

Reopening St. Monica Catholic School for Fall 2020

By working together, we can reduce the potential spread of COVID-19. As we approach the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, St. Monica Catholic School aims to deliver a robust and engaging program that is safe for all members of our community. The enclosed guide is not a one-size-fits-all approach but leaves room for our school to create safe conditions for students, staff, and parents, while also emphasizing the importance of socialization and academics.

- Keep our Teachers safe!
- Keep our Students (and their families) safe!
- Keep our School open!



This plan has been developed using the guidelines from the State of Washington, the King County Health Department, Department of Children, Youth and Family, CDC, and the Archdiocese of Seattle.
If changes are to occur, our plan will be modified to reflect those changes.

OUR MISSION

St. Monica Catholic School collaborates with parents to educate and develop the whole child, so they may maximize their human potential, fulfill their God-given purpose, and flourish in a Christ-centered and rigorous academic environment.

Our Vision

To promote a Catholic learning environment for the growth of the whole child through a rigorous integrated curriculum. We will emphasize the rich tradition of a Liberal Arts education by using time-tested methodologies inspired by the Church's history, culture, and thought. Through compassion, prayer, and service to God and neighbor, our students will model Christian virtue, communicate, and think logically, contribute to the common good, and pursue truth.

As we enter the Fall, our focus continues to be on:

- Faithful Catholics who model the virtues of Reverence and Justice.
- Life-Long Learners who model the virtues of Studiousness and Fortitude.
- Responsible citizens who model the virtues of Prudence and Temperance.

We Will:

1

Create a culture of safety and accountability for the St. Monica community.

2

Implement personal health and safety protocols.

3

Make changes to the school environment that promote healthy social spacing.

4

Advance our St. Monica Mission in a responsible way.

5

Make safety revisions to our extra programs that ensure health and safety for all members.

Our guiding principals for the Reopening St. Monica Catholic School are:

- A commitment to providing an interegrated curriculum that focus on the goals of St. Monica Catholic School.
- A responsibility to provide a safe and healthy experience for our students, faculty, staff, and families.
- Attention to community as we strive to foster a sense of belonging for all students.
- Flexibilty to move seamlessly between in-person, hybrid and remote learning as best as possible.

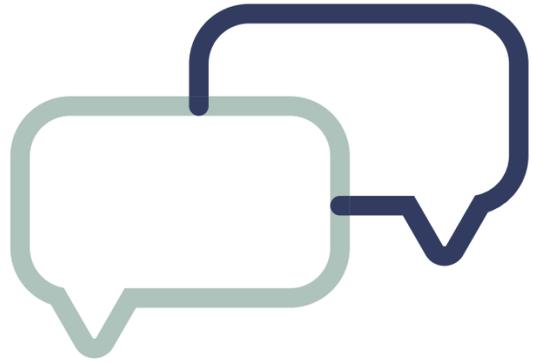


Create a culture of safety and accountability for the St. Monica community

By working together as a community all of this can happen. For us to open with an in-person instructional model in the Fall and to keep that in-person experience going, we all have to do our parts to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19. Please be observant of local ordinances including wearing a mask/face coverings and maintaining physical distance when in public. A repeated concern in our task force meetings is the need for all families to be in communion (empathy, agreement, harmony) with regards to being mindful and safe while away from campus. We are doing everything in our power, while on campus, to follow health and safety regulations, but we need to remain safe while away from school as well.

1





PLAN AND COMMUNICATE

We are committed to regular communication with all our parents, children, and staff about:

COVID-19 and the steps one can take to protect themselves and prevent further spread.

Possibility of a closure during the school year.

The planning of a “remote only” option for families who do not yet feel ready to send students back to school, but still want high-quality instruction, is ongoing.

Defined drop-off and pick-up procedures will be included in our Crusader Communique.

Email thecovid@stmonicasea.org as a means to contact our Administration for updates and concerns.

Parents should inform the school immediately if someone in their household has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is quarantined for a suspected case.

