

October 25th, 2020

PANDEMIC RESPONSE TEAM UPDATES

As we navigate through our shared school experience with Covid-19, we want to provide you with an update from the Pandemic Response Team. We have been meeting weekly since July. The summer months were devoted to developing the reopening of school plan. Our primary focus from the beginning has been on ensuring the safety and good health of our students and staff.

Since September 8, we have been reviewing the implementation of the plan and ensuring that we are in compliance with all of the school guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (ADA), the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), the Diocese of Paterson Schools Office and the Madison Department of Health. We have been able to phase in special subjects. The children in the lower grades have been able to go to the Computer Lab and the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Room in small groups.

We are now in the exploratory stages of determining how to move our plan ahead to offer more students the opportunity to receive in-person instruction. In order to move forward, please know that we have many variables to consider and would appreciate your patience and compassion as we work through all possibilities.

The following steps are being taken:

1. A Parent Questionnaire was distributed today asking parents to indicate your desire to continue Blue/Gold in-person instruction or to continue receiving remote instruction for the second marking period.
2. Plans are underway to accommodate returning remote children should they decide to return to in-person instruction for the second marking period.
3. Plans are in the works to accommodate all students with IEPs by bringing them back to in-person instruction every day.
4. We are actively exploring returning all students to in-person instruction (if families wish to return to school). We will begin with our youngest learners first with Kindergarten and First Grade and considering all grades after that.

5. As we plan for returning all students to in-person instruction, parents should be aware that it may necessitate students sitting in classrooms at a distance less than six feet apart and behind sneeze guards. It may also involve some shuffling of classrooms. We are examining all spaces within the St. Vincent Martyr complex including parish rooms and considering capacity, ventilation in rooms without windows, access to Smart Boards and ability to livestream. **Any return to in-person instruction beyond what we are currently offering can only be implemented if the number of Covid-19 cases within our area remain low.**
6. We are actively working on enhancing our technology in an effort to minimize disruption to the teaching and learning process.
7. We are determining the potential need for extra personnel to aid in the full return to in-person instruction.

We thank you for partnering with us as we work together as a Catholic school community during this time of pandemic. As always, please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns as we explore next steps.

The Pandemic Response Team

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