

St. Margaret School

Reopening Plan 2020-2021



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St. Margaret School Reopening Plan, August 2020- Revised 11/5/20

Based upon the directives received from the Department of Catholic Schools, state mandates, CDC guidelines, and health advisories, we want to share with you our plans for reopening on August 31, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year. Through social distancing, limiting transitions through the building, use of technology, as well as the use of extra classrooms and all available staff, we are able to return to school five days a week at both the Elementary and Middle School campuses. Please note that a resurgence of COVID-19 and a return to Phase 1 through the State of Maryland would require St. Margaret School to return to full distance learning.

THE SMS SCHOOL DAY



Catholic Identity

St. Margaret School will continue to integrate our Catholic identity while navigating space restrictions in churches, limits on large gatherings, and students learning at home. In collaboration with our Pastor, Fr. Kevin Schenning, students will attend Mass in Class in cohorts on a rotating schedule. Prayer services and outreach activities will also take place in class cohorts when possible. Daily prayer will be held for all students, whether learning in-person or at home.

The Cohort Model

Students and staff are grouped by homerooms and these groupings are kept as static as possible. This strategy helps to maintain a safe environment by strictly limiting the interaction between students and allows for rapid response and containment in the event of a student becoming infected. As part of this model, we will strive to physically separate students in the same cohort (homeroom grouping) as much as possible to help mitigate risk.

Curriculum and Academic Instruction

At the Archdiocese of Baltimore level, three modes of learning (in-person, hybrid, and remote) have been established. At this time, St. Margaret School can accommodate our total current enrollment for in-person instruction while complying with CDC guidelines for 3 feet physical distancing while wearing masks. All families at St. Margaret School will be provided with the option for their child(ren) to learn 100% in person or 100% remotely.

In Person Learning

With social distancing rules currently in place, student desks will be separated and additional furniture will be removed from classrooms (including rugs and any soft/plush items). This will allow all students to be in the classroom with their homeroom teacher. The in-person option will include attending school five days a week. If the number of students selecting this option is greater than the number that we can safely accommodate, we will implement an alternating schedule that prioritizes in-person learning. In the case of an alternating schedule, students will engage in a combination of synchronous and independent learning while at home. Once we know how many students select this option, you will be informed about your child's schedule as soon as possible. Students will remain in the same classroom throughout the day as much as possible. The exception to this will be academic groups for Math instruction in grade 4 through grade 8. Teachers will move from classroom to classroom to provide instruction. Students will have special area classes which will be held in each cohort's classroom. Teachers will be encouraged to move classes outside when possible.

Remote Learning

The remote learning option will require that your child be available for learning at home during the hours of our school day. Students who opt for this mode of learning will be provided with synchronous learning experiences, independent work, and opportunities to meet one-on-one or in small groups with teachers. Students will engage in the same content as students learning in-person and will be assessed using the same criteria. Students will engage in remote learning five days a week and will be given the opportunity to return to school in-person at the end of the first and second trimesters. For students who have chosen to learn from home (distance learning option) they will be required to log on through their St. Margaret School Google account to access the instruction from the teachers throughout the school day and follow their daily schedule. This synchronous learning will allow students from home to receive direct instruction and then practice their independent work. Students learning from home must be available for learning during normal school hours. An adult must be supervising the student at home.





Technology

We are well positioned for reopening due to our existing infrastructure and technology capacity. A plan for individual student and staff use of technology tools has been established and will be implemented. It includes but is not limited to equipment, digital services upgrades, and teacher professional development. St. Margaret School is blessed to have acquired AMX Acendo Vibe camera/sound bar units for each classroom. This technology will enable educators to present synchronous instruction to students who are learning at home and in the classroom.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

St. Margaret School is establishing pick-up/drop-off procedures that follow social distancing guidelines. Our plans include: visual cues or barriers to direct traffic flow and distancing; staggering arrival and drop-off times; limiting direct contact with visitors. For arrival, parents/caretakers will remain in the car and only students will exit the vehicle. Students will go from their car to their classroom, no congregating. Hand sanitizing stations will be placed at school entrances so that children and staff can sanitize their hands before entering the building. More information including logistics on both campuses can be found in the St. Margaret Student Handbook located on our website under the "About Us" tab.

