



**Initial Reopening Plan  
Saint Joseph School,  
Fairhaven, MA  
2020/21**

**August 2020**

# Our Mission:



*Saint Joseph School is a Catholic learning community devoted to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary and dedicated to providing a quality spiritual and academic education based on faith, values, and excellence that meets the needs of our students and their families.*

# From Mrs. Piazza

I am pleased to share with you a initial draft of the Saint Joseph School Reopening Plan which was also sent to the Catholic School Office (CSO). All aspects of Covid-19 planning has been fluid and are subject to change based on health and safety data. Our Covid-19 Re-opening Team has read and discussed the guidelines set forth by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) in consultation with medical experts, and the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC). We have also reviewed parent responses, concerns and questions from the surveys we have sent home this summer in order to provide our students and families with a safe back to school plan. We will continue to make adjustments as we continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 data for our state to determine if the plan needs to be adjusted in any way. Communication of any changes will be shared via email and on our weekly Take Home Tuesday.

I look forward to answering questions about this plan with you via the Zoom Coffee Hours which will be scheduled by grade band beginning August 17, 2020. Zoom Coffee Hour times will be emailed to each grade band.

All of our teachers have been working hard over the summer to prepare themselves and their classes for both on site and remote learning to begin the 2020-2021 school year. At this time, our first days of school will be as follows unless Governor Baker and local officials feel it is unsafe to do so based on the COVID-19 data.

**Monday, August 31st - Preschool and Prekindergarten**

**Tuesday, September 1st - Kindergarten**

**Wednesday, September 2nd - Grades 1 - 8**

# Point person and team:

Mrs. Piazza established the planning and implementation team of St. Joseph School which included the following staff members.

*Faith Piazza- Principal*

*Jennifer Sherman- 2nd Grade Teacher*

*Krystie Medeiros- Assistant Principal*

*Michael Chollete- 5th Grade Teacher*

*Ashley Dennen, RN*

*Adele Monticello- Grade 6 Homeroom*

*Debbie Cronan- Pre School Teacher*

*Laurie Plante- Grade 7 Homeroom*

*Catherine Day-Pre Kindergarten Teacher*

*Kathleen Packard- Grade 8 Homeroom*

*Terry Ronhock- Kindergarten Teacher*

*Darlene Moniz- Advancement Coordinator*

## Face Coverings:

### DESE GUIDELINES:

- Students in grades 2 and above are required to wear a
- mask/face covering that covers their nose and mouth. Students in kindergarten and grade 1 should be encouraged to wear a mask/face covering. Jun 25, 2020
- Mask breaks should occur throughout the day. Breaks should occur when students can be six feet apart and ideally outside or at least with the windows open. Further guidance on mask breaks including duration and frequency will be forthcoming, as well as more information about properly removing and putting on masks.
- Masks/face coverings should be provided by the student/family, but extra disposable face masks should be made available by the school for students who need them. Reusable masks/face coverings provided by families should be washed by families daily.

### SJS:

All students, staff and people in the school building are required to wear a face covering.

Types of allowable face coverings include:

- Paper or disposable mask
- Cloth face mask

The covering should cover the nose and mouth completely, should not be overly tight or restrictive, and should feel comfortable to wear.

Every student Preschool through Grade 8 are required to come to school with a mask. Grades 2-8 are required to wear their mask.

***Face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer does not know they are infected.***

# Face Coverings:

## Mask Breaks:

### DESE

- Mask breaks should occur throughout the day. Breaks should occur when students can be six feet apart and ideally outside or at least with the windows open. Further guidance on mask breaks including duration and frequency will be forthcoming, as well as more information about properly removing and putting on masks.

### SJS:

- Classes will implement mask breaks as needed for students throughout the day.

## Food and Beverages:

Prepare to hold breakfast and/or lunch in classrooms, instead of the cafeteria or common areas. As it is assumed that masks/face coverings will not be worn during meals, in order to achieve six feet of physical distance between individuals, consider ways to conduct breakfast and lunch (e.g., stagger time, build in other breaks, etc.)

### SJS:

- Lunch and snacks will take place in classrooms where 6 feet of physical distancing can be achieved.
- Outside and the cafeteria will be used for classes which can not distance 6 feet. In these instances, half of the class will go to the cafeteria.

# Visitor & Volunteer Policy:

## **Visitors at SJS:**

Times have changed quickly and dramatically due to the virus. Safety is our number one priority, and we must do everything we can to prevent the spread of this disease and protect our students, faculty, and staff. To minimize risk, our new Visitor Protocol puts strong limits on visitors entering our school during this pandemic.

