



# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Building Wisdom and Faith Through Service to God

## Town Hall Follow Up Questions

Will students attend Mass, and if so, what will that look like?

- St. Joseph Catholic Church follows the guidelines of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, Commonwealth of Virginia, and the CDC, including guidelines on social distance of six feet, the wearing of face coverings and observing capacity limits. With that, the entire SJS student body, teachers and staff cannot attend Mass as a community. I continue to work with Father Tom to develop a Mass schedule that complies with all mitigation strategies and safety protocols. Options include live-stream or staggered schedules over multiple days.

How will the three classroom system work for Jr High students?

- All Jr High students take the same classes, and the three classroom system will work the same for those students as it does for students in the lower school. This would apply to math classes as well, where more than 20 students are assigned to a class. Distance Learning students will access the live-stream for their assigned math class.

How will differentiated learning be incorporated into the DL model for 4th grade?

- Many teachers last spring were able to successfully use ZOOM break-out rooms and other platforms to help differentiate instruction. This summer, teachers at all grade levels engaged in professional development that specifically focused on differentiating instruction and instructional strategies for distance learners. Please reach out to your child's teacher for specifics.

If I select the in-person option and we need to switch to a DL option for medical concerns for one of my children, can we then switch the whole family to DL for the remainder of the trimester?

- Yes, this would be an option. However, switching between platforms makes it more difficult for teachers to track students. Additionally, staffing decisions are made based on the number of students on each platform and tat balance needs to be maintained.

If we decide to start the school year with distance learning, and we choose to go back in the second trimester, which classroom would my child go to, white, green or orange? If she is participating in zoom classes while distance learning, we wouldn't want her to go back to school and be put in the "silent" class.

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- The silent class has a live teacher all the time. The two talking classes have equal time with live teacher each day. By the end of the year, all in-person learners would have had a similar learning environment. Students returning to in-person learning would be placed in a classroom with consideration given to safety and learning needs.

How will distance learning students participate in encore classes outside of the classroom, specifically gym and library?

- In PE, Mr. O'Brien will provide detailed videos (via Loom) each week for every grade that contain exercises and activities to be performed at home that meet the required curriculum objectives. In Library, Mrs. Moschetto will provide specific activities.
- In Art, Computer and Music, students will live-stream the class and participate in assignments in the same way as in-person students.

Will homework be assigned for the younger grades? I would hate for my child to be in zoom all day and then have to sit and do homework in addition to that.

- Teacher planning meetings are still in the larger logistics and staffing phase, however planning regarding homework is on the agenda.

How will the teachers handle the students in class, plus the distance learning students? How will the children be able to ask questions or receive help from the teacher via zoom?

- Distance learning students will access the classroom through Zoom or similar platform. Teachers will be able to view their virtual students on their computer. Teachers and students will be able to see and hear and interact with each other. Class rules and procedures, established during the first days of school will help students understand expectations and teachers manage their rooms.

When can distance learning students have access to the general education teacher? Is that one teacher per grade?

- The general education teacher, at this point is one teacher. As enrollment shifts, and more need is identified on the distance learning platform, staffing may shift. Students will have access to the general education teacher, at the start of the school year, during scheduled grade-level meeting times. As the needs of students become clear, the teacher will adjust meeting time to provide direct instruction or meet other needs.

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For distance learning, how will students submit work? Will there still be use of programs such as Seesaw?

- Distance learners will submit work through an online platform like Google Classroom or SeeSaw and that will be determined closer to the start of the school year, based on teacher input.

Will distance learning students be able to participate in small groups or with the teacher via zoom?

- Teachers used small group meeting options during the spring shutdown and the technology exists for this to happen during this new school year. Teachers may use small group teaching options, and that would include online students.

Regarding a positive Covid-19 result among the classroom and a resulting Health Department investigation - has any indication been given as to how long an investigation will take? Wondering about the length of exposure of the remaining kids in class if a peer has a positive test and we're waiting for any length of time for an investigation to be done. Understand you can't give a definitive timeline but wondering if any estimate has been provided. Also, did I understand correctly that you are not required to inform the class if a peer tests positive?

- No, there is no information regarding the length of time an investigation will take. As soon as the Health Department is informed of a positive result they initiate their steps to investigate all contacts potentially exposed. The timing depends on many factors, beginning with variability in the receipt of the results in the state reporting system used by all labs. Once the Health Department has the confirmed positive result, their next step is to reach out to the positive individual and collect information related to contacts. If the infectious period included time in the school, then they would be in touch with Mrs. Ezenwa to obtain contact information for the contacts. Reliable phone numbers are critically important to the timeliness of their investigation.
- We will inform the class per Health Department guidelines **if** the positive person was in the school during their infectious period (2 days prior to exhibiting symptoms).

Should we decide to elect in person learning, are we allowed to send our children with their own hand sanitizer?

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- Students are allowed to have their one hand sanitizer, and are encouraged to bring a small bottle for their private use.

You mentioned the hybrid option, which is appealing to my husband and I. Will that potentially be one of the choices we have by the deadline of July 31?