Frequently asked questions can be found at the following:

**<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/coronavirus-covid-19/families>
<https://www.k12.wa.us/about-ospi/press-releases/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-resources>**

Implement personal health and safety practices

St. Monica Catholic School will continue our increased and frequent handwashing procedures and other hygiene practices. Additionally, children and staff will wash their hands when leaving the facility. St. Monica has replaced all drinking fountains with handwashing stations throughout the campus.

- When possible, students will use soap and water to wash their hands; alternatively, they will use hand sanitizer.
- Students are strongly encouraged to bring a refillable water bottle.
- Teachers and instructional assistants will wipe down desks with approved cleaning supplies between each new group of students entering the room for shared spaces, before and after eating, and at the end of the day.
- Our increased maintenance staff will continue to clean during and after each school day paying extra attention to high use areas.
- Shared equipment and instructional materials will be cleaned regularly.

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All students in grades K-8 will be required to wear cloth masks (preferred) or plastic face shields at school. Students must always have two masks on hand at school each day.

All staff will be required to wear cloth masks except when working independently.

All visitors must wear a mask, and non-essential visits are limited to phone or virtual meetings if available.

Parents are strongly encouraged to find masks for their students and practice wearing them for extended time throughout the summer to maximize comfort and prepare for learning.



Student exemptions are attainable for medical reasons.

Parents should provide multiple child's masks to promote regular cleaning of masks, ensure that the masks are a good fit, and label masks to help identify the owner of each mask.

St. Monica will provide one face shield for each student to remain on campus at all times – it will be sanitized each night.

Pre-K students are encouraged to wear their school-issued face shield while in the classroom, working and playing. During meal times and recess, they can be removed.

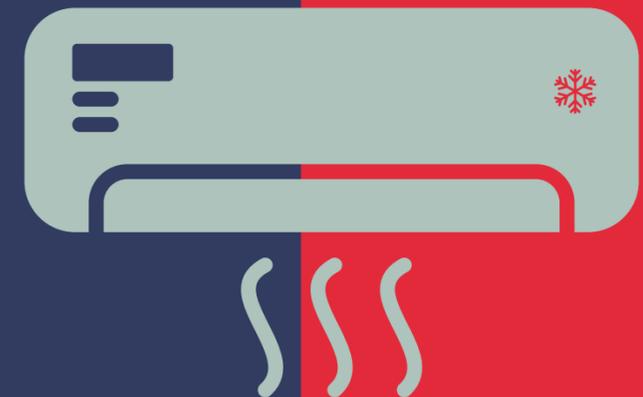
Make changes to the school environment that promote healthy social spacing.

Desks and chairs will be reconfigured in each classroom to meet the needs of the current class enrollments and social distancing protocol. Decisions regarding the location of classrooms for grade levels are still in the process of being made.

By keeping the children in smaller groups by class/grade, we can control the number of individuals that come into contact with our children daily and keep exposure consistent within each class/grade.

Increased air circulation throughout the building. We are installing an improved HVAC system through our ventilation system. Opening windows in some classrooms and offices will occur often. Classroom doors will be opened when possible and appropriate

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CLASS COHORTS; there will be minimal, if any, mixing of classes/grades.

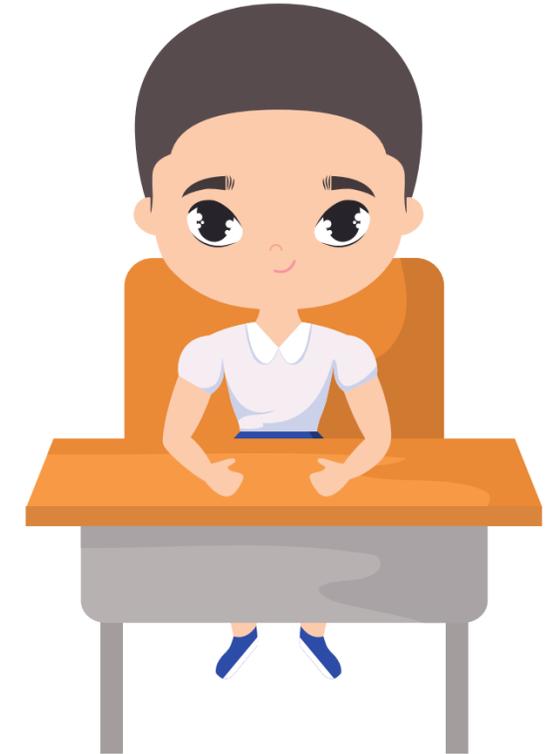
Desks will not be placed in clusters or workgroups.