Before and After Care

St. Margaret School will continue to offer the Before and After Care program to school families with the appropriate social distancing, sanitizing, and hygiene practices in place. The Before and After Care program operations may be modified throughout the year. Our specific program information will be shared once we complete our consultation with the Maryland Office of Child Care.

Visitor Policy

The St. Margaret School campuses will be limited to faculty, staff, students, and essential visitors (deliveries, service vendors, etc.) until further notice. At this time, there can be no volunteers in any of the classrooms. Authorized visitors are required to wear a mask while on campus. If you should need to drop off materials for your child during the school day please enter through the main office entrance. School staff will collect items in the main lobby outside of the main office upon arrival. Visitors will not be allowed to enter the main offices. Thank you for your diligence and understanding with following these changes based on COVID-19 guidelines.





Lunch and Recess

- Hot lunch service will be suspended until further notice.
- Students will continue to eat at their desks in their classrooms or outside weather permitting.
- Students must wash their hands with soap and water before and after eating.
- Students must bring their own lunch.
- Microwavable foods, refrigeration of lunch bags, or fast food deliveries are not permitted. No sharing of food/drink.
- Student desks will be disinfected before and after lunch.

Recess is an important part of the school day for students and will continue to be incorporated into the schedule. To mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 virus protocols for recess and using playground equipment will be established and implemented. Students will remain in classroom cohorts for recess. Playground equipment will be distributed to each cohort (homeroom), will not be shared between groups and will be sanitized each day.

Lockers, Bookbags, Lunch bags, Materials, etc.

Students will not utilize lockers, cubbies, or coat rooms until further notice. Student bookbags and coats (when needed) will remain on the back of their chairs during the school day. Students will bring home only necessary materials each day for homework and studying. Classroom materials and manipulatives will be for individual use only. Students are to bring a lunch bag, bookbag, water bottle, jacket/coat if needed each day.

Uniform Modifications

PE uniforms may be worn each day on both the Elementary and Middle School campuses. This will allow the students to be more comfortable throughout the day and limit the handling of buttons, zippers, belts, etc. This will also assist parents with the laundering of uniforms.

Shoes and sneakers without ties (slip on shoes) are encouraged for our younger students so touching and tying shoes and shoelaces is less of a concern throughout the school day. These can be worn in place of the "Bucks" school shoe. Slip on shoes must be worn with socks and must be safe for walking (no heels, rubber soles only).



Facilities Management

School Sanitization

The school and parish cleaning company, Clean Image, is preparing our school for our reopening. Each day, they will sanitize all areas by use of a 'fogger' which contains a solution that kills the Corona Virus upon application. They will continue to institute their robust daily cleaning schedule. This includes disinfecting all areas of both campuses including those items that are frequently touched by students and teachers, including but not limited to bathrooms, doorknobs, light switches and furniture. In addition, per Archdiocesan reopening guidelines, St. Margaret School will be utilizing a non-leaching and non-migrating disinfectant and protectant (called Sniper and Endure Surface Protectant) that will be applied to all areas and surfaces of the school that lasts for 90 days and will be repeated three times throughout the school year. It molecularly binds to any surface, forms a bubble and destroys any viruses and bacteria - this is part of the persistent protection model that is promoted by the Center for Disease Control. Staff who use cleaning and disinfectant products must ensure they are used and stored correctly and safely, with adequate ventilation. This includes using disinfecting products that meet criteria of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Ventilation

Ventilation and HVAC systems will have filter enhancements (where applicable) to maximize air flow and quality. When weather permits, windows will be opened and ceiling fans (where applicable) will be utilized to increase circulation of fresh air.