## **Volunteers at SJS:**

SJS loves our parent volunteers! We know parent support is crucial for our school community. At this time we will need to limit the number of volunteers in our school.

If you would like to be a regular scheduled volunteer please reach out to Mrs. Piazza via email with the days and times you are available.

# Physical Distancing:

## **Dese Guidelines:**

- **Distancing requirements:** As reviewed and advised by the Massachusetts COVID-19 Command Center Medical Advisory Group, schools should aim for a physical distance of six feet when feasible, and three feet is the minimum distance allowed. Schools should seek to maximize physical distance among individuals within their physical and operational constraints.
- **Classroom and facility configuration:** To the extent possible, aim for desks to be spaced six feet apart (but no fewer than three feet apart) and facing the same direction. Again, schools should seek to maximize the physical distance between desks within their physical and operational constraints.
- **Alternative spaces in the school** (e.g., cafeteria, library, and auditorium) should be repurposed to increase the amount of available space to accommodate the maximum distance possible. In these larger spaces, establishing consistent cohorts/classes with separation between the cohorts/classes provides another option to maximize these spaces safely.

## **SJS:**

- **Reviewed and evaluated classroom capacity with the goal of creating as much space between students as possible**
- **Marked 3 - 6 feet of spacing to remind students and staff**
- **Staff will monitor the arrival and dismissal of students to ensure students go straight to the intended location**
- **Middle schoolers will remain in their homeroom for all subjects. Teachers will rotate to their students, wash their hands and sanitize as they enter and leave a room**

# Hygiene & Hand Hygiene:

## **Handwashing and hand sanitizing:**

Handwashing removes pathogens from the surface of the hands. While hand washing with soap and water is the best option, alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60 percent ethanol or at least 70 percent isopropanol) may be utilized when hand washing is not available. As always been the case, handwashing should be used whenever hands are visibly soiled and after using the bathroom. Our initial requirements and related guidance are as follows: • Students and staff are required to exercise hand hygiene (hand washing or sanitizing) ***upon arrival to school, before eating, before putting on and taking off masks, and before dismissal.***

- **Hand washing:** When handwashing, individuals should use soap and water to wash all surfaces of their hands for at least 20 seconds, wait for visible lather, rinse thoroughly, and dry with an individual disposable towel.

- **Hand sanitizing:** If handwashing is not feasible, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent ethanol or at least 70 percent isopropanol content can be used. Hand sanitizer should be applied to all surfaces of the hands and in sufficient quantity that it takes 20 seconds of rubbing hands together for the sanitizer to dry. Hand sanitizer should be placed at key locations (e.g., building entrances, cafeteria, classrooms).

# Hygiene & Hand Hygiene:

## SJS:

Each teacher will take time to help students learn the new routines regarding the COVID-19 protocols. We will be working together and teacher and staff will lead by example.



**SJS:** Signs will be posted throughout the school to remind staff and students to wash their hands and the proper way to do so.

**Everyone in the building will wash their hands minimally:**

- Upon entering the school
- Before and after eating
- After sneezing, coughing and blowing their nose
- After using the restroom
- After touching their face or mask
- Upon leaving the building

# Cleaning:

## DESE Guidelines:

Cleaning and supplies: Prepare for frequent cleaning and sanitization of facilities and surfaces, especially high-touch surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, handrails). Please refer to the federal guidance related to cleaning of facilities for more information regarding appropriate cleaning supplies, protocols, and frequency (e.g., wear appropriate protection such as gloves, wash hands often, follow instructions on all cleaning products, handle waste properly). Provide hand sanitizing at key locations in the building (e.g., entryways, bathrooms, classrooms).

## SJS:

We have established a daily and nightly cleaning plan, which entails frequently cleaning and sanitizing high-traffic areas throughout the day and nightly vacuuming and trash disposal.

- Established a daily cleaning checklist
- Each classroom and office has been provided with a liquid disinfectant for teachers and staff to use throughout the day.
- Mr. daCosta will use prescribed disinfectant for cleaning high-traffic areas multiple times a day.
- Bathroom surfaces will also be cleaned multiple times a day.

# Remote Learning Option:

**Remote Learning** (RL) is designed specifically to respond to the needs of those students, families, and staff who are immunocompromised. We recognize concerns from families about the health of their child or family members in high-risk categories. Students and staff who are thriving in the remote learning environment and prefer a non-traditional school experience can also participate in the RL if they so choose.

