

Saints John and Paul
School Reopening Frequently Asked Questions
Updated August 14, 2020

Please note information on school reopenings and is fluid and is subject to change. We will do our best to continue to update these FAQs and note the date of the update, as well as update the [SJP website](#). If you have specific questions, please contact Mrs. Gianni at (914) 834-6332.

Please also note that in the coming week we will be rolling out information on all parts of the plan in greater detail.

Reopening Plan

Q: What did SJP review to design the Reopening Plan?

A: SJP has reviewed the following documents/guidance to design our Reopening Plan:

- New York State Department of Health Information
- New York State Education Department Guidance for Public Schools
- New York State Religious and Independent School Guidance
- The Archdiocese of New York Plan
- SJP also reviews and monitors the local medical capacity in our area, CDC information about symptoms, Department of Health Guidance and Travel Advisories.

As of 08/14/20, SJP's reopening plan has been approved by the necessary authorities: New York State and the Archdiocese.

Please note that in order to enter school this Fall, families will have to confirm that they have not done any of the following:

1. knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19;
2. tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 14 days;
3. has experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of greater than 100.0° F in the past 14 days; and /or
4. has traveled internationally or from a state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 per the [New York State Travel Advisory](#) in the past 14 days.

Q: What is SJP's Reopening Plan for the Fall?

A: Currently, SJP is prepared to welcome all students in person at SJP Monday through Friday in the Fall, with the option of remote learning if the family so chooses. To prepare for desired or necessary remote learning, students in grades K-8 will be given chromebooks and teachers will be instructing students via Google Meet. Students will be required to be online during instruction and will have breaks. New students and students in grades K-5 were mailed the students' email address as well as their login information on July 31. Please complete this process. Teachers will be sending out their schedule to parents who have opted for full virtual.

Q: How long is the waiting period in between phases of the archdiocese reopening plan?

A: That is currently undetermined. That guidance is set by the Archdiocese of New York, as outlined in the [Archdiocese Reopening Plan](#).

Student Orientation

Q: How will orientations and the first day of school be handled, particularly for the young ones who are either brand new students (especially Pre-K) or do not know the teachers in the grade they are entering?

A: We are sensitive to the fact that all of our students, but especially our new and youngest students, need a warm welcome to the new year. We will address this need partly with a Google Meet before school starts per grade for students to meet their teachers and pertinent staff that will be working with the children. We are also preparing videos that will help students familiarize themselves with the space, and introduce protocol in a friendly and warm manner.

School Days/Schedules

Q: What are the school day hours?

A: Students can officially be dropped off at 8:05 am and picked up at 3:00pm. Classes start at 8:20 am

Q: When will SJP have a definitive answer about school schedules? All public schools have released their guidelines already.

A: Schedules will be released the first week of school. SJP is currently going over the schedules with our teachers before distributing them to families. Public Schools have

submitted their schedules because most are Hybrid models.

Q: Seems the kids will be in the same seat for most of the full day.... will there be fun games/inventive ways to get them moving and engaged while in the classroom?

A: We are sensitive to the fact that children need play time in class and outside. The children will not be in their seats all day especially in the younger grades, and we are encouraging teachers to take the students out when possible.

Pick Up/Drop Off

Q: Are parents allowed to park in the lot and pick-up their children? If not, please describe the procedure for picking-up children in greater detail.

A: The procedure is “kiss and drop”, and that procedure will be coming out in a separate document to all parents in the coming week. *There will be no parking on the property.* Parents who would like to drop their children at their designated location can park in the surrounding neighborhoods and walk onto campus.

Q: What is the procedure for students who arrive at school late or need to be picked up early?

Parents will bring them to the main doors where they will be checked for temperature before entering the building. For early pickups, parents will call that they are at the front entrance and we will call your child up and the office will sign her out and your child will leave with you. No parent will be allowed in the building.

Q: Will there still be morning & afternoon line-up in the gym?

A: No.

