



Saint Francis de Sales's Catholic Academy

Secure Reopening Plan 2020-2021 Frequently Asked

Questions

Updated as of August 31, 2020

Q1. Is a fully remote option being offered through Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Academy?

A. No. The fully remote option the Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Program is being offered by the Diocese of Brooklyn. The last day to sign up for the remote option was August 28th 2020. If you would like to register for the Saint Thomas Aquinas Distance Learning Program please contact Mr. Scharbach at admin@stfrancisschoolbh.net as soon as possible.

Q2. Will my child need to wear a mask during the day?

A. Yes, masks are required to be worn during the day, per the New York State Education Department for grades K-8. Masks will be required, a SFDS mask has been purchased for your child, simple solid color masks/cartoon characters will be permissible, in addition to the SFDS mask. Nursery and Pre-K students will follow the daycare requirements, further outlined in this document.

Q3. How will parents complete the health questionnaire?

A. We will employ anApp, MyTempTracker, which will fulfill the New York State questionnaire requirement. Administrators for MyTempTracker include the office staff and the school nurse. Additional details regarding this process will be forthcoming.

Q4. Will my child receive their special classes?

A. Yes, we are able to provide art, STEM, foreign language, and gym/health for this upcoming year.



Q5. Will my student be able to attend Mass?

A. Yes, class masses will still take place throughout the year, following protocols in place for Mass attendance. A schedule is being worked on by Father Bill and Father Jim and we expect for classes to begin going over during the Week of September 14th.

Q6. Where will my child keep their personal belongings?

A. Students will keep their personal belongings at their desk and the classroom lockers. Student Classroom locker usage will be monitored to make sure no more than one at a time are at a locker.

Q7. How many students will be in my child's class?

A. This varies due to room size and enrollment. Each student will be provided with a seat and a desk at a strategic distance from other students. Please note that at the present time our typical classroom for grades K-8 will comfortably accommodate 12-16 students. Each student will be provided with a seat and a desk at a safe strategic distance from other students.

Q8. What will the uniform regulations be?

A. Students will be expected to begin the year in the summer uniform or the gym uniform, complete details can be found on the school website. Students participating at home in Grades 5-8 should also participate in either the summer uniform shirt or gym uniform shirt.

Q9. Will After School Enrichment, Band, and Field Trips continue?

A. At this time, we await further guidance regarding extracurricular activities. Our primary concern is to reopen the school for academics. Due to this all after school enrichment activities are suspended until further notice. We hope to start up our after school program during the Fall.

Q10. Will temperatures be taken?

A. Yes. Anyone entering the school building must have their temperature checked, or they will not be permitted to enter the school.



Q11. What will the Nursery and Pre-K classrooms look like?

- A. Group sizes will be capped at 15 children per class.
- B. Masks will not be required in the classroom for children in Pre-K and below.
- C. Teachers will be permitted to interact with children as long as they are wearing appropriate PPE.
- D. We will follow the childcare and day care guidelines from NYS which account for student needs, as well as health and safety.
- E. Children will utilize sinks for hand hygiene as much as possible.

Q12. What is the cleaning schedule and protocol for each school day?

- A. Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Academy will comply with CDC guidelines for school reopening and for daily maintenance, which includes classrooms, restrooms, cafeteria, library and play areas. For additional information, please review our complete plan on the school website.

Q13. Will Saint Francis host virtual parent meetings prior to the beginning of the school year?

- A. All virtual parent forums were held on Thursday over the past three weeks by grade level. Parents have received meeting details via email. There will be one more meeting on Wednesday September 2nd at 7pm.

Q14. Will lunch, be available for purchase?

- A. There will be no special lunch sales at this time, we will revisit this on a regular basis to secure a safe school dining experience.

Q15. Is Option C available at this time?

- A. The parent portal is currently closed. The portal should reopen the on Monday September 7th.



Q16. Will Aftercare be available this school year?

A. As of today, our after-school program is suspended until further notice. We hope to begin the program later in the fall if space and conditions allow.

Q17. If there is a diagnosis of COVID-19 in a building, what will happen?

A. We will work collaboratively with the NYC Department of Health when, and if, a diagnosis of COVID-19 were to be identified in a school. The response to a new diagnosis will follow communicable disease response frameworks. If notified of a confirmed or presumptive case of COVID-19, we will follow the direction of the NYC Department of Health in notifying affected individuals, cleaning and disinfecting appropriate spaces, and providing data to public health organizations to aid their investigation/contact tracing.

Q18. What if a student reports coronavirus-like symptoms during the school day?

