at home will need to have their textbooks and workbooks with them to complete assignments and seat work being done in class. Please contact the school to make arrangements for such sessions as the need arises.