Desks will be placed in front-facing rows.



When feasible, students, especially those in K-5, will meet in their classes for most of their day (including lunch).

Specialists may come to primary classrooms instead of the students traveling to their classes.



Each class/grade represents its cohort, and individuals within that cohort will interact with and have physical proximity limited to other individuals in that cohort to the extent possible.

Non-essential furniture and equipment will be removed from classrooms to create the maximum space possible for students and teachers.

Advance our St. Monica Mission in a responsible way.

To be prepared for a potential return to distance learning, either via a hybrid learning or a “remote only” option, St. Monica Catholic School is:

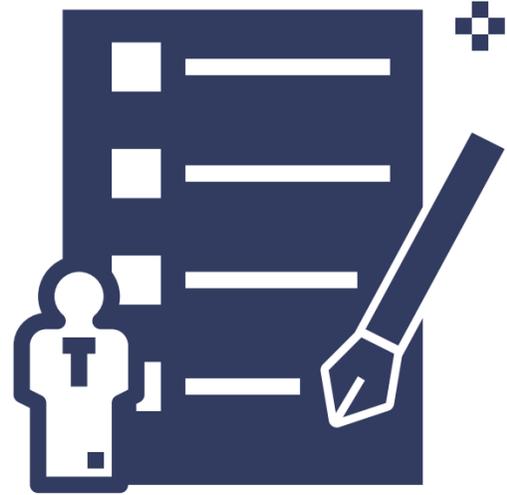
Planning to gather and review family feedback on the student distance learning experience based on spring 2020 so that we can identify and build upon lessons learned.

As we prepare for the 2020-2021 school year our faculty is engaged in their own continuous education, deepening their expertise, deepening their knowledge in new modes of instruction and refining their classes to best meet the needs of a digital or hybrid program.

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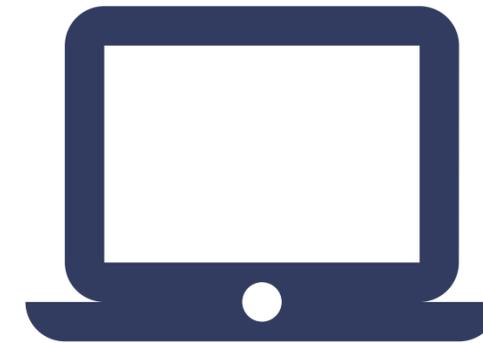


Preparing classrooms and teachers with technology that will allow live streaming so that students can attend classes and receive real-time instruction from home.



Developing a less taxing method of gathering and returning assignments for young learners and their families.

Planning for Microsoft Teams Training for parents/guardians and students. Creating guidelines that will be followed by all grade-levels.



Implementing a streamlined approach to the delivery of instructional content and submission of homework that is consistent across teachers and specialists.

Upgrading our technology infrastructure with increased devices for primary grades to make multi-child family learning easier.

Providing a weekly overview of distance learning will be sent out the Friday afternoon before learning begins weekly.

Make safety revisions to our extra programs that ensure health and safety for all members.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

St. Monica Catholic School is prioritizing the regular in-person back-to-school reopening. We want to ensure that we have a successful implementation of safety and health protocols and processes as part of the regular school day, give staff and students time to grow accustomed to following these new protocols and processes, and give ourselves time to make adjustments as needed – before adding the complexity of Morning Care and After School Care (ASC).

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