



Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Hello St. Ann Parents! This is Part 2 of the St. Ann back to school plan. We sent out Part 1 a few weeks ago, and if for some reason you did not receive it, please contact the school office to request a copy. There is still more information to come because we are living in a very unstable time and things will change and keep changing.

We are thrilled to welcome our students back to school. We want to make sure that their return is done safely for all parties involved. The safety and well-being of our staff is also extremely important.

Please read the entire update to get a complete understanding of all the current changes taking place. Everything is extremely fluid and probably will be until we actually start school. And after school starts, we will continue to adjust if we find what we are doing needs improving. After the spring and summer we have had and are still experiencing, I believe everyone understands there is no business as usual. Most everything about education will be different. What will remain the same is our mission to provide a Catholic education through faith, service, and love.

Please hold your questions to the end. Here we go!

Let us remember that we are in the Holy presence of God. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Heavenly Father, please guide us especially during this time of so many unknowns and so much uncertainty. Help protect our students, staff, and families as we do our best to continue to move forward. We need you and love you. Amen.

1. **Difficulties:** Understand that this school year will be an extremely difficult year, even more difficult than this past spring for the staff, students, and parents alike. We are going to have to overcome the difficulties together, being super-supportive of each other and with open minds. We are not going to be able to survive on our own. It will take teamwork, trust, hard work, faith, and lots of prayers. Another component we will need is creativity. We are going to have to figure things out as we move forward since we have no idea what will come our way. Even though we are planning for what might or might not take place, no one can plan for every possible scenario we may encounter. But, once we get started and are able to figure out the unknown situations ahead, the year should become smoother even if we have to go back into a phase 1 situation.

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We know it is important for our students to get back into a normal school routine as much as possible. Children learn so much more from being in school than just the academic piece. Independence, self-confidence, problem solving, making friends, helping others, and forming their knowledge and relationship with Jesus through discussion, prayer, and worship are just some of the skills that going to school in person provides. We plan to do everything we can to bring our students back safely. Although we would love to see all our students return to our campus for in-person instruction, we realize that there are those families that may have family members who are at risk and vulnerable because of certain health issues or some families who are not comfortable and ready to send their children back to school “in person” quite yet. So, here is our online plan:

2. **Online Education:** Many schools are offering an online option for students/families who are not comfortable returning to school at this time. We have hesitated to offer this option for several reasons. The main reason being that we do not want the classroom teachers having double-duty working with students live and remote. We do not want to set up systems where there is a live feed for the online students while working with students in the classroom. We do not believe this is beneficial for the online students. They need an educator they are able to interact with. If the teacher is teaching a live class while being live streamed, the online student will have difficulty interacting with the teacher and the class. We see more problems than solutions with this set up. Plus, this is a lot of added work on the classroom teacher on top of all the new that comes with this particular school year.

3. **Offering Online Classes:** I have spoken with Judy Thomas (LIFE teacher), Romana Wendenon (SPARKS teacher), and Amanda Bannister (PK teacher) about being our online teachers working with our stay at home students. All three have agreed to serve as online teachers. They would work with the regular classroom teachers and use the regular classroom teachers’ lesson plans so that all students are on the same page. Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Wendenon will still teach LIFE and SPARKS classes. If a student needs to be quarantined because of exposure to Covid-19, these three teachers can work with those students as well. Know that all of this is based on demand. There will be some demand, but we do not know the extent of this demand, yet.

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- 4. Return to school options for online students:** If you want your child(ren) to participate in online classes, you must contact the Principal as soon as possible through email by Monday, July 27, 2020.

We do not want to do as some schools are doing in having parents decide now if they are going to do the online or in person option for the year. So, if the Covid-19 situation improves and parents feel comfortable with their child(ren) returning to school, their return can start happening after the first 9-week quarter. So, our plan is to do 9-weeks (one grading quarter) at a time for Kindergarten-8th grade. For the Pre-Kindergarten student, they will be able to return at the end of each month. If you aren't ready for your child(ren) to return after the first 9-weeks, they may be able to return after the Christmas break and so on. This will keep the classrooms consistent without students moving in and out of the classroom and will also be more consistent with grading. This will also give the school a chance to plan and organize for each student's return to the classroom.

- 5. New textbooks and Online Curriculum:** We have purchased new textbooks for Language Arts and Math with books for in-class use as well as having online components. For Language Arts, the St. Ann Textbook Committee has selected Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Big Day (for PK) and Journeys (for K-8th). For Math, we have selected the updated version of Sadlier Math for grades K-6th. 7th and 8th grade will continue with the current Pre-Algebra and Algebra book we switched to two years ago. We have all new teacher materials to go with the textbooks. We have basically spent roughly \$70,000 on the new textbooks and curriculum, which should be of great help to everyone involved.

Thank you to all the members of the Textbook Committee and Selina Trouy for getting this done.