- Our goal is to provide the best learning experiences for our students, and try to meet the needs of our families and our teachers, while keeping everyone safe. We continue to look at the hybrid option, and collect data. Mrs. Pearce sent a form for parents to complete if they want distance learning and it includes a question about the hybrid learning option, please respond to that question.

Continue to Questions Part 2



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Questions -2

**Will there be any leeway for the short hair part of the boys' dress code as long as the hair is combed, neat and away from the face? Maybe even in a simple ponytail if it gets long enough?**

All students are required to follow the handbook for grooming and appearance.

**Has there been any consideration given to adding plexiglass separations for the desks in the classrooms?**

Desk shields are not required when students are 6 feet apart. They also do not replace masks in slowing the spread of respiratory droplets. Shields will be used in kindergarten and in small group instructional settings where 6 feet of distance is more difficult to maintain.

**Can you confirm that all children must wear masks throughout the day?**

Yes, all children must wear masks throughout the day.

**Can you send a sketch/picture of a classroom? I am having a hard time visualizing how 20 desks fit into a room.**

I do not have a sketch or drawing at this time. Picture the classrooms emptied of all other furnishings except the teacher desk. Student desks are placed 6 feet apart.

**To confirm, during in person instruction, one classroom will only be taught by teachers (5 Blue) while the other two classrooms (Red and Orange) will physically have one teacher or one aid in the room?**

Yes, and to maintain equity, students change classrooms every trimester so that all students have a similar learning experience.

**In the orange room, are the students watching off of Chrome books or a large Active Panel? Is there two-way streaming between the classrooms-- the students and teachers can see each other (e.g., zoom)? Will the Instructional Aide be responsible for answering questions and discipline?**

There is two way streaming, and the teacher will be visible and interact with students over the active panel or chrome books....both work, so it will depend on what the teacher wants to do.

**Are the teachers going to be streaming a live video feed to demonstrate hands-on activities? Will distance learning students be provided with manipulatives?**

Teachers will be live-streaming. I cannot answer the question on manipulatives at this time. Those needs are not fully evaluated.



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**For kids doing in person instruction, will they be working in small groups for reading or other subjects, as needed? How will reading groups be handled in the primary levels when kids are learning how to read? What about if they are doing distance learning?**

In school, the learning environment will be maintained to the extent practical, in the traditional sense. Teachers working with small groups, like reading groups will wear masks and shields, students will wear masks and sit behind plexiglass shields. For distance learning, small groups will be led by the general education teacher assigned to distance learning,

**From which classroom will the kids doing distance learning receive their live stream (Red or Blue)? Will that teacher be tasked with monitoring instruction of the in person class (Red), Satellite Room (Orange), and the distance learning kids (home)?**

I do not know which room is the live stream room for each grade level, but yes, the live stream teacher, with the help of the instructional assistant, will monitor that group of students.

**How will the teachers handle discipline issues?**

Discipline issues will be handled in the same way as traditionally. By setting class rules and procedures at the outset, students will be aware of expectations and how to be successful.

**Will the parents of distance learning children be expected to monitor their child throughout the entire day? Or will they be able to work independently (once technology is set up) -- think primary classroom.**

Students should be able to work independently, following along with their peers in the in-person classroom. Very young students may be less independent and need additional parent support.

**What is a typical schedule for a primary student supposed to look like if they are doing distance learning? Will they be expected to sit in front of a screen all day? Will it be a set time for live instruction and then a set time for practice? How will Encore classes be handled?**

Students are asked to follow the bell schedule, participating in class during live instruction. Students will need to be on and off their device throughout the day, but will not need to sit in front of the computer all day...but it will be most of the day. The distance students are still part of the class, and part of the community and need to be willing to engage from a distance. Encore classes will run the same way with the exception of PE and some library classes.

**Will lessons be provided in advance (more than the night before), so that parents have time to gather and prepare materials?**

Students will live stream their lessons, and will be aware of what they need to be prepared for class the next day. If there is a need for specific, non-typical supplies, teachers will inform parents in advance.

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**Recess is limited to the blacktops. Will students be able to bring things from home (e.g., jump rope, sidewalk chalk, their own ball), since playground equipment will not be provided?**

No, students cannot bring their own recess items, although this will be reviewed to determine need for the rule.

**Is it possible to group kids in the same grade in the same classroom, if they carpool - limit their exposure to one class vs. two classes?**

Not really.

**As I mentioned, we are planning on sending our child for in-person instruction. If the numbers continue to rise in Loudoun/Fairfax counties and we start to feel uncomfortable with him being in the classroom, is it possible to switch to online? I know you said at the end of the trimester but just wondering if there is any wiggle room in that.**

I would have to look at the circumstances.

**In the example provided, the blue room does not communicate with the orange room. Is this reflective of how instruction will always occur? Will the communication only occur between the Red and Orange ActivPanels? Meaning, the students in the blue room will always have a teacher in the room (as opposed to having a live stream)?**

Yes, this is why, to maintain equity and similarity of learning experiences, students need to change rooms every trimester.