



Your future StArts with us.

2020-21 Return to Learn Plan

Universal On-Site Procedures

Stay home if sick

Wash hands and use hand sanitizer often

Maintain social distance/stay apart when possible

Masks, shields, or gaiters required for staff

Masks, shields, or gaiters required for students when they are out of the classroom

Use of classroom space to provide distance between students

Barriers when distancing is not sufficient

Routine sanitation of common surfaces and common areas

Return to Learn Plan of Action

The St. Athanasius School has developed the Return to Learn (RTL) plan collaboratively through the work of our RTL committee, school board, principal, teachers, maintenance staff, lunchroom staff, area school districts, Archdiocese of Dubuque, Buchanan County Public Health, and the Iowa Department of Education. This framework is intended to provide guidance for families, staff members, and students as we return to school this fall. Based on the information we have at this time, it is the intention of St. Athanasius School to return to on-site learning beginning on August 24th. We understand that individuals have different circumstances so St. Athanasius has developed remote learning options for those who are not able to attend on-site. This plan also allows for St. A's to pivot quickly in the event of a local or statewide school closure for a short or extended period of time. This plan is not intended to be all inclusive, but should provide a framework on which to build. Patience and flexibility are required of all involved. The plan will continue to evolve throughout the school year as new information becomes available or circumstances change. **St. Athanasius School is committed to providing a safe environment for students and staff, a rigorous academic program, and to support all of our families both at home and school.**

Health and Safety

Students and Staff to Self Check for Symptoms Each Day

Students and staff should make it a routine of taking their temperatures at home.

Stay home if symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath, fever, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, muscle pain are present.

If exposed to COVID 19, stay home for 14 days after last known direct exposure.

Families should contact the office if a student is absent due to COVID-19 exposure, COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19.

Face Coverings

Face masks, gaiters and/or shields are required for staff when social distancing is not possible (less than 6 feet apart for 15 minutes or more).

Face coverings (masks, shields, gaiters) are required for students when they are outside the classroom. Face coverings may need to be used inside the classroom when distancing cannot be maintained.

Because younger students need socialization and social distancing may be more difficult, plastic face shields that attach to hats have been purchased for students preschool through first grade. These shields can be worn in the classroom and will be cleaned daily. Parents will need to purchase hats for their children to wear.

Procedures are being developed for safe storage of face coverings when not being worn.

Daily cleaning procedures

Classrooms will be cleaned and sanitized daily. Staff will spray or wipe down high traffic areas throughout the day and in between each use by different students.

Playground and Gym - these areas will be cleaned daily.

Bathrooms and Locker Rooms - these areas will be cleaned daily. There will be limits on the number of students allowed in at any one

time and social distancing will be maintained. Common surfaces will be sanitized repeatedly throughout the day.

Music Room - the music room will not be utilized this year, but instead, music instruction will take place in the classroom.

Handwashing and sanitizing will be emphasized throughout the day and between classes. Hand sanitizer will be located in every classroom. Hand sanitizer dispensers will also be installed in the hallways on each floor.

Physical Changes:

One water fountain on each floor will be retrofitted with water bottle refilling stations. Students should bring their own water bottle to school each day.

Sneeze Guards have been installed in the office and lunchroom.

The Music Room will be utilized as an isolation room for students who become ill during the day.

First Aid kits will be supplied to every classroom. Thermometers will be placed on each floor for teacher use.

Classroom Procedures

St. A's School is blessed with small class sizes and large classroom areas.

Classroom desks will be spaced at maximum levels. If 6 feet between desks is not able to be achieved, then barriers will be placed in between desks to allow for the removal of face coverings while seated.

Face coverings will need to be worn outside the class rooms.

Passing times in hallways will be staggered when possible to minimize student interactions. The flow of students in and out of the classrooms will be monitored to eliminate cross traffic.

When possible, teachers will travel between classrooms with students remaining stationary to reduce student movement.

No large group assemblies where social distancing is not possible.

Classrooms will be arranged into cohort groups. The cohorts are PreK/Kind, 1st/2nd, 3rd/4th, 5th/6th, 7th/8th. Preschool is a stand alone cohort. Cohorts will be used for lunch grouping, recess, and Mass.

Library will still occur. There will be a student rotation and face coverings and hand sanitizing will be required. Returned books will be quarantined for three days.

Music instruction will be in the classrooms and will focus on music theory and instruments. Instruments will be classroom sets and will be sanitized.

P.E. will be utilized outside areas when possible. When indoor instruction is necessary, the teacher will utilize classroom procedures.

Parent Procedures for Student Illness

If a student becomes ill during the day, parents will be notified immediately. Families need to create their own plans for picking up students when they become ill and inform the school. Students who become ill need to be picked up by a parent as soon as possible.

Student pick-up should occur outside of the school building. A staff member will be present outside to meet parents for drop-off and pick-up.

Students identified with symptoms during the school day will be isolated in the unused classroom adjacent to the principal's office (music room) until the parent is able to pick their student up.

Transportation is provided by the Jesup Public School District: the following information is provided after consultation with them.

Assigned seating on school buses with family members sitting together.

Face masks or shields are strongly encouraged for bus riders.

School Buses will be sprayed with disinfectant after each bus route.

Encourage families, if able, to pick up and drop off their children to and from school to reduce bus riders.

A shuttle route to the Emerald Acres subdivision will be considered in order to reduce the number of daily riders on our rural bus routes.

To reduce students interacting between buses, each route bus will pick up students from St. A's individually before proceeding to Jesup Schools. A bus will be identified for students going to the before/after school program only.

St. A's will make use of our many areas during morning drop off and afternoon pick up. In the morning, we will keep students in the class groups utilizing the gym, lunchroom and outside areas. At dismissal, we will again use all areas available. The back paved parking lot may be utilized by the buses. We will consider staggering dismissal times if needed.

Food Service

Table arrangement for breakfast and lunch will be altered to utilize the entire lunchroom. Only two students will be allowed per table to allow for 6 foot social distancing while eating.

The lunch schedule will be expanded to allow for sanitizing between cohort groups.

Tables and seating will be cleaned between each use.

The serving line and tray return area have plexiglass barriers installed between the food and serving line. Children will be able to choose their items, however they will not touch anything until they are handed their own tray.

When a Child Needs to Learn Remotely ...

In the event of a school-wide closure, students will be provided with required remote learning for the extent of the school closure. Families need to have a plan in place in advance, in the event of a positive COVID exposure or in the event that a remote learning scenario is implemented. Teachers will work with families at the beginning of the year to develop schedules and expectations should this become necessary.

These guidelines will also be followed for those students who elect to be 100% online while school learning is being held in person.

Attendance - Students will be expected to attend classes remotely as scheduled by their teacher. Attendance will be taken daily and engagement expectations will be set by each teacher. Please remember that learning is **no longer voluntary but required**.

St. A's is blessed to have a device available for each student. Every student and teacher will have the technology and online resources available to conduct remote learning at a high level.

Grading - Work completed during the period of remote learning will be assessed and applied to the student's grade for the course/subject matter.

Because of our small class sizes, teachers may set up individual or small group zoom sessions with students. Teachers will also be in contact with parents by phone, email or zoom.

The bulletin board outside the office now says:

“Bring on the Challenge”

In the corners it has two smaller messages:

“Keep Going”

“Have Kindness”

Everyone at St. A's is committed to meeting the challenges that are in front of us. We will “keep going” and continue to make the best decisions with the information that is available. Kindness can suffer during times of great stress and anxiety. Please keep these ideals in mind as we move forward during this unprecedented time.