



# St. Mary's Catholic Church & School

Faith - Scholarship - Leadership - Service

Dear St. Mary's, Catholic School Families –

I pray that you are all staying healthy and enjoying the last few weeks of summer before we return to school on August 17. As we prepare for that return, I wanted to share some updated plans and ask for the help of all of our families to protect our school community and to assist us in making the transition back to campus a safe one, while keeping an eye on the spread of COVID19 and the new Delta Variant within our community. Our fundamental goal, once again this year, is to keep school open and to be able to provide face-to-face learning for all of our students. We can only accomplish this goal if we all work together. It is hard to believe that we are almost there, but school begins in just 13 days!

At St. Mary's, the safety and well-being of our community is our top priority. In light of the current rise in cases of COVID-19 and the new Delta variant, and in accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Diocese of Tyler, we are taking the following precautionary measures to ensure the safety of the students, faculty, and staff on our campus for the 2021-2022 academic year. It is important to note that we will continue to monitor the situation and will revise protocols as appropriate with any further developments. These plans are based on the most current information that we have today. Changes to our community health situation may necessitate changes to our procedures. We will keep you informed as much as possible.

Our plans to meet these guidelines are based around four foundations: monitoring and responding to student and faculty health; mitigating unnecessary risk; following specific cleaning and disinfection protocols; and providing face-to-face learning for all students at all grade levels.

## Morning Arrival Procedures

All students will be met at the car in the mornings. Families are asked to monitor symptoms and not bring students to school who have any of the following symptoms:

- Temperature at or above 99.5
  - Cold or Flu-like symptoms
  - Loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- All students will need to wear masks from the car to the classroom. Once students are in their classrooms, masks will not be required unless the activity does not allow for social distancing.
- Parents/guardians must drive through carline for arrival and must stay in their vehicles.
- Parents/guardians may not walk students up to the building.
  - **Early Bird Students** will check in at the Gym between 7:15 AM and 7:30 AM.
  - **PK3, PK4, Kindergarten, and 1<sup>st</sup> grade** will check in between 7:30 AM and 8:00 AM at the main school entrance to the EC wing.
  - **2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> grade students** will check in between 7:30 AM and 8:00 AM at the Primary Hallway door.
  - **6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students** will check in between 7:30 AM and 8:00 AM at the Annex door.
  - **High School students** will check in at the Gym by no later than 8:00 AM.

- **Tardy students** at any grade level will check in at the School Office. Do not enter the building; call the school office to let us know you are outside so that someone can come out to meet you. Do not drop your student until he or she has been checked in. Remember, school begins at 8:00 AM. See Parent/Student Handbook for Tardy Policies.
- All students will use hand sanitizer before entering the classrooms.

### Afternoon Pick Up

- All parents/guardians must use the carline to pick up their students. No parent/guardian will be allowed to walk up to pick up students.
- If a student needs to be picked up early for an appointment, call ahead so that the student will be ready in the office. Call us when you are outside, and we will escort your child to the car.
- All students will wear face masks during dismissal, from classroom to car.
- Regular dismissal has been staggered to allow for safe-distancing and traffic control.
  - **3:15 PM - PK3, PK3/4, PK4, Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade** will dismiss at **3:15 PM** each day from the EC-1st Hallway by the front entrance to the school. Pull up and display your family name placard. Your student(s) will be called from their classrooms and brought to your vehicle.
  - **3:30 PM - 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> grade** students will dismiss at **3:30 PM** each day from the Primary Hallway. Please pull all the way up to the door by the front office and display your family name placard and your student(s) will be called from their classrooms and brought to your vehicle.
  - **2:55 PM – Seniors who have chosen afternoon Flex dismissal at 2:55 PM** Seniors who are driving may depart from the student parking lot after checking out with the front office. Students who are walking need to check out at the school office. Students who are being picked up will wait at front office. Call when you arrive, and the student will be released to go to the car.
  - **3:30 PM - Middle School (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> grades) and High School (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)** will dismiss at **3:30 PM** each day from the cafeteria. Pull up and display your family name placard; your students will be called.

### After Care Pick Up

- After School Care will be offered for PK3-8<sup>th</sup> grade students who have pre-registered. If you need to register for ASC and have not done so, please contact the school office so that we can add your student(s) to the list.
- Students will be divided into various locations by grade level, maintaining our school day cohorts, and maintaining social distancing of at least 3 feet.
- Parents will need to call the designated **ASC phone number (903) 215-5634** and the ASC staff will escort your student(s) to the car.

### Facilities, Cafeteria, Recess

- St. Mary's will continue to offer lunch plans for our students who wish to purchase a lunch. Food will all be cooked on campus and will be individually plated for the students. Lunches will need to be ordered in advance.
- Students will still have the option to bring a lunch if they choose to do so. Please pack lunches which will allow students to be as autonomous as possible. The less help that your student needs with his or her lunch, the fewer hands that will be involved in the process.
- Due to our restricted campus status, at this time, students will not be able to have lunches delivered to campus. Please plan ahead.
- Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria, where social distancing and cohorts will be maintained. Unfortunately, we will not be able to welcome parents or visitors to campus for lunch. If we can alter this later in the school year, we will let everyone know.

- All drinking fountains will be off limits, so students will need to bring a water bottle. Students may refill water bottles in the gym when they go to PE, or a teacher will help them to refill them as necessary during the day.
- High-touch surfaces will be disinfected frequently.
- The playground areas will only be used by one level at a time and will be disinfected daily.
- Middle and High School students will change classrooms. All classrooms will be disinfected between classes. Students will need to wear mask while in transition between classes.
- Students waiting for the restroom will practice social distancing of at least 3 feet and will wait in the hallway until it is their turn. Bathrooms will be disinfected on a regular basis.

### **Restricted Campus**

Beginning August 9, any visitors to campus will need to make an appointment. Drop in visits will not be allowed. Any person entering the buildings will be required to sign in at the main school office, complete a COVID 19 screening. Masks/facial coverings must be worn by all visitors at all times while in the buildings.

### **Pre-Screening Questions:**

If you answer "Yes" to any of the following questions, please do not report for school until you have consulted with a medical professional to rule out the possibility of COVID 19.

1. Do you have fever, or have you felt hot or feverish recently (7-10 days)?
2. Are you having shortness of breath or other difficulties breathing?
3. Do you have a persistent cough?
4. Any other flu-like symptoms, such as gastrointestinal upset, headache, body aches, or fatigue?
5. Have you experienced recent loss of taste or smell?
6. Are you in contact with any confirmed COVID-19 positive patients?

### **Athletics**

#### **St. Mary's Home Game Covid Guidelines for Volleyball Fans**

Each player may have 3 guests per home game. When the guest enters the gym, each will be required to pay admission. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Names of guest will be recorded.

Guests will be required to wear masks and social distance.

Home games will be live streamed for additional family and fans who are unable to attend.

#### **St. Mary's Home Game Covid Guidelines for Soccer Fans**

All family and fans are welcome. We ask that everyone social distance during games and if you mix with others that you wear a mask.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Admission will be collected at half time of each game.

Soccer games will not be live streamed.

### **Back to School Knight**

St. Mary's will host a Back-to-School Knight for parents on **Wednesday, August 25, 5:30 – 7:30 PM**, to provide parents an opportunity to meet the teachers and visit the classrooms. This event is for adults only. Please make other arrangements for your students.

We look forward to seeing you all soon! Please do not hesitate to contact the school office with questions or concerns.

You are all in my prayers,  
Darbie

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