

School Opening Plan



2021-2022

*Please note this is a living document outlining the procedures for St. George School. Updates to this plan are expected often as information is shared with administration and pastor.

Introduction

In order to balance the important priorities of health/safety, educational standards, and catechesis, the guidelines within this document will typically guide programs, instruction, and the decision making process of the administration of St. George School. These guidelines will remain in effect until health risks from the COVID-19 pandemic are generally acknowledged to have stabilized.

St. George School has been in communication with the Gasconade County Health Department with this process to ensure the best way to keep our students, staff, and families safe during this pandemic and to best meet the needs of our parish school community. As the CDC updates their considerations, this plan will be updated in turn.

In this reopening plan, any reference to “guidelines” refers to those guidelines from the county, state, and federal health authorities, along with any directives from the Diocese of Jefferson City. At the discretion of school administration or as health guidelines and conditions change, the following procedures are subject to change.

Except for in cases allowed by school policy (e.g., illness) or quarantine (e.g., a family member has contracted Covid-19), families who elect to keep students at home must sign the Home-Based Learning Agreement provided by the Diocese of Jefferson City (see Appendix pg. 1).



General Operation

During arrival, entrances will be propped open to allow touchless entry. Multiple entrances to the buildings will be used during student arrival so to limit the amount of students using an entrance.



Students arriving between 7:00-7:30am will enter the main entrance on 4th Street and wait in the gym in assigned locations by class. At 7:30, students will need to ring the office bell to inform the office of their arrival.

Families are encouraged to have their children exit their automobiles as independently as possible to reduce contact by staff. Understandably, assistance will be needed in some cases and staff will be available to assist. We ask that all parents be patient for the safety of our students and staff

At 7:25, School will begin with morning prayer, and announcements will be done either in person in the Gym, or on teachers monitors using Google Meet depending on the administration.



The allowance and guidelines for class parties and special events will be determined on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the administration.

Students at St. George will bring water bottles to school and labeled. Water bottle filling stations will be available. Everyday students should take their water bottles home to be cleaned and refilled before the next school day. Some homeroom classes may require certain water bottles so that they may fit in cubbies in hallways, or holders on desks.

Sharing of school supplies will be restricted when possible. If classroom supplies must be shared teachers will attempt to keep supplies in stable group sharing.

End of the school day and departure procedures will be at 2:55 pm. Staff will have assigned roles for end of school procedures. A bus to transport students to the Hermann Elementary and Hermann Middle School will be available, unless otherwise informed by the Gasconade Co. R-1 School District. All federal/state guidelines and laws will be followed by St. George students on busses, including mask mandates when active.

Masks

Staff are recommended to wear a mask while working in close proximity (6 feet) to students in the classroom. While at desks, smartscreens, or while teaching a lesson while out of close proximity to students, teachers may lower or remove masks.

At this time masks/face coverings for students are strongly recommended for students, but could turn into a requirement at anytime when the principal and pastor decide too. SGS will follow local health department quarantine procedures

Dress code restrictions will be relaxed for masks, such as if students find fun designs or want to support local sports teams. Generally, masks with designs, sports teams, logos, patterns, etc. in any color are permitted. However, common sense guidelines apply:

- No imagery suggestive of violence or other objectionable behavior;
- No masks that are distracting to the learning environment, such as those involving costume-like additions;
- No masks that make divisive political or social statements.

If you have a question about the appropriateness of certain masks, do not hesitate to reach out for clarification on these guidelines.



Restrooms

Restrooms for the students will be available as a schedule will be made by the staff for grade levels. A cleaning schedule will be made by the custodial staff and administration to keep the restrooms as clean and sanitized as possible. Grades 4-5 will typically use the restrooms by the entrance to the gymnasium. Grades 6-8 will typically use the restrooms in the back staircases. The Elementary will use the restrooms in the basement.

Lunch

Lunch for the 2021-2022 school year has been scheduled with 4 different lunch shifts. Each lunch shift will be separated with a passing period in order for the lunchroom staff and volunteers to wipe all tables and disinfect the lunchroom as much as possible.

Students eating in the cafeteria will be seated in their classes at tables and will be spaced out in the cafeteria to social distance.

If the risk of COVID rises in the community or school, lunches may transition to grab-and-go lunches and homeroom classrooms may be utilized as additional lunch space.

Visitors at lunch will be welcome on a reservation basis. Lunch with visitors may take place in the lunchroom if there is room for an isolated table, or the balcony of the gym.