Our team of teachers are dedicated to providing a structured learning schedule that meets the needs of all students. Teachers will post their class schedule and will take time to set a routine for their students at the beginning of the school year.

- Remote learners will follow the schedule of the live onsite class. This schedule will remain if the entire class/school must go to remote.
- Remote attendance will be taken for each class
- Assignment dates will be the same for onsite and remote students
- All work will be graded

## Transitioning to Remote Learning:

If switching into RL is necessary due to illness, family quarantine due to exposure, or per Governor Baker, it can be done with no disruption in learning. Parents are asked to contact their child(s) teacher and Mrs. Piazza for guidance to make a smooth transition.

# Classroom Reopening Plans:

Expectations regarding school work will apply to ALL students, both onsite and remote learners

- All students will be required to follow assignment directions and meet assignment deadlines
- Class participation for ALL students is required -- this includes being prepared for class, answering questions, actively listening, and contributing to discussion during instructional times
- Attendance is required and will be taken by subject daily

Still to come...Our team of teachers will provide additional specific information related to grade bands in the next Take Home Tuesday (THT).

## Grade Bands:

<b>PreSchool &amp; Pre-K</b>	<i>Mrs. Cronan / Miss Day</i>
<b>Kindergarten &amp; Grade 1</b>	<i>Mrs. Ronhock / Mrs. Lindsay</i>
<b>Grade 2 &amp; 3</b>	<i>Miss Sherman / Miss Trahan</i>
<b>Grade 4 &amp; 5</b>	<i>Miss Giovino / Mr. Cholette</i>
<b>Grade 6, 7, &amp; 8</b>	<i>Mrs. Monticello, Mrs. Plante, Mrs. Packard</i>

**Additional class specific expectations will be communicated during a video or virtual “Open House” prior to the first day of school.**

# Arrival/ Dismissal:

## Arrival:

Students may arrive for entrance to their class at 8:00 via the Homestead Street drive thru area. Homestead Street is a one way street from 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Please be courteous to our neighbors by:

- Not blocking their driveways
- Not blocking the street which includes parking on the right side of the street from the Spring Street corner to the the drive thru entrance
- Please proceed in the parking lot and down Homestead Street cautiously, as our own students and children of the neighborhood are leaving for their schools at the same time as we arrive.

**Dismissal:** Please note that changes have been made to our dismissal plan. Listed below are the new dismissal times for each grade:

Kindergarten - 2:00	Grade 6 - 2:30
Grade 1 - 2:05	Grade 7 - 2:35
Grade 2 - 2:10	Grade 8 - 2:40
Grade 3 - 2:15	Pre-School - 2:45
Grade 4 - 2:20	Pre-Kindergarten - 2:45
Grade 5 - 2:25	* <b>Siblings</b> will be dismissed together at the time of the oldest students designated dismissal time.

# Morning Care/ After Care

## Morning Care:

- Students may arrive beginning at 7:00 a.m. via the front main foyer door and proceed to the gym.
- During Morning Care the physical distance requirement will be by family.
- Depending on the number of students, either at 7:30 or 7:45 students from Before School Care will begin to filter to their designated classrooms for masked, physically distant social time with their classmates.
- Chartwells Food Service will be meeting with Mrs. Piazza Friday, August 14th to determine what the Breakfast program will entail.

## After Care:

- Every effort will be made to be outside as weather permits
- Physical distancing requirements will still be adhered to.
- Attention will be paid to the quantity of students in each cohort and adjustments will be made as needed prior to going to after care.
- Preschool through grade 1 will be its own cohort.
- Grade 2 - 8 will be its own cohort
- Students will go to their designated aftercare location at 3:00 p.m.

**We know how important our morning and after school care programs are to our working families. For this reason we are dedicated to making sure we provide a safe program to all those in need of it. The required guidelines from the state will be followed for extended care.**

The health and safety of our staff, students and their families are of utmost importance to us. We have taken this into consideration in preparing this plan and are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all.

In an effort to ensure that students are learning to the best of their ability and retaining information needed for success in their studies, teachers will be spending a sufficient amount of time reviewing previous material before they jump ahead into more complex lessons.

Our staff, are aware of the effects this pandemic has had and is still having on the students and their families of St. Joseph School.

Most of the teachers have attended workshops on the social emotional well being of their students and all have discussed and are committed to easing students in to the 2020-2021 school year with special attention to the needs of students to be safe, social and prepared both emotionally and academically for what the world has to give them.

We are blessed to have our faith in Father, Son and Holy Spirit to lean on and help guide us through.

Respectfully Yours,  
*The Saint Joseph School Covid Reopening Team*