

September 23, 2020

Dear parents/guardians:

Wishing you good health and peace during these trying times, we are experiencing. We would like to share our re-opening plan to ensure the safe return of your children to our school. It is our hope that having this information will put you at ease as you make the important decision as to whether your child(ren) will resume in person or virtual learning.

Thank you for choosing to be part of our school community and family. We take pride in our students and the sound religious and academic foundation we provide for their lifelong learning. We will continue to take every necessary step for the safety and well-being of our students.

Re-Opening Plan for Saint Matthew Catholic School

St. Matthew School will divide the student body into two campus cohorts, A and B. School administration will give school families a choice concerning their child's in-class (in person) schooling or virtual (at home online). Cohorts will have no more than 12 to 15 students per class. This number is arrived by diving the class in half.

Families will be paired together so all students in a family are in the same cohort. Carpools will also be taken into consideration, if brought to the attention to the administration. The cohorts will be called Saint Juan Diego Family and Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Family.

Cohorts will alternate being on school campus. St. Juan Diego Family on Monday/Wednesday (excluding built in school holidays or days off). The St. Kateri Family on Tuesday/Thursday (excluding built in school holidays or days off). On off campus day, the cohort will learn virtually online through a platform selected by school administration. Until further notice, virtual learning on Fridays in order to stager campus attendance for social distance purposes.

Classrooms will utilize social distancing guidelines to ensure desks and students remain at least six feet apart. To minimize contact, the teachers switch classrooms for instruction not students. Therefore, students will remain in their classrooms throughout the day for instruction including specials, such as music or P.E., which will be taught in class or via the preselected online platform. **Each evening school staff will properly sanitize all classrooms and restrooms.**

Parents/guardians are asked to conduct a quick, informal family health screening the night before. The survey consists of basic questions to gather data if the student or family are feeling ill. This is required for school entry the following morning. Students and families need to stay home if they have any symptoms of COVID-19 or if they have come into contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

St. Matthew staff will be taking daily temperature checks of students during morning drop off. Additionally, to help stop the spread of COVID-19, students will wear both a mask and face shield. Both can be provided through the school but it is the responsibility of the family to sanitizer and maintain face coverings provided by the school.

Our parish and school are truly blessed to have you as part of our community. Thank you for your concern, for your care and for your support. Be assured of our commitment to our students and to praying for you and your families. Let us do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our communities and in our world.

May our good Lord bless you and keep you,

Rev. Nelson Libera, JCD
Pastor

Michael Guerra
Principal