Classroom Set up/Class Size/Cohorts

Q: What are class sizes going to be capped for each classroom to ensure that each child is going to be 6 feet apart?

A: Classes sizes fluctuate based on the size of the room the student will be placed in. The class sizes fluctuate from 26 students as small as 15 students.

Q: Are additional staff, either teachers or teacher aides, being hired to work with the additional “classes” or cohorts that are being created due to having to space out and separate the children?

A: All classes have a certified teacher instructing students.

Q: How will students personal belongings be stored in the classrooms? Will their coats and lunch boxes continue to be stored together allowing for multiple hands to be touching these items?

A: In classrooms that have lockers, students will continue to utilize this option. Teachers will stagger sending students to their lockers, to reduce density. Hall monitors will also be in the hallway to make sure students are 6 feet apart. For classrooms with closets, students will have individual crates to put their coats and jackets in by their desks.

Q: For the classes that are split in two classrooms what will the aid be doing with the kids when the teacher isn't present?

A: Each class that is split has a teacher present in each room.

Q: Will desk chairs be 6 feet apart or will just the desks be spaced 6 feet apart? Will there be markers on the floor for where the chairs should be?

A: The distance of 6 feet is measured student to student. There will be markers at the front of each desk to ensure that the proper space is maintained.

Q: (1) Could you explain (again) the cohort system?; (2) If there is to be a staggered schedule in the fall (i.e. three days at school, two days of remote learning at home), is there any way to ensure siblings in the same family are grouped on the same days?

A: Cohorts will be designed to make sure all families are in the same cohort. As for the schedule, see question above regarding the SJP Reopening Plan for the fall.

Q: We have two children at SJP. If circumstances change, and SJP shifts to 'option B' , will accommodations be made to align the schedule of multi-children families?

A: Each child will have a chromebook from grades K-8 and headphones. Students can work at home with their teachers virtually as they would in school, and teachers will provide what is needed for the day for the child.

Q: Do you expect there will be changes to the class formation in the middle school?

A: Grades 6-8 are entire cohorts based on class size and regular/ALPS classes.

Q: Please clarify what the proposed plan is for the ALPS students in 6, 7 and 8th grade.

A: Students in ALPS will move across the hall if needed, but only a limited number of students will be moved.

Q: Will middle school be staying in one room and having the teachers come to them or will they be changing classrooms?

A: For the most part they will be in their room. There will be little movement based on the accelerated program, with flow designated to maintain safe distance and density.

Remote/Virtual Learning

Q: How is SJP preparing to teach children remotely without the involvement of parents with the exception of homework.

A: To prepare for desired or necessary remote learning, students in grades K-8 will be given chromebooks and teachers will be instructing students via Google Meet. Students will be required to be online during instruction and will have breaks. New students and students in grades K-5 were mailed their email address as well as their login information on July 31. Teachers will be sending out their schedule to parents who have opted for full virtual.

Q: Will the school be leveraging one standard approach and platform, such as Google classroom, to coordinate and communicate various classwork, Zoom calls, flipgrids, assignments, and schedules or will it be left up to the individual teachers to decide and communicate?

A: We will be utilizing one platform to streamline the remote learning experience: Google classroom. Each family with students in grades PreK-5 and new students should have received their log in for the platform to start exploring the space, and are asked to complete this process to set up the accounts.

Q: Can you choose to hold your child home with virtual learning at any point for example winter months?

A: If you choose to keep your child home we would prefer it be for the duration of a marking period. It would be an easier transition.

Q: Would like to know more about how the teacher will be keeping in touch with the kids at home virtual learning while still teaching in a school.

A: The classes will be streamed live. Some synchronous teaching will occur if the teachers take the students out for gym or an outdoor classroom space.

Q: Will I need to purchase a chromebook for my incoming 6th grader? We are

new to SJP.

A: Parents do not need to purchase a chromebook; SJP will be providing chromebooks for every child in grades K-8.