- 6. Grades having two classes:** At this point, we have decided to create two Kindergarten and 7th grade classes. The decision on splitting 6th and 8th will probably be made next week. If all three middle school grades are split, it will make for an interesting middle school schedule.
- 7. Enrollment:** As is normal for this time of year, we are still receiving phone calls daily from interested parents and setting up lots of tours. At the same time, we will have three new students register and two returning students withdraw. In all my years in education (31 year), I have never seen anything like this year as far as enrollment goes. Even though we did an incredible job

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of educating our students and much better than most other schools, especially when most schools did little to nothing in providing daily instruction, people still are unsure about sending their child(ren) to St. Ann. Baffling and a little depressing when considering the work everyone put into making the best of an awful situation.

8. **Cleaning Supplies:** We are working with Master Building Service to acquire the proper CDC recommended cleaning supplies needed to clean and disinfect the classroom on an hourly/daily basis. Cleaning the classrooms will be a constant classroom activity. This will be a great learning opportunity for our students.
9. **Cleaning the School:** The school has been cleaned from top to bottom with CDC approved cleaner by Master Building Service. Their team assigned to St. Ann has been working all summer to get the rooms ready. They are currently putting the final touches on waxing the classrooms.
10. **Rules and Procedures:** Rules and procedures is an on-going and ever-evolving process. We will put plans in place, but those plans will change as we see areas for improvement. Part 3 will consist of which entrances and exits each class will use, pick-up and drop-off procedures, daily questions families will be required to answer regarding Covid-19 and possible exposure, daily temperature taking, student traffic flow, and hopefully class schedules especially for middle school, and numerous other things regarding rules and procedures.
11. **Cafeteria and Lunch:** Lunch will not take place in the school cafeteria. Instead, lunch will take place in the classroom. We will not be preparing food in our cafeteria. We are looking at other options that will be in Part 3, but the main option at this time will be students bringing lunch from home.
12. **Benchmark Assessments:** The plan for this year was to switch from easyCBM to NWEA MAP for our benchmark assessments. That plan has been delayed for one year. We will continue with easyCBM for the 2020-21 school year. And, we plan to start the school year with the Fall easyCBM assessment to help gage the achievement gap created by the spring online learning along with the regular summer drop.
13. **Portals:** We have switched over from PlusPortals to FACTS for teacher and parent portals. This is another “NEW” for everyone to learn. More information on FACTS parent portals to come.

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14. **Standardized Testing:** We are moving from ITBS to ACT/Aspire. We made this switch last year with our 8th graders. Grades 3-7 will make the switch this year. The 8th graders will take the ACT in December. Grades 3-7 will take ACT/Aspire in early May. Grades K-2 will not take standardized tests.
15. **Istation:** 1st and 2nd grade are doing away with Istation.
16. **E-Care:** We will have E-Care available for our families. E-Care, as everything else, will have a different look. The plan is to have E-Care in the school gym and not the cafeteria. This will allow the cafeteria to be used as a large classroom space during the school day since we aren't using the cafeteria for lunch. And, E-Care will have more room available to social-distance the students. E-Care will still have a separate entrance and exit, which is the gym door by the kitchen entrance. So, not much change for the sign-in and sign-out for E-Care. There will be less use of manipulatives (items such as blocks that are shared by students) and equipment during E-Care time. Until we learn how to navigate social distancing during E-Care time, student movement throughout the building during E-Care time will be limited. That's why we feel the school gym will be the best area for E-Care at this time. We are doing our best to anticipate situations before they arrive.
17. **Physical Education:** Physical Education will take place in the youth gym since we plan to designate the school gym as our E-Care classroom. Currently, the 5th-8th graders dress out for Physical Education. Using the locker rooms and changing for PE is not the best thing to do right now when we are working to social distance our students.

So, the plan is to allow 5th-8th graders to wear their PE uniforms as their school uniforms on the days they are scheduled for PE. For all the other grades, students are allowed to wear their tennis shoes all day on their PE days, so they don't have to change shoes before and after PE class.

18. **Teaching Positions:** Below is a list of our teachers and teaching positions. As with everything this year, this is fluid. Much of this depends on our enrollment.

PK 3/4: Kristen Sellers and Lori Morgan

Kindergarten: Tricia Cooper and Layla Post

1st Grade: Deborah Harty

2nd Grade: Melanie Wall

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3rd Grade: Annmarie Ghio

4th Grade: Kris Miller

5th Grade: LaDonna Metaxas

MS Language Arts: Billy Gage

MS Math: Julie Langford

MS Religion: Anthony Maranise

MS Science: Stacey Griffith

MS Social Studies: Tina Ostrowski

Art: Lola Scarlett

PE: Tracy Angotti

Computer: Anna Slattery

LIFE: Judy Thomas

SPARKS: Romana Wendenon

Band: John Baum

Music: Ryan Cooper

Online: Judy Thomas, Romana Wendenon, and Amanda Bannister

E-Care: Carol Caesar and Karen Otts

There will be more to come in Part 3, which will be published at the end of July or first week of August. We have a meeting today to review Part 1 of the Return to School Plan. We will send out whatever changes we make to the plan as soon as we finished the review.

That might be today or as late as Friday. We are doing our best to keep everyone informed.

If you are a new family, join our Facebook page for updated information @StAnnCatholicSchoolBartlettTN. Also, ask to join the Colt Parent Page. This is a private page for St. Ann parents.

St. Ann...Pray for us!

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

God bless you,
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