



Return to School Guidelines 2020/21

“We shall steer safely through every storm as long as our heart is right, our intention fervent, our courage steadfast and our trust fixed on God”

- Saint Francis de Sales

Dear Parents & Guardians,

In this unprecedented time, we must work together to weather the storms because we are stronger together in our faith and love in God as a community. All of us have been asked to make major changes in our lives and we recognize that we will have additional challenges ahead of us.

The first quarter back on campus will be a learning experience for all of us. We are committed to using the best practices and most current guidelines to better serve our community and to keep us all safe and healthy. It is our intent to adjust guidelines as the situation evolves to get us back to a less restrictive environment while still remaining safe and effective. Your patience and understanding are vital to the working relationship that is needed as we proceed with the opening of the 2020-2021 school year. This virus has affected each of us in different ways. We will all need to be prepared to support each other and expect that there will be challenges, differences of opinion and the possibility of setbacks but our faith and dedication to quality Catholic Education will steer us safely through this storm.

Prior to the start of the academic year we will continue to coordinate and update our plans. These updates will be emailed to families with more specific information for each cohort, guidelines for PK will be different than middle school. We ask that you acknowledge your understanding of the school procedures we outline and sign off on them with your support.

As always, please feel free to contact me if I can assist you further. Please understand that there will be changes throughout the next four weeks and we will be attentive to what is happening in Walworth County. I thank you for your continued support as we move forward. We need to remember that our faith and prayer will help us to feel our connection to God and allow us to find comfort during these times.

Many Blessings,
Terry Maus
Principal
Saint Francis de Sales Parish School

HEALTH & SAFELY

The health and safety of our students and staff remains a constant priority for SFdS as we plan for our students to return. We recognize that the Covid 19 virus will continue to spread and our families will be affected. It is our intent to offer a safe and nurturing learning environment for our students.

The following guidelines are important for us as a community to understand our best efforts to implement for the safety of all. We are following the guidelines provided by the following resources to assist in creating this plan.

CDC School Guidelines <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>,

DPI "Education Forward" <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/2019-novel-coronavirus>

Wisconsin Dept of Health <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/diagnosed.htm>

Walworth County Health Department <https://www.co.walworth.wi.us/856/COVID-19>

Archdiocese of Milwaukee <https://www.archmil.org/Our-Faith/CoVID-19-Updates.htm>

- Students and staff on campus will wear a mask or face shield covering when social distancing of 6 ft is not possible. Students will have the option to wear mask or a face shield in the classroom while practicing social distancing. This will not apply to our PK students.
- Students will be provided a mask to use when they walk the hallways, enter or exit the buildings and when social distancing is not possible. We encourage you to have additional masks or face shields for your child. Mask should be washed regularly. The masks we have provided come with filters and it will be the parents' responsibility to purchase replacement filters. Please do not wait to have your child put a mask on the first day of school. Discuss that there are certain times when a mask is appropriate to wear and expected to ensure we adhere to the guidelines given.
- Students will remain in their classrooms for the day, except for PE or recess which will be outside whenever possible or in the gym as weather permits. Middle School students will remain in their classrooms when we first return. After training and assessment of our ability to have middle school students safely change classes, we will consider having students rotate to the classrooms. Parents will be notified before we make this change.
- Students will practice social distancing in the classroom with desks aligned and distanced as recommended.
- Best practices will be emphasized in the classroom.
 - limited sharing of supplies, hand washing regularly, sinks in PK-5th grade, practice social distancing, outside classwork when able*
- We will limit student exposure to other classes, and teachers & staff will be assigned to support cohorts without cross contamination.
- We have purchased new equipment to clean our classrooms.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available throughout the school.
- Common areas will be cleaned throughout the day.
- If a child shows symptoms in a classroom, the teacher will check the child's temperature and send him/her to our clinic area. When the temperature is 100.4 or higher, the parents will be notified to have the child picked up.
- We ask that you check your child for symptoms and their temperature daily. Please do not send your child to school if he or she are sick or showing any symptoms.

ACADEMICS

In an effort to maintain a focus on academics and the ability to assess our students on priority standards while providing the best instruction for each grade level, we have made these guidelines.

- Our 20-21 school year will begin on August 31st with students on campus 5 days.
- Parents will have the option to have their child attend classes online. Parents must decide before August 14st if they want their child to be on campus or to do virtual learning. The choice for virtual learning will be a commitment for at least a quarter.
- Students will move to online learning anytime during the quarter if they are exposed to an identified case of COVID 19 and need to be quarantined. After appropriate quarantine time, students may return to campus.
- Class size has been limited to no more than 20 students a classroom.
- Specials will be going into the classroom or taking the children outside or to the gym whenever possible.
- Students in PK-5th grade will remain with their teacher throughout the day, except for specials
- Students will be assigned to a cohort and a limited number of adults will work with each cohort; PreK & K, grades 1-3, grades 4 & 5, middle school students.
- Textbooks have been upgraded to easily have online components available to access from anywhere, on campus or at home.
- To better address any “gaps” in learning because of the virtual learning last year, we will be working on units that are cross-curricular and will emphasize several priority standards in different subject areas.
- Students who are taking online learning, will be assigned a support teacher to assist them and a schedule of instructional times that will be streamed or recorded.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In an effort to maintain a focus on academics and the ability to assess our students on priority standards while providing the best instruction for each grade level, we have made these guidelines.

- Students will eat lunch in the classrooms, hot lunch options will be provided. Our goal is to move back to the gym for lunches when possible.
- Bus service will be available, and information will come from our bus service provider.
- Drop off and Pick up process will be reviewed; we will be using at least three different entrance and exit points to evenly distribute students.
- Visitors in the building will be limited, if you need to drop something to your child, please bring it to our new office area and we will deliver to the classroom.
- Students will have scheduled recess times with their cohort or as a class.
- All fundraisers, field trips and fall events through September have been canceled. We will review moving forward after October 1st.
- Fall sports programs have been cancelled by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.
- Mass will be aligned to meet the social distancing guidelines.
- Students will be asked to use their own water bottle and properly use the water filling stations, no water fountains will be available.

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- We will offer regular zoom parent meetings to support and inform parents about student work and virtual or blended learning. Students, staff and parents will have opportunities to be trained on “best practices” on the mitigation processes.
 - We are aware that a child, or teacher, may be sick and not necessarily have the Covid 19 virus. We will ask that you not send a child to school if they are sick. If we do have a student with a reported case of Covid 19, we will contact the Walworth County Department of Health and they will give us guidance based on the present situation on how to proceed and protect our community.
 - Although decisions will be on a case by case basis by the Health Department, it is the recommendation that once confirmed cases are reported in the classroom, that class will be asked to quarantine for up to 14 days. If the student that tested positive has a sibling in school, the sibling will also be sent home, but that class will not necessarily need to quarantine. The Walworth County Health Department will guide us through our next steps.
 - SEL, our students’ social & emotional development, is very important. We will continue to have a weekly SEL class to allow students to discuss, manage and problem solve the challenges they are facing. Mr. Weygand, our school guidance counselor, will be on campus for three days a week to meet the needs of our students. If you notice something that needs to be addressed in SEL or other concerns, please email Mr. Weygand and Mrs. Maus.

We look forward to a successful year and will face the challenges together. Please continue to keep our SFdS community in your prayers.



St. Francis de Sales