Q: When scheduling a zoom meeting for the children or even for the parents, please make the login password something simple like SJP2020, instead of allowing Zoom to generate one automatically that is a combo of letters and numbers. A combo of upper case, lower case, and numbers is difficult for kids to log on by themselves.

A: We will be using Google Meet for our virtual platform.

Curriculum

Q: Will there be more emphasis and teaching in the core subjects of math, reading and writing since there may be school closures in winter months and need for catching up from the last three months of being home.

A: All areas are important. The schedule for instruction will mirror the school day.

Uniforms

Q: Could all grades wear gym uniforms?

A: No, that is not an option. We are allowing gym uniforms up to 1st grade due to many students having issues with belts, fasteners, and buttons.

Q: Why has the dress code standard been lowered for 1st graders? (Especially with such short notice.) What do parents do with brand new uniforms that were already purchased and cannot be returned?

A: The uniform company will take all uniforms back as long as they were not worn.

Masks/Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Q: What are the rules pertaining to teachers: do they wear masks and get temp checks as well?

A: Yes, they will have temperature checks and will wear masks.

Q: How often will the children be able to take off their masks? My youngest is concerned he will not be able to breathe wearing it for so long.

A: We will be assessing each grade in terms of breaks, and we will also work with each child based on their needs.

Q: When and how will students take “breaks” from wearing their mask? How do the “breaks” not defeat the purpose of wearing a mask most of the day?

A: In the guidance from New York DOH and the New York State Education Guidelines, it states that if students sit 6 feet apart during instruction they do not need to wear masks. SJP believes masks should be worn. Students who are coming in have different exposure to wearing face coverings. Breaks will be determined based on age/grade and transitioning children for a longer duration of wearing masks.

Q: Face Masks: please consider mandating plain, blue, or neutral color face masks for the kids. Otherwise, it will become a circus and allow for competition and become a distraction from the seriousness of what it is meant to be. I can already imagine older kids wearing scary ones, and younger kids running up to see how cool someone’s mask is because it has a huge spiderman on it. Keep it simple, keep it uniform..... please. Once you loosen the dress code it is very hard to get it back.

A: We will encourage plain masks. All masks must be approved by the school.

Daily Medical Checks

Q: What are the rules pertaining to teachers, do they wear masks and get temp checks as well?

A: Yes, they will have temperature checks and will wear masks.

Individualized Services for Students

Q: What will schooling look like for the most vulnerable groups, or students who need individualized services that will require closer contact and potentially making them more vulnerable to viral transmission?

A: All students will be spaced 6 feet apart in the classroom. We are sensitive to the differing needs of the most vulnerable groups and those who need individualized services; the specifics of Individualized services (IESP) are still being discussed with Mamaroneck Public Schools and what that would look like at SJP.

Specials Classes

Q: When it gets cold outside, will gym be indoors?

A: Gym will be in the classroom where nutrition and fitness planning will be discussed

and activities in the classroom will be guided by physical education standards that

- Recognize the value of physical activity for overall wellness, enjoyment, challenge, and / or self-expression
- Recognize career opportunities and manage personal and community resources to achieve and maintain overall wellness.
- Not limited to the items above.

Q: Please consider live streaming the “specials”, like art, music, foreign language, into the classrooms instead of having those teachers enter every room. This creates a risk of spread from one room to another, carried by the teacher. It is safer for the special teacher and especially for the children to have each class exposed to only one adult, their classroom teacher, each day. Please consider this risk carefully.

A: Guidelines provided by New York Department of Education state “ Special area teachers (e.g. music, art, physical education) may go to individual classrooms versus rotating all students through a shared space...” The teachers in your child’s classroom are required to have a certain amount of free periods each a day for planning time, which is provided by having specials teachers come in. All teachers, including specials teachers, will be wearing masks in the classroom during instruction and staying mindful of handwashing and other safety guidelines.

School Facilities

Q: There was mention of touchless water fountains. This seems like a huge mistake as all communal objects should be eliminated.

A: The installation of touchless water fountains, which replace the previously installed water fountains, was recommended by New York Department of Health in its reopening guidelines as an improvement upon existing conditions.

