



Dear St. Monica School Community,

First, I would like to thank the St. Monica Task Force which reviewed several documents from local and regional sources. I met with the principals from the region. The St. Monica Task Force then met to discuss the elements of the St. Louis County Guidelines for Schools when we open our doors for the 2020-2021 year on August 19th.

Second, at the end of this document is a list of Frequently Asked Questions. Please feel free to email me trohman@stmonicastl.org if you have any questions or concerns. You may also call school, but I can assure you emails get answered more quickly.

Stay safe,

Mrs. Tammi Rohman, Principal

General Parameters

Daily Screenings

Daily screenings for illness or exposure to the novel coronavirus will be required. Anyone entering the building will be screened. Parents will screen their children in the morning prior to coming to school. Parents will submit the proper documentation, probably a google form, by 7:10am. If a student or staff member answers yes to any of the screening questions, they should not report to school. A list of students that are clear to enter the building will be given to access points throughout the school and staff will be waiting at drop off points. Prior to students getting out of the vehicle, the clearance checklist will be verified. If parents did not send in the screening or sent it in too late, the drop off vehicle will be directed to the nurse's tent for screening. It is important that parents drop their students off on time. Tardy students will need to wait in their vehicles until a staff member can verify their screening. Onsite screening will be conducted as needed.

Minimize interaction

To minimize interaction, we will stagger lunch times, alternate common space usage, and keep students in cohorts as much as possible. Within the classroom we will keep students physically distanced to the extent possible. We will avoid large gatherings that mix multiple groups and avoid assemblies and pep rallies.

Social Distancing

Students will be asked to maintain social distancing in the classroom, cafeteria, gym, and hallways. We will ask that students remain with their class during recess and only play with classroom specific items.

Lunch, recess, and breaks for restrooms and drinks will be scheduled to avoid gatherings of different groups in the halls or entrances.

Arrival and exit times will be extended/varied as needed to minimize the number of students in any one place at the same time.

Non-essential visitors will not be allowed in the building. Parents dropping off or picking up their children during the school day will be asked to wait in the car until a staff member can assist them.

Sanitation

Students will be asked to sanitize/wash hands as they enter and exit the classrooms.

Classrooms/cafeteria will be sanitized during lunch breaks and/or in between class changes.

When someone is sick

If a staff member becomes ill, the staff member will be sent home immediately.

If a student becomes ill, the student will be isolated until arrangements can be made for the child to be picked up by a parent or guardian.

The individual will be advised to contact a healthcare provider if they exhibit symptoms or answered “yes” to any of the screening questions. The healthcare provider will be able to determine whether the symptoms are a result of COVID-19 infection or if there is another health issue.

We will follow the guidance of the local health department regarding contact tracing, classroom or school closure, notification of community, sanitizing protocols, etc. if a case of COVID-19 is identified within the school.

Face Masks

Staff and other adults will be required to properly wear a face mask or face shield in the building when within 6 ft of another individual. Medical grade face masks, eye protection, and other PPE will be provided to nurses and other staff for use when working with students who become ill at school.

Students will wear face masks when in situations that put them in an area close to others, entering and exiting the building, in the halls, in the restrooms, small group instruction, etc. Students will be instructed and be expected to wear the masks properly.

Gloves

Staff members will wear gloves when working with any sick or suspected sick individuals. A fresh pair of gloves will be worn when working with each new individual. An individual should use hand sanitizer before and after wearing gloves.

Custodians will wear gloves whenever cleaning.

Handwashing and hand sanitizer

Everyone should wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer upon entering a building, before and after eating, after the restroom, before any group activities, and when exiting and entering a classroom.

Hands should be washed any time the face/mouth are touched.

Water fountains

The water fountains will only be available for filling water bottles. All students must bring a water bottle labeled with their name, or they will be required to purchase one from the cafeteria. Water bottles should be taken home each night for cleaning.

Restrooms

The number of students allowed in the restrooms will be limited in order to maintain social distancing. We may need to shut down certain sinks and urinals to ensure social distancing.

Restrooms will be deep cleaned each day and high touch surfaces will be cleaned repeatedly during the day. A cleaning log will be developed to maintain the cleaning schedule.

