**St. Joseph School Reopening Plan for the 2020-2021 School Year**

Guidelines, recommendations and input were used throughout this process from the following sources:

* Archdiocese of Milwaukee
* Catholic Comeback Plan
* Waukesha County Health Department
* CDC
* Wisconsin Department of Instruction

Our number one priority is keeping our students and staff safe and healthy while continuing to provide our students with a strong, faith-based education. I want to update you on where we stand and provide an outline of our plans for the upcoming school year. Information, guidelines and recommendations are ever changing as more is learned about COVID-19. Therefore, we thank you for your flexibility, understanding and patience as some of these plans may need to be updated to adhere to current recommendations.

Below is a list of safety precautions we plan to implement at St. Joseph School but are not limited to:

* Per recommendations of the Waukesha County Health Department, masks will be optional for staff and students, unless social distancing is not possible. Although it is not mandatory for students to wear masks at this time, we require that each student have a mask with them. If you cannot provide a mask, please call the school office and one will be provided. Circumstances may arise during the school day that would warrant a request from the principal or staff for students to wear a mask. Give your children time to practice wearing masks before school starts. Teach them how to put them on and take them off.
* Classroom set up will be spread out (e.g. removing non-essential furniture) to allow for as much social distancing as possible.
* We plan to utilize the outdoor spaces as often as we can throughout the day. This will allow for students to social distance.
* We will not have shared supplies in the classroom unless absolutely necessary. Teachers will assist in ensuring any shared toys, etc. are sanitized each day.
* Hot lunch will be served. Organization of seating and tables in the cafeteria will also be adjusted as well as serving procedures. Students will have assigned seats and all volunteers and staff in the cafeteria will wear masks.
* Extra cleaning will occur throughout the day, and hand sanitizer dispensers will be in every classroom, bathrooms, entrances, etc. Students are also welcome to bring personal hand sanitizers. We are looking into hiring a cleaning service to clean and disinfect the entire building on a daily basis.
* If your child has any symptoms of illness they should stay home. Students and staff with a fever of 100.4 or greater, or symptoms of COVID-19 should not be present in school. We will screen each student and all staff temperatures each day as they arrive at school. If a student or staff has a temperature of 100.4 or greater, they will be required to return home. We will follow Waukesha County Health Department’s most current recommendation for returning to school.
* We appreciate all of our volunteers but there is a need to limit them to the cafeteria, library and recess supervision. The necessity for volunteers cannot be completely eliminated, so we are requiring all volunteers who enter the building to wear a mask and have temperatures screened. If something needs to be dropped off by a parent, it can be brought to the office and we will deliver it to the student.
* Transportation/busing will still be provided for families (most likely assigned seats). We are waiting to hear from Dousman Transportation about their procedures. However, whenever possible, we do encourage parent transportation.
* We are adjusting our procedures to ensure social distancing, but more information on bus and drop-off/pick up procedures to follow.
* We do plan on attending mass during the school year, but it will look different from the past. There are a variety of scenarios that we are discussing on how the children will be able to attend mass safely. Guidelines will be given to us by our new Pastor and will mirror the most current Archdiocese guidelines.
* Field trips are being evaluated and will only be considered if the current in house level of safety can be achieved.
* After a great deal of thought, discussion, and prayer with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Athletic Board, the decision has been made to cancel the 2020-21 fall sports season for elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. All recognize and value the importance that athletic and extracurricular opportunities bring to the educational experience and development of youth, but understand the priority is to have students in the classroom.
* More information will be coming in August regarding Picture/Supply Day.

We completely understand that there may be mixed emotions for the Fall as well as lots of questions. We know that the Fall will be far from “normal”, but we truly believe a

face-to-face environment is a more effective way for students to learn. As a result, we need to have these protocols in place to keep everyone safe and healthy. We will continue to

re-evaluate all of these protocols throughout the year and adjust where needed.

Thank you for your continued support, patience, and flexibility as we navigate the new “normal” for the Fall.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me via email [jvanrixel@stjoesbb.com](mailto:jvanrixel@stjoesbb.com) or call the office at 262-662-2737.

Thank you and God Bless,

Mr. Jeff Van Rixel