

We continue our work this summer preparing for a safe return of our students, faculty and staff. Details are still forthcoming from our local school districts, transportation departments, health department, etc. but below you will find answers to **5 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**.

Remember, the information and guidelines given during this pandemic are EVER-CHANGING. What we plan today may change as there is no playbook for what we face in the start the year. First and foremost, our decisions are made with the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff at the forefront.

## 1. CALENDAR CHANGES

It is our plan for a full 5 day return with all students. As the Covid-19 virus is ever changing, we anticipate adjustments will need to be made to our plans and school calendar. We have recently learned that many of our districts have delayed their start to later in August (some the 24th, others the 26th). These changes may impact our start date based on transportation needs. We are waiting to receive specific plans from all transportation departments. Although we have not made a change to our official start date, we want you to be aware of a possible delay.

Additionally, we are working to restructure the Back to School Kick-off. We will not be able to gather as a full school community but are planning alternative options for supply drop off, etc. Our annual PK/K Orientation and Ice Cream Social is cancelled but teachers are planning one on one meet and greets in August. We are creating a video orientation for parents to come later this summer.

## 2. FACE MASKS

Face masks will be required for all students to have at school to significantly reduce health risks. We anticipate masks being required on the bus and we require them to be worn in all common areas, during small group, music class, bathroom breaks, etc. From there, guidelines will be set by grade for wear within the classroom based on age appropriate expectations, social distancing guidelines, and mandates from the Health Department.

Faculty and staff will be required to wear masks in all common spaces and when teaching in close proximity to students. If teaching from 6ft away, teachers may wear face shields to allow students to see their face and expressions.

The face masks are an extension of our uniform and meant for safety and as little distraction as possible. Faculty, staff and students are required to wear properly fitted ear loop style masks in any solid color. Fabric or disposable masks are acceptable. Additionally, face masks with clear plastic fronts combined with fabric maybe worn. Link [here](#) for similar product, you may purchase from any source.

## 3. SOCIAL DISTANCING

Each classroom will be reconfigured to maximize social distancing. Desks will be staggered and facing the same direction. Plexiglas guards will be provided in rooms where students sit at tables, for example PreK and lab spaces.

At this time, cafeteria will be closed for dining, students will be eating outside or in the classroom. When we last spoke with Milford Nutrition Services they anticipated boxed lunches instead of self serve lunch.

Signage will be installed around campus for social distancing direction in common areas.

At this time, volunteering will be limited to outdoor locations only. We will need volunteers on the playground to help sanitize equipment and will need volunteers for the Summer Reading Fest celebration. Watch for more information to come in upcoming newsletters.

As often as possible, teachers will switch classes and specials will move to the homerooms keeping students from overlapping in multiple classrooms.

Weekly Prayer Services, Mass, etc will still take place either in person in small groups or virtually.

## 4. SANITATION AND CLEANING

We are applying best practices for cleaning and sanitation in the building. This summer, an Ionization filtration system will be installed to provide cleaner air in the building. The system will be connected to the HVAC in the entire school.

Desks and chairs will be disinfected throughout the day with disinfecting wipes or sprays. With adult supervision, students will be in charge of sanitizing their own desk. Hand sanitizer will be provided in the classrooms to be used when entering and leaving, before snack, lunch, etc.

There will be limited shared materials. Each student will have their own supply box – watch weekly newsletters for updated supply lists.

Students in grades 1-4 will be assigned individual Chromebooks (kept at school), 5th grade students will be assigned individual tablets (kept at school) and 6-8 grade students will be provided individual tablets as stated in the 1:1 tablet program which can be taken home. If distance learning is required during the school year, these Chromebooks and tablets will be available to all students to take home.

Students, staff and volunteers will practice frequent handwashing and restrooms will be sanitized every two hours. Restroom breaks will be staggered to avoid overcrowding.

Students are encouraged to bring water bottles as they will only be permitted to use the touchless water bottle filler on the drinking fountains

Vanguard will provide nightly cleaning services following CDC sanitation guidelines

## 5. COVID-19 CASES AND QUARANTINE

We ask parents to please take your child's temperature every morning.

No student, faculty or staff member should come to St. Columban or attend any St. Columban function, if in the 14 days prior the student or parent(s) has had any of the following: new cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever of 100.4 °F or higher (intermittent or constant), chills, new muscle pains or body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, or gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. This does not apply if these symptoms have been affirmatively diagnosed by a healthcare provider as being caused by some non-contagious illness or condition. In such cases, parents should provide supporting documentation from a healthcare provider and share such documentation with St. Columban.

Additionally, no student faculty or staff member should come to St. Columban or any St. Columban function if in the last 14 days, student or parent(s) has had prolonged (more than 10 minutes) close contact (within 6 feet) with anyone, including a family member, diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19.

Mrs. Rohan will provide further documentation from the CDC as well as our local health departments on what to expect in the case of a confirmed Covid-19 report. She will be training faculty and staff before the school year begins on health and safety protocol and providing guidance for student training at the beginning of the year.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Please continue to read the newsletter regularly as we will provide news and updates as they come available. We appreciate your support and patience as we navigate these uncharted waters.