Recess

Recess will be held outside as much as possible for all grades.

During increased risk we may have multiple zones or areas to limit group sizes.

Specials Classes

Physical Education

When it is possible, PE may be held outside. Students will attend P.E. in the gymnasium if they cannot go outside. Social distancing will be managed as much as possible. Equipment will be organized for grade levels as much as possible. When possible all equipment will be regularly disinfected. Hand sanitizing before and after physical activity will be expected. Activities will be used which limit close contact with others.



Music

All will attend music in the music room. The music instructor will be making modifications to the curriculum and instruction to limit shared supplies.

Art

All students will attend art in the art room. Modifications are being made to the instruction to limit shared supplies.

Mass

For all levels of risk, school Masses will be held in accordance with guidelines from the Diocese of Jefferson City. Seating will typically be based on grade level arrangements. St. George will have school Masses on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday each week. When mass attendance needs to be split, PS3-3 will attend mass together, and 4-8 will attend mass together.

After-School-Care

After-School-Care will be provided utilizing stable groupings, social distancing, and other layers of protection to the best of our abilities.

Extra-Curricular Activities

During low levels of risk, extra-curricular activities will continue with preventative and proactive practices. Spectator attendance will be limited in the gymnasium.

During an increased level of risk, directors of extra-curricular activities will meet with school administration to determine if the program can continue with appropriate mitigation or social distancing practices. The administration will be in communication with the Gasconade County Health Department and Diocese for guidance. Spectator attendance may be limited.

General Staff Protocols

All classroom teachers will be recommended to have a mask covering their mouth and nose while within 6 feet of contact with students.

At the beginning of the year staff should work to prepare students/parents for a transition to Home Instruction (if it were to occur throughout the semester). Teachers should set up Google Classroom for their students, prep students/parents on Google Meet, and any other online platforms that could be used for their instruction while at home. (Staff will offer parents/guardians to be



“guardians” on Google Classroom to be aware and informed of assignments and posts on their child’s Classroom)

Staff members should reduce the amount of times they visit classrooms other than their own. If it is necessary for a staff member to visit a different classroom they should wear a mask.

Surveillance, Screening, and Triage

Students and staff who have a fever (100.4° or higher without fever-reducing medication) will be asked to stay home and report the absence to the school office or supervisor. Individuals with a cough will be evaluated and may be asked to stay home or provide a doctor’s clearance to continue attending.

Those who are identified to have a fever and/or cough may be instructed to wear an appropriate mask, use hand sanitizer, and go to a designated area to be picked up by parents and sent home.

The Gasconade County Health Department and Jefferson City Diocese will be utilized to provide guidance on students and staff who have had contact with people who are suspected to be COVID-19 positive.



Suspected or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

In the event of a suspected case of COVID-19, the following protocols will be followed:

SCENARIO

An employee or student who does not feel well is to visit the school office.

The office personnel will determine if symptoms are COVID-19-related.

The employee or student will be separated from others.

EMPLOYEE

The employee will immediately inform the school principal.

The employee will follow and document all responses required by school policy and all relevant health department guidelines.

STUDENT

The school office will contact the parent and offer to assist the parent in making phone calls to the healthcare provider for appropriate testing.

The office personnel will notify the principal and the Gasconade County Health Department.

EMPLOYEE OR STUDENT REQUIRED TO SELF-ISOLATE

Any employee who has been told to self-isolate will contact the principal immediately.

If a student has been told to self-isolate, the family will call the school, and all family members will isolate according to appropriate guidelines.

Parents of students within that student's classroom will be notified that their child may have been exposed to the Covid-19 virus. Contact-tracing guidelines may apply to individuals within the student's stable group.

The principal will notify the pastor and the diocesan superintendent.

The principal, along with the diocesan school office, will consider initiating the following protocols:

- The affected part of the school or the entire building will be temporarily closed, according to guidelines.
- Deep cleaning will occur in areas where the student has been located
- The principal will contact the health department for additional guidance



- Official communication to families and/or media will come from the school principal in cooperation with the diocesan office of communications
- The building principal will maintain contact with the staff member or family of the student and ensure compliance with relevant guidelines

Custodial

St. George School will maintain adequate supplies of personal protective equipment, soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, and tissues throughout the school. The custodian and principal will ensure the maintenance of stock of these supplies.

Custodians will frequently sanitize common surfaces and objects (e.g., tables, water fountains, lockers, and doorknobs) with cleaning and disinfectant products/materials. Computer-safe disinfectant methods will be used for computers and keyboards.

