



Plan for Reopening School 2020-2021 School Year

St. Patrick Catholic School remained true to its mission during the third trimester of e-Learning, and we will continue to do so as we prepare to open the school for the 2020-2021 school year. Our Catholic identity and faith formation will continue to be at the heart of who we are and what we do each day. This is something that will NOT change, although the landscape of our community, state, and country may.

The Governor of Virginia announced the reopening of schools plan the same day as our Virginia Department of Education released guidelines to all school divisions. Our plan to reopen St. Patrick Catholic School abides by these guidelines, and we continue to analyze the information from these two groups.

The VA Dept. of Education has published three phases for opening schools. Phase 2 allows students in PK through 3rd grade to return to school. Phase 3 allows all students to return to school with strict social distancing on place. I want to assure you that St. Patrick Catholic School will be able to abide by these guidelines and open school for all students, all day, every day, for both Phase 2 and 3.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has published several tools to help schools plan for reopening. St. Patrick will abide by the guidelines set forth by the CDC, by implementing strategies to keep our students, faculty and staff, families, and visitors safe and healthy. In addition, St. Patrick Catholic School will work closely with students, faculty, and staff members who are at a high risk for severe illness to provide a safe alternative for learning and working. This will be handled on a case-by- case basis.

All students, faculty, staff, families, and visitors will be screened daily using a touchless thermometer to take temperatures upon arrival at St. Patrick Catholic School.

The Rappahannock Area Health District (RAHD) has been extremely helpful in providing guidance and resources to St. Patrick Catholic School. I have been in personal contact with two nurses over the course of the month, and I continue to have regular conversations regarding the safe opening of our school.

Among many of the resources available, the Rappahannock Area Health Department is providing letters, resources, and training for the faculty and staff, and in turn we will be able to provide the



same for all our school families. I am grateful for the support of our Local Health Authorities and will continue to work closely with them throughout the summer and coming school year. Our partnership is invaluable.

As I roll out our plan to open St. Patrick Catholic School, I want you to know that my pledge to our students, families, and the entire school community is:

- First and foremost: To ensure students, faculty, and staff are safe at school and are not unknowingly transmitting or contracting the virus.
- To keep our proven successful spiritual and academic curriculum in place.
- To maintain effective and regular communication to our school community.

Our plan for reopening St. Patrick Catholic School includes the careful and intentional management of four key areas:

- Managing Physical Distancing
- Managing Contact and Movement
- Managing Cleaning and Disinfecting
- Managing Health of Students, Faculty/Staff, Families, and Visitors

Managing Physical Distancing

To effectively manage physical distancing, our classrooms will be arranged to provide increased space and protective physical barriers to keep our students safe. Plexiglass will be used to add a layer of protection in every classroom.

All faculty, staff, and visitors will be required to wear a mask or face shield.

Classrooms will no longer have shared or common use supplies and materials. Students will use their own.

Teachers will be carefully managing student traffic at lockers and cubbies to minimize students interacting in close proximity to one another.

Our school hallways will have one directional flow, and class bathroom breaks will be scheduled to eliminate the number of students in the hallway at one given time. Social distancing signs and floor markings will be used to help remind everyone to maintain a safe distance between one another.



Managing Contact and Movement

St. Patrick Catholic School will be carefully managing contact and movement. We are taking a very controlled approach with restrictions for PE class and recess. Our students need to maintain physical exercise and our PE curriculum will be followed. However, we will creatively manage student personal space to maintain safe distancing and will be sanitizing equipment after each use. PE class will remain a grade level class and will be conducted outdoor on our field unless we have inclement weather. On these occasions, we will conduct PE and health lessons in the classroom, following strict social distancing.

Students will be able to eat lunch in the Parish Hall with social distancing in place. We have added three lunch tables to our fleet so that students can be seated a safe distance from each other while eating. Our Wednesday Hot Lunch Program as we knew it will be suspended. However, I would like to institute a new takeout lunch program to give our students something to look forward to several times a month. Using our local businesses (including the ever-popular Chick-fil-A), students will have the option to place orders ahead of time to be delivered to the school for lunch.

Students will report directly to class in the morning in place of gathering in the Parish Hall until 8:00 a.m. In the afternoon, students will walk directly to the carpool lanes instead of gathering in the front hallway. Our Extended Day Program will operate with the same restrictions and social distancing as we will be using in our classrooms.

Managing Cleaning and Disinfecting

The cleaning crew at St. Patrick Catholic School will be present during the entire school day to provide the highest quality of cleaning and disinfecting throughout the school day. Touchless sanitizing stations will be outside each classroom and entryway throughout the school.

We are converting the water fountain in the existing school building to a touch-free water bottle filling station, and our new building will have the same.

We are in the process of purchasing UV light sanitizer wands to provide the highest level of sanitization for technology (including keyboards and mice) and larger equipment.

Our school library will be closed to student traffic. However, students will still be able to enjoy good books throughout the school year by bringing the library to our students. Students will complete an interest form about the type of book they enjoy, and teachers will identify the appropriate reading level. Our Librarian will then select a range of books that will interest the students. At Library time, our Librarian will arrive to the classroom with the cart of books and allow the students to make a final selection. Once books are chosen the remaining books will be returned to the library for quarantining, disinfecting, and eventual re-shelving. The Central



Rappahannock Regional Library has access to thousands if not millions of e-book titles for students to access as well.

Students will have the use of our new technology lab and classroom Chromebooks or iPads. However, strict usage and sanitization guidelines will be in place. Our technology lab will have plexiglass to provide a protective and safe barrier for all students. All equipment will be sanitized using the UV light sanitization wands between classes.

Managing Health of Students, Faculty/Staff, Families, and Visitors

Our top priority is to manage the health of our students, faculty, staff, families, and visitors. As I mentioned earlier, we have a great partnership with the Rappahannock Area Health District, and the resources and training will be invaluable for our faculty, staff, and families.

Please understand that more than ever, students entering school will need to have the required physicals and immunizations prior to being allowed to attend school.

It is strongly recommended that students wear face coverings. Students will be required to wear a face covering when in common areas with large groups, when attending Mass, and during computer lab instruction.

Students or staff that present communicable symptoms will need to be evaluated and isolated for a short period of time. An isolation room is currently being constructed in the school and will be used to provide the needed protection. The isolation room is a self-contained area that is being designed with input from healthcare professionals, and that has a separate filtration system.

In Summary

St. Patrick Catholic School is well positioned to open school to our students all day and every day in August. As mentioned, we will abide by all the requirements and guidelines to safely bring our children back to the building. Beyond the requirements, however, our school provides amazing advantages to our larger surrounding schools.

Our Catholic identity and faith formation provide the foundation for all that we are and all that we do at school. We will stay true to our mission by providing strong academics and spiritual formation in a Christ-centered learning environment. We will continue to have daily prayer, weekly mass – with social distancing - , monthly school rosary, and weekly visits by our clergy – Father Ziegler, Fr. Schierer, and Deacon Stenstrom.

St. Patrick will be offering the full curriculum – all academic subjects and all specials classes. Because of our small size, we are better able to manage all of the requirements and guidelines from the Governor, the Virginia Department of Education, CDC, and the Rappahannock Area Health District, and add the extra layer of protection with physical barriers.