Restroom breaks will be scheduled to avoid mixing of students of different classes. Social distancing will be ensured for those who are waiting to use the restroom as well.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Disposable gloves will be used when cleaning and disinfecting. Cleaning and disinfecting will follow CDC guidance.

Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected regularly based on level of use.

EPA-registered household disinfectant, properly diluted bleach solutions, or 70% alcohol solutions will be used.

Social and Emotional Well-being

We will have a counselor available to provide universal services for mental health support for all students and staff.

Training will be given to all staff on how to talk to and support students during a pandemic and offer psychological first aid.

Frequently Asked Questions

1) Can my child opt out of in-person school?

After much discussion with schools in our region we have decided that we will only offer in person school sessions. However, if needed we will try to meet the needs of students with extreme medical circumstances.

2) What will daily screenings look like?

Each family will have a Google form that they will be required to fill out daily for all their children. If a family is unable to fill out a form electronically, we will provide slips of paper for you to fill out at home with the screening questions that your child will hand-deliver as they exit their vehicle. If one child in a family has any symptoms of COVID-19, or symptoms of any other contagious infections, all the children in the family need to stay home and follow protocol.

3) Will my student be required to wear a mask?

Yes, all students need to bring a clean mask to school each day and have a spare available in their book bag just in case the first is damaged or lost. We recommend purchasing 6 washable masks per child. A clean mask will be required each school day. This allows for 1 clean mask per day and one back up. Then all the washable masks can be washed over the weekend. If disposable masks are purchased, they must be discarded by product instructions. Masks worn at school should be appropriate for school and not be a distraction (any more than they already are 😊)

4) Will teachers/staff be required to wear masks?

Yes and /or face shields

5) What will social distancing look like in the classroom?

All desks will be facing one direction, 3-6 ft apart. Students will need permission to leave their desks. Traveling about the room will be limited and only with a mask on.

6) What will lunch look like?

Classes will enter the cafeteria at staggered times down the main steps closest to the PreK wing. They will eat in their designated area. They will not be allowed to travel around the cafeteria. They will exit the cafeteria through the back exit to the parking lot prevent cross traffic. On bad weather days they will receive alternative directions for travel to avoid incoming classes. Additional details on the serving and availability of lunch by Food Service Consultants will be distributed at a later date.

7) What about classes outside?

A few areas of our school grounds can be utilized for outdoor instruction when appropriate. We will encourage our teachers to be creative.

8) What will our special classes look like?

Art-Students will need to bring and only use their own supplies. Ms. Stealey will travel to each classroom.

PE will be held in the gym and outside. Ms. Stealey will end PE 5 minutes early to sanitize the equipment.

Spanish teachers will come to the classroom

Music-students will meet in the classroom and will wear masks. The chairs and high touch items will be sanitized before/after each class.

Innovation Lab and STREAM studio-the areas will be sanitized before and after each class.

9) What happens if there is an outbreak?

The CDC and St. Louis County Guidelines will be followed.

10) What actions will be taken to make sure the school is cleaned and sanitized?

Our cleaning staff will take all precautions to make sure our school is cleaned and sanitized. Cleaning solutions and protocols have been approved by the CDC and are EPA registered. This will be used to clean classrooms, bathrooms, equipment, hallways, and other high touch surfaces before, after, and throughout the school day. Teachers will clean their classrooms with CDC approved products throughout the day. All teachers will sanitize the classrooms before and after a group of students enter.

11) Will my student go to Mass?

Yes, of course. Fr. Wrysch and I will work on how this will work. Live streaming and grade level masses may be considered.

12) What can parents do to help with the reopening of school?

Teach and reteach the importance of handwashing.

Have your student practice the proper way to put on, take off, and store the masks.

Students should be taught to tie their own shoelaces or wear Velcro shoes until they have fully acquired this skill.

Help the younger students learn how to open their own chip bags, apple sauce, yogurt tubes, etc. With the classes being spread out for lunch periods any skills that can foster independence at lunch will be helpful.

Carefully consider any traveling you may be planning to do before 8/19. If you are traveling to a “hot spot” please plan to return by 8/1 or self-quarantine for 14 days.