Facilities Modification

To promote all of the protocols in place for safety and health of St. Margaret School students and faculty, the following upgrades have taken place:

- Signage to promote physical distancing, one-way traffic, hygiene practices, etc.
 - Eliminating shared supplies, equipment, and devices
 - HVAC filter enhancements to maximize air flow and quality
 - Sanitizing bathrooms, door knobs, railings, throughout the school day
 - Access to touch free hand sanitizer upon entering/exiting the buildings and hand sanitizers within each classroom
 - Closing of water fountains (extra bottled water will be available if needed)
 - The number of students allowed in a restroom at a given time will be reduced so that appropriate social distancing can occur. In addition, every other sink in the bathrooms will be closed, as well as every other urinal and toilet, to allow for spacing between students.
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Health and Wellness

Wellness Survey

Faculty and staff will be required to complete a wellness survey every morning which requires taking their temperature prior to entering school facilities. Preschool students will have their temperatures taken by a parent, witnessed by a teacher and recorded upon arrival per Maryland Office of Child Care requirements. Parents or guardians of students in Grades K-8 will be required to complete a wellness survey for child(ren) and take students' temperature prior to arrival at school.

Anyone registering a temperature greater than 100.4°F, a close contact of a Covid 19 person, or anyone exhibiting Covid-like symptoms will be required to stay home.

Health Suite Procedures

Our school nurses will be available in school at all times. We will have a designated room where a student who becomes ill can be isolated. Parents will be called and asked to pick up any sick student as promptly as possible but within a one hour window. Elementary School parents will come to the main office to sign the student out and then will go around to the white building entrance, near the health suite, to meet their child. Middle School parents will come to the front entrance lobby to sign the student out and the student will be dismissed from the office. Students will not be sent to the nurse's office for routine matters. No mints or crackers will be given out for students with upset stomachs. Cough drops will not be provided. Students may only use cough drops provided by their family (with a note) and no sharing is permitted. Refillable water bottles should be sent to school daily with each student. Reminder- all medications provided to students by the school nurse require a physician's order.



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Each member of the St. Margaret School community will be required to wear masks per directives from the State of Maryland. Masks may be removed for brief periods of time under certain circumstances such as lunch and outdoor recess. When removed, individuals must abide by social distancing rules, staying at least 6 feet apart. It is the responsibility of the families to supply masks for the students to wear. Families should purchase their own masks of soft cloth, paper fiber, or fabric masks with layers of material that fully covers the student's nose and mouth. Masks must be worn with BOTH the nose and mouth covered at all times. Students will need at least one extra mask in a disposable baggie or washable pouch, in their backpack. Fabric or reusable masks must be washed before re-use.



Paper masks should be disposed of after one use. Disposable masks will be provided in the event a student or staff member forgets to bring their cloth mask to campus. We have amended the uniform policy to include guidance relative to the color, design, and style of the cloth face masks that are permitted to be worn by students. Cloth masks may be any color or pattern, but may not have any slogans or phrases, political messages or controversial material, or any images that are not aligned to our vision and mission. Masks should be labeled with the student's name. Face shields and neck gaiters are not permitted. St. Margaret School will provide each student with a navy blue lanyard to attach to their mask each day to allow students to wear their mask around their neck when eating lunch. This will help students avoid placing their masks on surfaces. Schools will have a supply of additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff who are caring for a student or staff member who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.