Q: Wouldn’t touchless faucets make more sense and be a better use of funds?

A: SJP has touchless faucets in all students' bathrooms.

Q: Have all bathrooms been equipped with automatic faucets and toilet flushing?

A: The faucets in the bathroom are already automatic. The toilets were not changed in the school. Students will be required to wash hands before using the toilet and afterwards.

Protocols for Sick Students/Faculty

Q: Will students AND faculty be required to get tested regularly for Covid-19? If

not, why?

A: No, it is not required by the state or the Archdiocese.

Q: Will there be a Covid-19 test required for ALL faculty and students at the start of the school year? If not, why?

No, it is not required by the state.

Q: Is there going to be new protocols as to what needs to be reported to the teacher and nurse in terms of illness - ie my child woke up sneezing today, can I still send her - or would I need to get approval first? Or if a sibling is sick do I need to report that as well?

A: If a child displays any symptom(s), even if mild, they must stay home. If a student stays home from school, they must have a doctor's note stating they can return to school. Siblings of a student that is sick must stay home until it is determined that the individual that is ill is confirmed by a medical doctor that they do not have COVID and provides a note that the child can return to school. During this time, students will be able to participate in class remotely.

Q: If a student is sick and can't attend school for the day, do they attend virtual class?

A: Yes. SJP is working to ensure students who stay home sick but who are able to still take part in class can do so virtually. Parents must notify teachers by 7:30 am via email of the day your child is out.

Q: If a teacher is out sick, will there be a sub?

A: Yes, and many times this role will be filled by our in-house people.

Q: If a child has a cold which has the potential to have symptoms similar to COVID-19, is a COVID test required before they are able to return to school?

A: That will be determined by your pediatrician. Your pediatrician will have to provide us with a note that he or she has determined, based on their protocol, that it is safe for your child to return to school.

Q: It was stated that parents should be proactive if their child has a symptom of any type of sickness, however, I would like more information about the process that must occur for a child to return to school after sickness.

A: Your child will need a letter from their pediatrician stating that they can return to school.

Q: How often will adults be tested for COVID 19? What is the plan if any adult or a family member of an adult tests positive?

A: We are not required by the DOH and State Education Department or the Governor of New York to test the adults in our building unless they are symptomatic. We must be notified by the family. Westchester Department of Health will make whatever determination necessary for tracing, testing, and quarantining that is necessary.

Q. If a child travels to a state or location that is on the NY State quarantine list, are they able to come to school when they return from the trip? What if a parent or family member that lives in the house with the student traveled to a state on the quarantine list?

A: No. Students who visit a state or location on the list must follow the rules and guidance issued by New York State regarding Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers Arriving to New York State Following Out of State Travel and requirements for self quarantine. If a parent traveled to a state or location that is on the NY state list, if the parent cannot isolate from the child when they return, the child must quarantine.

Aftercare

Q: At what time will after school be offered?

A: If and when aftercare is offered it will be from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Q: When will a decision be made about aftercare?

A: Aftercare falls under Phase 3 of the Archdiocese plan. Unfortunately, we do not have a date for Phase 3 yet.

School Closure

Q: What will be the triggers for closing SJP again in the fall after reopening?

A: The closing of in-person instruction to a hybrid or virtual will be determined by the Department of Health Guidelines and their recommendation if there is a case in the school. The Department of Health has not set any definitive guidance yet on this topic based on region and increased exposure.

First Communion

Q: If Communion takes place in the fall, how will these students be able to participate in the May Crowning ceremony?

A: We received several questions about First Communion - please reach out to Deacon

Shea for more information at: jshea@sjpschool.org

Q: If Communion takes place in the fall, families that booked parties at catering halls will not be able to reschedule since the government has yet to lift restrictions on these establishments. Moreover, church capacity is still limited to 50%. How is a fall Communion fair to our former second graders?

A: We received several questions about First Communion - please reach out to Deacon Shea for more information at: jshea@sjpschool.org