



ST. LEONARD SCHOOL
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(262) 679-0451

August 12, 2021

Hello St. Leonard Families,

I hope that you and your loved ones are having a wonderful summer and enjoying time to recharge.

We feel cautiously confident as we prepare to open our buildings for the 2021-22 school year. As COVID and the impact it has on our community continues to change, our plans will also evolve and change as we move forward. Your support and partnership will be key to our success as we embark on the new school year.

Many of our safety protocols are still in place from last year. However, you may notice some changes.

WHAT'S NEW

- **Masks.** Use of face coverings is **optional** for students and staff on our campus. The CDC recommends facemasks for all but does not require them at this time. Please wear a mask if you have concerns about COVID.
 - Staff will not monitor family preferences for mask wearing. Should a family prefer that their child wear a mask, that is the responsibility of the child/family.
 - Families who provide doctor's notes that detail the **necessity** for a student to wear a mask (immunocompromised, etc.) will have the full support of staff in enforcing that child wear a mask.
 - We know that families will be making different choices regarding masks, and that every individual has good reasons for why they are making their choices. Staff will continue to communicate school-wide behavioral expectations with students to clarify the importance of treating each other with dignity and respect, regardless of whether or not someone chooses to wear a face covering. In accordance with school policy, there is a progressive disciplinary approach in place should any student decide to tease, harass, mock, or bully another student, this includes a student's decision to wear, or not wear a face covering.
 - **Masks are required to be worn on busses. Masks must be worn on buses in accordance with federal mandate.**
- **In-person learning.** All students will learn in person. Virtual learning is only an option at the elementary level if an entire class is quarantined OR if the school is closed due to case numbers. Virtual lessons will still be available to students who are sick and need to quarantine due to COVID.
- **Air Quality Improvements.** This summer we have been completely upgrading our HVAC systems to improve ventilation and air quality. New Unit Vents that provide heat and fresh air are being installed in all the classrooms. In addition, **we are installing Bipolar Ionization throughout the school and gym.** Bipolar ionization is an air quality system that kills airborne viruses and bacteria, including the coronavirus. See more information at this link: <https://bit.ly/3xnrm6Y>. Last year we installed bipolar ionization in the church and gathering space. The use of bipolar ionization is standard practice in hospitals because it is so effective in purifying the air.

SCHOOL-DAY PROTOCOLS

- **Social distancing.** Every effort will be made to space students three feet apart in classrooms; however, this cannot be guaranteed. We will continue to use seating charts in an effort to contact trace, if necessary.
- **Movement in building.** Students will leave the classrooms for a variety of reasons (specials, learning support, and middle school rotations), but interactions will be limited to established class seating charts.
- **PE.** Students will **not** change again this year. However, they will need a change of shoes. Please see the Parent Handbook for more information.
- **Recess.** Student recess sizes will be at the discretion of the Principal, however, students will remain in cohorts and may interact with others in their cohort. Masks are optional outside.
- **Cafeteria.** Lunchroom seating will be spread out at the discretion of the Principal with assigned seating.
- **Masses, prayer services.** Masses and prayer services will take place with safety protocols in place.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL DAY

- **Bussing.** As of this communication, masks are still federally mandated for any individuals riding a school bus and all students and adults on a bus for any reason must continue to wear masks. While we cannot implement social distancing on busses, seating charts will be established to assist with contact tracing.
- **Athletics, extracurriculars.** We will follow guidance from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. All clubs and extracurriculars will resume with safety protocols in place.

OTHER IMPORTANT PROTOCOLS

- **Self-screening.** Faculty, staff, and students are asked to self-screen and stay home if showing any symptoms of COVID or other ailments.
- **Sanitization.** We will continue to stress the importance of proper handwashing throughout the day. Custodial staff will continue to clean classrooms and restrooms regularly. Any positive cases will result in electrostatic spraying of impacted rooms/areas. We use a Clorox 360 machine for sanitizing classrooms.
- **Quarantines.** Quarantines will be at the discretion of the Principal. Quarantine timelines will depend on the individual's vaccination status and guidance provided by the Health Department.
- **Close contacts.** Families will continue to be notified if their child may have been in close proximity to an infected person.

The safety and well-being of our students, staff and families will continue to be our top priority. We will follow local and federal guidelines as we monitor the pandemic and make any adjustments needed. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and commitment to keeping everyone safe and healthy.

Finally, we would like to ask you for your prayers. Pray for our educators as they return to their classrooms. Pray for our students as they get ready to engage and seek knowledge and friendships. Pray for our leaders as they guide us on this journey of 2021-22.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Laura Bisher
Principal

Fr. Dan Janasik
Pastor