A. The St. Nicholas Room will serve as a COVID-19 isolation space. This will be separate from the nurse's office. Students will wait in this room supervised by a staff member until they are picked up by a family member, as soon as possible.

Q19. What will the cleaning schedule and deep clean schedule be and how frequently?

A. All interior spaces as well as play areas will be treated with an EPA and FDA approved non-toxic, water based, antimicrobial solution that is proven to be effective for 90 days. The solution will be applied using electrostatic sprayers which ionize the solution to ensure it covers and sticks to surfaces. Additionally, our school will be thoroughly cleaned on a daily basis utilizing a cleaning/disinfecting solution from the list of EPA Approved Disinfectants Against COVID which will be applied with electrostatic sprayers. Frequently touched surfaces in common areas such as door handles, stairway railings, light switches, and soap dispensers will be cleaned and disinfected frequently at least daily or between uses. The Custodial staff will follow a written schedule throughout the day for surface cleaning of high touch areas, restrooms, common spaces, and high-traffic areas.



Q 20. Is there a hybrid option available for Grades K-4?

A. At this time we are not offering a hybrid model for students in Grades K-4.

Q 21. Will my child receive NYC Yellow Bus transportation?

A. Transportation is provided by NYC Office of Pupil Transportation. Our students will follow the guidelines set forth by the New York City Department of Education's Office of Pupil Transportation. With that being said at this time the use of the NYC Yellow Bus Service does not seem likely for the week of September 14th and 21st. Although things change daily I would recommend any family that uses the bus or plans on using the bus to begin to have other arrangements for morning drop off and afternoon pick for the month of September.

Q 22. Will my child receive Special Education Services?

A. Yes, all district approved services will be provided in accordance with guidelines and protocols in place.

Q 23. Is the St. Francis de Sales Catholic Academy Plan approved by NYS?

A. There is no formal approval process. If our plan had any errors, we would have been notified by the state. We have received no such correspondence.

Q 24. Can a tuition discount be offered for families that choose a fully remote option?

A. No, there is no tuition discount available to students that choose the remote option.

Q 25. Can parents visit the classroom before the start of the school year, or receive photographs of the classroom, to see the new configurations?

A. No, parent visits will not be permitted at this time. However, sample classroom photos will be available shortly on our social media platforms.

Q 26. Will the children have recess and what safety precautions will be taken?

A. Yes, the children will have outdoor recess, weather permitting. The schoolyard will be sectioned off accordingly to allow for appropriate social distancing. At this time no toys will be allowed, this includes balls and hula hoops. This policy will be revisited in accordance with protocols.

Q 27. When will students find out their teacher?

A. At this time class lists have not been finalized, the class a child is assigned to will be available on Option C two to three days before school begins.



Q 28. Will arrival and dismissal be staggered?

- A. Yes, we have staggered both arrival and dismissal times, your patience is appreciated, as with any new process we work through the implementation and communicate procedures accordingly.

Q 29. Will parents be allowed to walk nursery students to their classroom? Will parents be permitted to attend any classroom events or activities throughout the year for nursery?

- A. At this time visitors to Saint Francis de Sales are limited, the policy will be revisited as the situation develops.

Q 30. Is there an air filtration system at Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Academy?

- A. All windows and doors will remain open to maximize air circulation, for the few rooms that have air conditioning they will also have doors and windows open, as does the Church. This is in accordance with the New York State Department of Health. Each classroom is being fitted with a HEPA Air Purifier.

Q 31. Will the students be able to use their book bag when they transition to another class room? Instead of carrying their books in their hands.

- A. Children will not transition, teachers will transition classes.

Q 32. Will the faith formation program/CYO be in the building?

- A. As per Diocesan directives at this time, CCD and CYO will not occur in the school building until January 2021.

Q 33. Will there be periodic virtual parent meetings as a means of assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the plan in execution?

- A. Conversations with the Administration (virtual meetings) may be held periodically throughout the year to communicate new and necessary information.

Q 34. Will the students take the High School entrance exam in school?

- A. Saint Francis de Sales Catholic have not made plans at this time to administer the TACHS exam on-site. Information regarding the exam has been communicated. More information will be given by the administration and the 8th grade teachers as the date of the exam approaches.



Please note that not all questions asked during the Parent Sessions are answered in this document. Questions that require additional, detailed, information will be answered as they are finalized and communicated accordingly.

We thank you for your patience as we navigate the Back to School process, looking forward to seeing you in September!

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

All policies and procedures delineated herein are subject to change and alteration based on the guidance of the State of New York and the Diocese of Brooklyn.

Parents and all Stakeholders will always be kept informed of any such changes and necessary alterations.