COVID-19 Testing



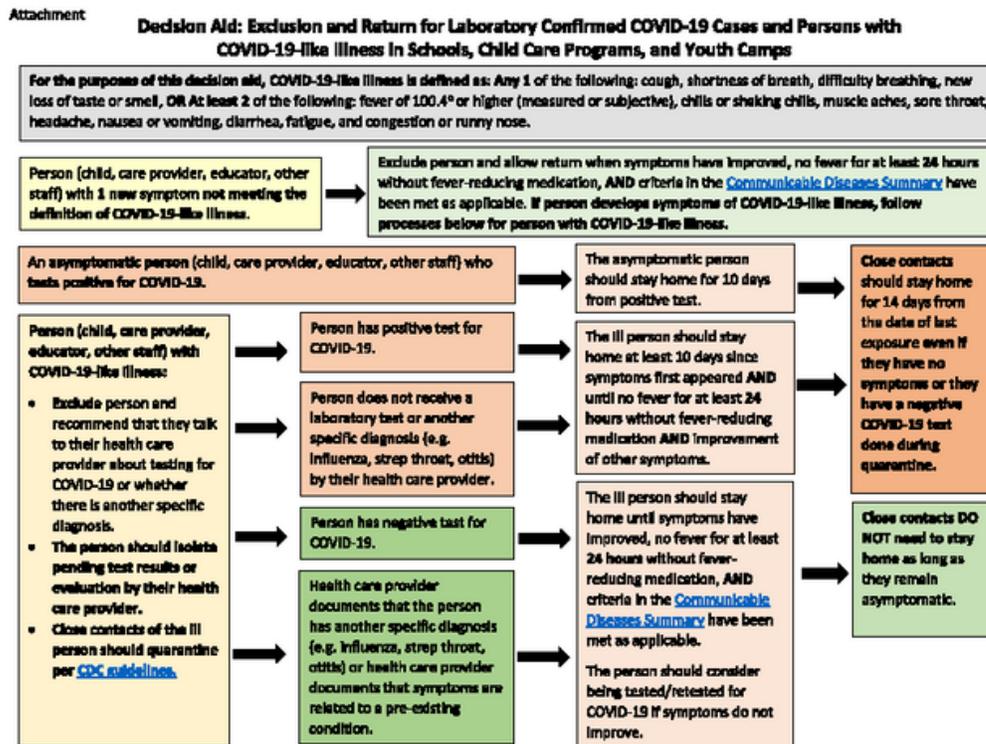
COVID-19-like illness is defined as: any 1 of the following: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, OR at least 2 of the following: fever of 100.40 or higher (measured or subjective), chills or shaking chills, muscle aches, sore throat, headache, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, and congestion or runny nose.

If your child is having COVID like symptoms (see above) you will receive a call from the school and you must pick up your child.

Your child must have an alternate diagnosis from the doctor OR negative PCR test result to return to school. If your child gets a COVID test he or she must stay home until we receive the results. School siblings must remain home as well while awaiting the COVID test results.

Out of State Travel

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL Students (attending in person) are advised if they intend to travel to a state with a positivity rate for COVID-19 of 10% or greater during the period of their stay, notification of such intention must be communicated to the school. For purposes of this guidance, the positivity rate should be based upon the average rate as determined for the period of the entire stay. Parents of the student electing to proceed with this travel will be required to meet certain criteria prior to re-entering the school. Those traveling will be required to quarantine upon their return until such time as either they provide evidence of a negative PCR test result for COVID-19 and are asymptomatic or they complete an entire 14 day quarantine. This is required for parents traveling without their children as well. The following website provides information regarding the positivity rate for all 50 States, US Territories and popular international destinations. This is the approved website from the AoB that we must follow. Parents are responsible for checking the positivity rates of their travel destinations and for following the policies and procedures agreed upon in the Parent Acknowledgement and Agreement Form. <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/testing/testing-positivity>



Attachment for document entitled, "Response to a Laboratory Confirmed Case of COVID-19 and Persons with COVID-19-like Illness in Schools"

August 28, 2020

Co-Curricular Activities

SMS Clubs and Activities

Once the school year begins, clubs and activities will be evaluated based on risk, availability of space, and size of the program. This includes clubs/activities that occur during the school day as well as those after school such as Soul Striders Running Club, Creative Arts, etc. Robotics is suspended until further notice.

Gatherings During the School Day

School-wide gatherings and assemblies are suspended until further notice. Some activities may occur virtually or through live stream capabilities.

Campus Events

All large gatherings, HSA and campus events are suspended until further notice. Virtual or digital options will be available when applicable. Unfortunately, our Fall Festival will not be able to take place this year.

Field Trips

All field trips will be suspended until further notice.

This is a living document that will be amended as rules and regulations are modified and changed by the State of Maryland, Harford County and/or the Archdiocese of Baltimore.



Reversal to Phase One

In the event that the cases of COVID-19 increase and we return to Phase 1 based on directives from the State of Maryland and/or Harford County we will return to Distance Learning. Our cameras and sound bars will allow teachers to meet with students daily and provide direct instruction followed by independent learning activities. There will be designated times that each academic subject area will meet, along with the number of minutes spent with instruction and independent practice. All students in grades 3 to 8 will be provided a school issued Chromebook. Students in PreK through grade 2 will continue to use their family devices. Devices can be provided to families in these grades on a situational basis if needed.



A dark blue heart shape containing the white text "SMS".

