



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Building Wisdom and Faith Through Service to God

Town Hall Questions

The surrounding counties, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William, are only distance learning until at least Jan 15, 2021. It was stated due to in-climate weather, St. Joseph would follow the county closures, is this for the government offices only since schools will be closed?

St. Joseph Catholic School will develop a plan to notify parents of weather related closures and delays.

The deadline for in person or distance learning is July 31, 2020. In the town hall meeting and the slide show sent out, there was mention of a hybrid model. Is there more information on this and will it be available before decisions are due? If a hybrid model is offered after the fact, will we be able to change our selection?

At this time, we are not able to offer the hybrid model. However, data is being collected on an interest in the hybrid model and if there is a change, and hybrid is offered, parents will be informed, and offered a choice.

My child will not be taking part in the 8th grade Sacraments of Confirmation. If my child attends in person, how will that be handled while his classmates received their teaching and instruction? Public service hours were assigned in 7th grade and students were given until part way through 8th grade to complete the hours. With the social distancing restrictions and limited options, how will the students complete this requirement?

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is part of the 7th and 8th grade Religion curriculum. All students are required to complete the Religion assignments whether they plan to receive the Sacrament or not. There is no opting out of Religion class for any student. As to service hours, I have not seen an update on the requirements, and Mrs. Daughtrey will provide guidance to students.

Will SJS raise the bar and take the temperatures of students as they get out of the car before the parents drive away?

Parents are required to take their children's temperatures and fill out the Covid-19 health form prior to their children exiting their cars. The adults supervising the drop-off will check the forms. Students without forms, or with incomplete forms cannot be dropped off. SJS staff will not collect these forms, and parents are asked to maintain a file in case needed for any reason.

Will SJS raise the bar and not only require a mask but also face shields or eye goggles?

Teachers will be required to wear a mask and face shield. If a parent would like their child to wear a face shield along with the mask, they may provide it and discuss this requirement with their individual child(ren)

Can students be excused from receiving the Communion and instead receive a Blessing?



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Last year Bishop Burbidge clarified that only those individuals who wanted to receive Holy Communion could get in the Communion line. It is no longer permitted to use the Communion line in order to receive a blessing. I am not aware of a change to this rule, but will follow up with Father Tom.

What if we can't get the hand sanitizer and Clorox wipes on the school supply list?

If hand sanitizer and Clorox wipes are not available, students should still attend school. Please send in the sanitizer as soon as possible.

If the state phase is changed how will that change the instruction, i.e. will a device be needed per child? If we are going in person and do not get more devices so each of my children have one will that be an issue if distance is required? Do we need to plan for each to have a device no matter what?

If the school is required to provide all instruction via distance learning, all students will be required to have access to a device.

Are there going to be new rules/changes to picking students up early or dropping them off late due to appointments?

Currently, there has been no change to these procedures. Any changes will be shared with the community through the Bark, website and social media platforms.

If you go out of state does the 2 week state quarantine apply to not going to school? If so, do you have to distance learn while under quarantine?

Yes, whatever quarantine requirements are in place apply to school attendance as well. If a 14 day state quarantine is in place, students who leave the state and then re-enter will need to follow the quarantine guidelines. Distance learning will be available to the students during that time.

How will students get water throughout the day? Bring water bottles? Refill them?

Students will be allowed to bring their own water bottles for use during the day. The water bottle portion of the water-fountains is hands free. Water fountains will only be used for filling water bottles, and not for drinking water.

Can you change your learning choice if something changes (personally, environmentally, etc) for a period of time (say a few weeks) and then change back or can you only change at the trimester mark?

The emotional and physical care of our students and their families is of top priority. If for some reason their learning choice is not working, a change will be considered after review by the administration. However, keeping children safe and meeting their learning needs takes teachers. Staff is hired based on student numbers in the building, and staff is assigned to distance learners based on those numbers. With that, there is not as much flexibility for students to move between platforms.

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We are wondering if you are planning to a zoom back to school night with each teacher. I believe those "meet the teacher" nights are for K and 1st grade before school starts. This way we can learn how the dynamics will be, what is expected from the DL student, etc.

All Back to School Night events will be ZOOMed. Additionally, a separate Back to School Night will be scheduled for Distance Learning families.

You did mention that the teachers have a wide range of thoughts about teaching in person. Are the teachers allowed to teach online if they have extenuating circumstances? I feel strongly that no one should lose their job to protect their health to teach my kids.

Father Tom and I have worked to safeguard teachers and their jobs. Individual teacher needs that have been shared with me have been addressed.

I know the start dates for school are still in question and a phased approach is being considered. Can you indicate when you plan to have these dates finalized?

School start dates are planned for Aug 26, Aug 27 and Aug 28, three grades levels each day. Hold-ups to that plan include the arrival of all the protective shields and other equipment to keep everyone safe. All orders have been placed, but we do not have an expected delivery date.

Can the children reuse their supplies from last year that are left over from last year? If not, what supplies do they need to bring?

Absolutely, students may reuse supplies. Please check supply lists posted here:
https://d2y1pz2y630308.cloudfront.net/11308/documents/2020/7/SCHOOL_SUPPLIES_NOTES_20_21.pdf

Is there a walker form to fill out?

There will be a walker form to fill out before the start of the school year. The form will be available on the school website after August 17.

Will DL kids be dispersed throughout the 3 classrooms? Or are they considered part of the satellite group? I am thinking of equity in terms of teacher/student ratio per trimester. For 2/3rds of the year, a student in class will be with 40 kids (20 satellite) taught by a teacher. For 1/3 of the year, a student in class will have a teacher with only 20 kids. I would like to see my DL child have that same teacher/student ratio. If not, she is with 40 kids for the entire year. Maybe differentiated learning corrects for this.

Teachers have spent many hours over the summer in professional development related to meeting the needs of distance learners. Students on distance learning will link into one of the two classrooms that "talks." In addition, distance learners will have access to a general education teacher and a special education teacher to support learning needs and address ratios. With attention to equity, students will change classrooms at every trimester so that all students have similar learning environments throughout the year.

During Town hall meeting, I did not hear much about how DL Students will be learning encore classes such as art, PE and band? Are they getting same quality of education as in class? Would please explain how is going to be done?

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For Art, Music and Computer, students will access the class remotely and participate in and be responsible for those classes. These are not optional, and students must complete the curriculum in those courses. PE and Library are also not optional but in PE students will complete a contract from LOOM lessons. In Library activities will be assigned. As to Band, that program is run by Garwood-Whaley Music and they will provide information on their program.