

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

REOPENING PLAN: BASED ON NYS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REOPENING
GUIDANCE FOR RELIGIOUS AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
AUGUST 2020



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

- 100% In-person instruction with social distancing achieved in all classrooms (pending Governor Cuomo's announcement on 8/7/2020)
- Student and staff health and safety are a top priority
- Meets the NYS Department of Health & NYS Education Department guidelines
- Specifics (including schedules & procedures) will continue to be fine-tuned in the coming weeks
- Additional input from **all** stakeholders will be needed in the coming days, weeks & months



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

REOPENING PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

- 97.73% (43 of 44 families) surveyed plan to have their children return to in-person school this fall
- 23.26% (10 of 44 families) survey have a child or household member that is either immuno-compromised or has a risk factor that would put them at increased risk for COVID-19
- 100% (43 of 43 families) have face masks at home that students could wear to school
- 61.36% (27 families) plan to transport their child(ren) to school, 22.73% (10 families) will use public school buses, 15.91% (7 families) are unsure



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

REOPENING PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

- Of the 44 families that responded, the concerns when St. Mary's Academy returns to in-person instruction are:
 - Mask wearing & social distancing protocols (61.36%, 27 families)
 - My child(ren) being behind academically (45.45%, 20 families)
 - My child(ren) contracting COVID-19 (40.91%, 18 families)
 - My child(ren) being left out socially (34.09%, 15 families)
 - My child(ren) feeling anxious about going to school (31.82%, 14 families)
 - Someone in my household contracting COVID-19 (31.82%, 14 families)
 - My child(ren) feeling separation anxiety about leaving home (9.09%, 4 families)



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

REOPENING PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

- Of the 44 families that responded, recurrent themes regarding remote instruction emerged in the comments:
 - Consistent communication from principal & teachers
 - More direct instruction & interaction with teacher, including time to work on assignments with teacher
 - Increase “realtime” teaching (recorded)
 - Common platform across grades, for parent ease
 - Technology tutorials & support for parents
 - Streamlined (easier) method of submitting assignments
 - Frequent teacher feedback to students & parents
 - Clear & consistent expectations communicated to students & parents



OVERVIEW OF SMA REOPENING PLAN



**GIVEN OUR CLASS SIZES,
ST. MARY'S ACADEMY CAN
ACCOMMODATE ALL STUDENTS
RETURNING TO SCHOOL 5
DAYS/WEEK, WITH PROPER
SOCIAL DISTANCING!**



HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Daily temperature checks for all students and staff prior to entering Academy
- Daily screening questionnaire for staff, periodic screening questionnaire for students, with parent assistance
- Temperature (100.0 degrees or higher), sign of illness or positive response to screening questionnaire will result in being sent home or taken to a supervised isolation area while awaiting pick up
- Visitors will not be admitted to school buildings except in unique or emergency situations; visitors will complete the same daily health check & be required to wear a mask



HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Daily Screening Questionnaire: Have you...
 - 1. Knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 or has had symptoms of COVID-19;
 - 2. Tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 14 days;
 - 3. Experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of greater than 100.0F, in in the past 14 days; and/or
 - 4. Traveled internationally or from a state with a widespread community transmission of COVID-19 per the New York State Travel Advisory in the past 14 days
 - 5. If you can answer “yes” to any of these questions please





HEALTH AND SAFETY

- **Face Coverings/Masks:**
 - SMA requires all individuals in school facilities and on school grounds to put on a mask.
 - All students, faculty & staff must wear a masks
 - Per Executive Order 202.16, SMA will provide acceptable masks to employees (and students, if they forget their own) and have an adequate supply in case of need for replacement. SMA does allow employees to wear their own acceptable masks.
 - Masks may be challenging for students; mask breaks will be scheduled throughout the day. In addition, desk shields have been ordered to provide additional protection when masks are not worn.
 - Masks must be worn in entering/exiting SMA, in hallways, restrooms, cafeteria (except when seated), whenever 6 ft. social distancing cannot be maintained
 - Instruction on proper use, care & disposal of masks, including routine cleaning of reusable masks



HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Social Distancing:
 - The standard of 6 feet social distancing between desks can be achieved in every classroom. Desks are facing the same direction. Windows will be opened daily to increase ventilation
 - In the cafeteria, 6 feet social distancing can be achieved through the use of individual desks and socially distanced tables for our youngest students
 - Student arrival & dismissal will be at a single point of entry/exit for parent transport and students arriving by public school transport
 - Hallways are one directional, with social distancing signage
 - Bathrooms have barriers where social distancing cannot be maintained (sinks, urinals). A staggered restroom plan will be implemented to limit the number of students at one time
 - Student belongings will be separated (kept at desk) and sharing of supplies limited
 - Purchase of additional Chromebooks to eliminate sharing of devices
 - Fountains will be replaced with water bottle refill stations



HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Cleaning: St. Mary's Academy has developed cleaning protocols, checklists & documentation to ensure school-wide cleaning & disinfection before, during and after the school day:
 - Regular cleaning & disinfection of entire Academy; Clorox 360 unit
 - Frequent cleaning & disinfection for high-risk areas, frequently touched surfaces
 - Cleaning must happen *prior* to disinfection
 - Disinfection is the primary responsibility of the custodial staff & PPE should be worn. Cleaning is the shared responsibility. Staff do not need to wear masks when cleaning, unless PPE is listed as a safety precaution on the product



HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Hand Hygiene:
 - Instruction on proper hand hygiene (video & in-person) and signage
 - All students & staff should wash their hands as follows;
 - Upon entering the building and each classroom;
 - After using an shared object or surface;
 - Before & after snacks and lunch;
 - After using the bathroom;
 - After sneezing, wiping or blowing nose, or coughing into hands;
 - Upon coming in from outdoors;
 - Anytime hands are visibly soiled; and
 - After recess, PE, before & after removing masks & any other time appropriate
 - Sinks, touchless hand sanitizer stations



HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Respiratory Hygiene:
 - Instruction on proper respiratory hygiene (video & in-person) and signage
 - All students & staff should cover their mouths or noses with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and dispose of the tissue appropriately.
 - No touch trash receptacles are available in each classroom
 - If no tissue is available, using the inside of the elbow (or shirtsleeve) to cover the mouth or nose is preferable to using the hands
 - Students & staff should always perform hand hygiene after sneezing, coughing and handling dirty tissues or other soiled material



HEALTH AND SAFETY

- What if a student or staff becomes ill while at school?
 - Sent to nurse for evaluation; nurse will determine whether the symptoms are related to chronic conditions such as asthma, allergies or chronic gastrointestinal conditions, rather than COVID-19
 - If COVID-19 is suspected:
 - Isolated in a room or area separate from others with a supervising adult present utilizing appropriate PPE awaiting pick up by a parent/guardian.
 - Student will be escorted from the isolation area to the parent/guardian; and
 - Parent/guardian will be instructed to call their health care provider, or if they do not have a health care provider, to follow up with a local clinic or urgent care center
 - If a school nurse is not available to conduct an assessment, the building principal or designee will isolate and dismiss any student or staff member who has a fever or other symptoms of COVID-19 for follow up with a health care provider.
 - If emergency warning signs, 911 will be called



HEALTH AND SAFETY

- What happens if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at the Academy?
 - Communicate with the local health department about the confirmed case, potential closing of classrooms/areas, contact tracing, and return to work/school;
 - Determine, in consultation with the local health authority, who must be notified about close or proximate contact with the confirmed case; and
 - Identify students, employees and visitors who have likely had close contact with the confirmed case during the fourteen (14) days prior to the positive test; and
 - Communicate with the local health authority regarding its contact tracing and follow its guidance and recommendations.
 - Close any building or work area as appropriate if there has been a confirmed case for a minimum of twenty four (24) hours before cleaning begins; and
 - Perform cleaning and disinfection of all areas where the staff or student worked and any common areas where they would have been.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

- St. Mary's Academy follows CDC guidance for allowing a student or staff member to return to school after exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. If a person is not diagnosed by a health care provider with COVID-19, they can return to school:
 - Once there is no fever, without the use of fever reducing medicines, and they have felt well for 24 hours;
 - If they have been diagnosed with another condition and have a healthcare provider written note stating they are clear to return to school.
 - If a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 by a healthcare provider based on a test or their symptoms or does not get a COVID-19 test but has had symptoms, they should not be at school and should stay at home until:
 - It has been at least ten days since the individual first had symptoms;
 - It has been at least three days since the individual has had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); and
 - It has been at least three days since the individual's symptoms improved



SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

- St. Mary's Academy is committed to ensuring that the social-emotional needs of all students and staff are met.
- According to The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) , academic learning and cognitive growth are inextricably linked with social and emotional development and environments. This requires them to have a ready and focused brain, use emotional regulation skills, and also be in an environment where they feel physically safe, connected, included, and supported.
- The attention to students' social, emotional and academic development is particularly important at this point in time, as many students and adults may have experienced extraordinary stress and trauma.



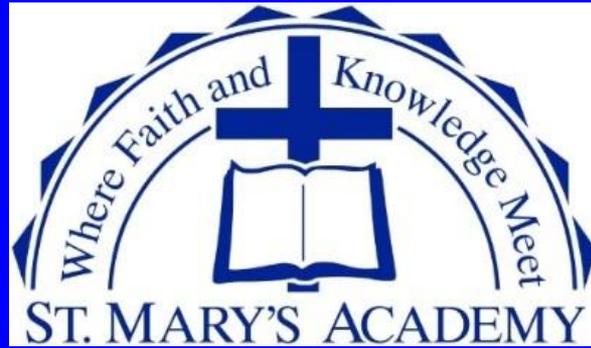
SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

- At St. Mary's Academy, this is reflected in our mission statement which states, "...St. Mary's Academy is a faith-centered community focused on promoting academic excellence and empowering our students to live their faith with compassion, integrity, and respect for life. We encourage students to develop a strong moral conscience and embrace catholic principles which allow our students to meet lifelong challenges in a rapidly changing world".
- This mission, with an increased focus on the social and emotional well-being of our students, staff and greater community, are paramount in a successful return to in-person instruction.
- How do we help our students at the Academy transition back to school, not just on Day 1, but throughout the days/weeks/months as we navigate life during a pandemic?



NEXT STEPS...

- Submittal of the plan to the NYS Education Department on Friday, August 7th
- A link to our plan will be added to our website, as well as this presentation
- Governor Cuomo is expected to announce his decision on Friday, August 7th
- Then, the “real” work begins!
 - Development of schedules & detailed procedures (entry & exit, special areas, lunch, bathroom, mask breaks...)
 - Development of transition plans for our students, August through the first months of school (September 9th cannot be the first time they come to the Academy!)
 - Development of the Continuity of Education Plan (in case of mandated closure)
 - Frequent communication through email blasts, surveys & Zoom meetings



“Thank you! By doing your part, you are keeping us all in school and safe!”