

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

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August 27, 2020

Good morning St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School Families,

We wanted to provide all families with our most current updates as we prepare to welcome your child(ren) back to school.

When does my child come to school?

To best prepare our students for a safe return to school, we have staggered the start dates for **all** students.

Our Kindergarten educators have reached out by phone to families to share specific information regarding start dates for Year 1 (Junior Kindergarten) and Year 2 (Senior Kindergarten Students).

Students in **Grades 1 to 8** will follow the schedule below:

Last names beginning with A to J

Thursday, September 3 – Tuesday, September 8 – Thursday, September 10

Last names beginning with K to Z

Friday, September 4 – Wednesday, September 9 – Friday, September 11

All students will begin full-time on Monday, September 14.

Transitioning Back to School

All Year 1 Kindergarten students, and **new** Year 2 Kindergarten students will have an opportunity to visit their classroom prior to the first day of school. A Kindergarten educator will reach out to you to schedule a visit on September 1 or September 2.

For those families who have requested a transition meeting on the Return to School Survey, a staff member will be in touch with you to discuss what this may look like for your child.

When will I know who my child's teacher is?

Your child's teacher will reach out to you on one of the upcoming PA days (August 31, September 1, or September 2). We apologize that we can't share this information with you earlier, however, class lists are still being finalized.

Where do I drop my child off on the first day of school?

The instructional day begins at 8:15 a.m. Students may be dropped off at the school between 8:00 and 8:15 a.m. Students will proceed directly to their classroom during morning drop off to keep cohorts (classes) separate. Staff will be outside to assist parents with this new procedure.

Where do I pick my child up after school?

Students will be dismissed directly from the emergency exterior doors in their classroom. Students will not exit the building through the main entrance of the school. Students may be picked up by the west gate of the building (at the end of the school parking lot). Students in primary will be dismissed at the gate located to the left of the main entrance as per past practice.

What if I, or my child, arrives after 8:15 a.m.?

Students arriving late will enter the school through the main entrance of the school. There will be a Student Sign-in binder located in the vestibule (in between the two doors) at the main entrance. Please sign-in your child, and we will guide them to their classroom. A reminder to all parents/guardians that you may not enter the school unless by appointment.

What do I do if I need to pick up my child during the school day?

For planned appointments, please write a note to the classroom teacher to indicate the time you plan to arrive at school. We will do our best to have your child ready for your planned arrival. If circumstances require you to pick up your child immediately, please call the main office and we will do our best to have your child ready at the front entrance. Please ring the bell and sign-out your child in the binder located in the vestibule.

Will my child be sharing learning materials with others?

We will be limiting the use of shared materials between students. Each child will have their bin or bag of materials for them to use for the day and/or week to support their learning.

What do I do with the technology that was provided to me during the school closure?

If you were given an iPad or laptop from the school, please return it to your child's classroom teacher on the first day of school. Please ensure both the device, and the charging cables are returned.

Can my child bring his/her own device to school?

We have always encouraged students to bring their own device to school to support their learning. If they do so, they will be expected to adhere to our student code of conduct and acceptable use policies, which can be found [here](#).

Will technology be available at the school for my child to use?

Much of our technology has been loaned out to families to support remote learning during the school closure period. Once these devices are returned, they will be disinfected and returned to us to use. Shared devices will be assigned to each class and will be sanitized before and after each use.

What will recess look like for my child?

To keep cohorts (classes) separated on the yard, we have staggered recess times, and will allocate a section of the yard to each class. Each class will have a mesh bag filled with outdoor equipment to use on the yard. The climbers are open and will be assigned to one class at a time for use. Students will be reminded to sanitize their hands before recess and after recess.

What will snack/lunch look like?

Students will be assigned seats during the day for all table-top activities. This will include during snack and lunch time. Students will be required to remain in their seat during this time to ensure their safety, and the safety of others. Students will not be permitted to leave the premises during the lunch block, unless they are being picked up by a parent/guardian.

Can I purchase milk, popcorn or hot lunch?

There will be no milk, popcorn or hot lunch sales at this time.

Will the breakfast program be available?

The Food Share Program, which provides food to the school for snacks and breakfast, is being revised to a “grab-and-go” program. Unfortunately, this will not be available immediately. We will communicate to families when this will become available.

Does my child need to wear a mask/face covering?

Students in Grades 4 to 8, and students in Grade 3 (in a Grade 3/4 split classroom) are required to wear masks when inside the building, except for when eating snacks or lunch. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are strongly encouraged to wear masks. Masks are to be provided by families, and we encourage each family to provide 2 to your child each day. The school will have extra masks available should a child forget one or misplace theirs. Students will not be required to wear masks when eating, or when outside, but can continue to do so if they wish.

Does my child need to wear a mask/face covering at recess?

Your child may wish to continue to wear his/her mask at recess, but this is not required. We will be purchasing paper bags for each child to hold their mask at their assigned seat as they go outside. Lanyards to hold masks are not permitted as this poses a choking hazard for students.

Do I need to wear a mask/face covering in the school?

All visitors to the school will be required to wear a mask or face covering in the school. A reminder that visitors to the school will be limited, and parent/guardian visits are by appointment only.

What Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are staff wearing?

All staff will be assigned a medical-grade mask and a face shield. Staff who are in regular close contact with a child may be provided with enhanced PPE.

Do I need to send any cleaning supplies with my child?

The school board has created an enhanced cleaning protocol that focuses on disinfecting high touch points (door knobs/handles, surfaces including desks and chairs, etc.). In addition, each school has been provided with enough hand sanitizer for staff and student use throughout the day. You are not required to provide any of these products for your child.

Will we have assemblies or school masses?

At this time, school assemblies and masses will be canceled until further notice. We are considering alternative ways (ex. Virtually) to celebrate our faith.

ALCDSB Return to School Plan

As a reminder, the board's Return to School Plan can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

We hope that we've been able to answer the questions you may have at this time. Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school at your convenience.

We look forward to welcoming your child back to school!

Sincerely,

Mr. Gencarelli
Principal

Mrs. Day
Vice Principal