

November 1, 2020

PANDEMIC RESPONSE TEAM UPDATES

As we enter into November and our ninth week of hybrid instruction, we are continuing our work towards the next phase of our return to school plan. We are engaging our teachers and analyzing our human and physical resources in an effort to achieve our ultimate goal to get everyone back to 26 Green Village Road.

As of today, all students who have chosen to return to school after being fully remote and those students with an ISP will be welcomed back for the second marking period beginning on November 12th. Thank you to all who helped us with the preparation and planning we needed to make this happen.

As you know, we carefully monitor federal, state, local and Diocesan sources for the most up-to-the minute guidance on how to safely educate our children amidst a global pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control provided an update on October 29th citing evidence from countries that have reopened schools indicating that COVID-19 poses low risks to school-aged children – at least in areas with low community transmission. That said, the body of evidence is growing that children of all ages are susceptible to COVID-19 infection and, contrary to early reports, might play a role in transmission. In addition, the comparatively low risk for hospitalization and death among children themselves must be contextualized to the risk posed to teachers, school administrators, and other staff in the school environment. We are proud that we have completed eight hybrid academic weeks at SVMS without any cases. We acknowledge the increase of cases rising around us in the State of New Jersey prompting the closing of some schools and/or classrooms within our area. We must remain vigilant and cautious with our next steps of our planning.

The Pandemic Response Team is working on the following next steps:

- In preparation for the possibility of a return to full in-person, seating will range from 3-6ft in each classroom. Desk shields (sneeze guards) and masks will be required all day.
- We are looking at the possible division of large grade levels into three homerooms under supervision with some classes each day being live streamed in school.
- Representatives from High Point and Future Generations, our technology consultants, met this past week in school to determine how to continue to improve our technology efficiency.
- As we continue to actively explore returning all students to full in-person instruction, grade level homerooms may change to different locations depending on capacity and space available in their current classroom. We are looking to return our youngest

learners in kindergarten and first grade to school first due to the challenges online learning pose to this age group.

In addition to our long-term planning, the Pandemic Response Team would like to offer several Pick-Up and Drop-Off reminders to parents and caretakers:

- When pulling up in the car line, please pull your vehicle as close as safely possible to the vehicle in front of you.
- The first car in the car line must pull up to the stop sign held by a staff member, not Door 1, before stopping.
- Please put your flashers on once your child/children exit your car at drop off and enter your car at pick up.
- The cars in the car line will receive a direction when to exit the parking lot by the staff member in the front of the line when all children are safely out of the walking lane both before and after school.
- Make sure your family name card is visible on the passenger side of your windshield for pick up.

We thank you for partnering with us as we work together as a Catholic school community during this time of pandemic.

The Pandemic Response Team

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