

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR PLAN

ST. JOHN PAUL II REGIONAL SCHOOL

2020-2021 PLANNING TASK FORCE

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Thank you to the taskforce members in the creation of this plan. Their expertise and commitment to Catholic education is commendable.

SOURCES

The information in this plan comes from the hard work of the 2020-2021 planning task force, which used multiple sources to guide its planning. These include policy and directives from the Diocese of Camden Office of Catholic Schools, which are grounded in the following:

- General guidelines and *Considerations for Schools* from the Centers for Disease Control
- *The Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan for Education*, (NJ Department of Education)
- *Considerations for school-related public health measures in the context of COVID-19* (World Health Organization)
- Feedback and input from Catholic school principals, teachers, and parents via the June 2020 parent survey and June 2020 teacher survey

St. John Paul II Regional School also referenced the NJDOE Nursing Guidelines and Camden County Department of Health Guidelines directly in the preparation of this plan.

In addition to these references, the Diocese of Camden Office of Catholic Schools engaged its standing Strategic Action Team, multiple task forces, and public health officials in developing its guidance. Many members of St. John Paul II Regional School's community also shared perspectives relevant to developing this plan.

INTRODUCTION

Catholic schools provide an environment in which we consistently model Gospel values and Church teachings and traditions in the image of Jesus Christ. All students experience an academically challenging curriculum that helps them to grow closer to God by learning about themselves and His world, while preparing them to succeed at every level. At St. John Paul II Regional School, our mission states we are dedicated to Christian stewardship, academic excellence and we empower our diverse student body to achieve their academic potential in a faith based environment. It is our aspiration that through the collaboration of church, school and faculty, our students will lead lives rooted in Catholic Christian values and commitment to a better society.

We believe that this mission is best carried out when students, faculty, and staff can be together, in person, as a Catholic community. This belief was reinforced by the majority of parents from our community, who expressed a desire for their children to be back in school to experience the benefits of Catholic education. We therefore set a goal of opening our school for the 2020-2021 school year so that all students have the opportunity to attend school in person every day, if they are able to do so safely. Current guidelines and data on the status of COVID-19 in our community indicate that, with proper precautions, we will be able to meet that goal. We also recognize that some families have members with special circumstances and are therefore not yet ready to return to school in person. We will have a remote learning option available for those families.

We have created this plan to aid in navigating the return to onsite learning at our school so that employees, students, and families feel safe and to reduce the potential impact that COVID-19 may have on our community. **It is expected that as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, new guidance may mean that aspects of this plan will need to be updated or changed.** Therefore, regular updates will be made to this plan based on information provided by local public health officials, CDC, WHO, and applicable federal, state and local agencies. We will inform all members of the school community of changes as soon as they occur.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In order to ensure the continued well-being of our employees and students, the following principles are the foundation that guide our planning:

- 1) Protect the health and safety of St. John Paul II Regional school students, faculty, staff, and families.
- 2) Sustain the Catholic faith communities that distinguish our schools and drive their success.

- 3) Maximize student learning through best practices in classroom and, if necessary, remote learning instruction and assessment.
- 4) Maintain flexibility to respond to changing guidance from state, public health, and medical leaders in response to the progression of COVID-19 in our community.

In addition to these principles, our school is a Catholic community. As such, we are used to depending on one another. The school leadership is taking on many actions and activities to promote the safety of our community. In order that this plan to be effective, it is important that each parent, teacher, student, and member of the school community take seriously our responsibilities to one another. All individuals will be asked to take actions that protect their health and that protect the health of others. The plan will have the best opportunity for success when we all work together – when we all respond to Jesus’s commandment to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

PART I: PROMOTING HEALTH AND SAFETY

The health of students and all members of the school community is the top priority that ensures all other aspects of the Catholic school program can be delivered. The expectations provided below are intended to help all members of the St. John Paul II Regional School Community to do their part to keep themselves and each other safe and healthy.

SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Our school day will begin at 8AM and end at 2:50 PM for grades K-8. Preschool will begin at 8:30 AM and end at 2:30 PM.

Beginning on September 8th, the morning schedule for students in grades K-8 will be staggered to allow our staff to screen each student. Arrival times are as follows:

- 7:35 AM Students whose last name begins with the letters A-J
- 7:50 AM Students whose last name begins with the letters K-Q
- 8:05 AM Students whose last name begins with the letters R-Z

Students will not be marked late during this time.

Full time REMOTE LEARNING for students whose families have arranged with the principal to choose it will begin the week of September 14th, 2020. Teachers will reach out to your child in Google Meets during the first week of school for some orientation and initial activities. On September 9th, 10th, and 11th, parents who have chosen remote learning will have the opportunity to pick up their child’s supplies, textbooks/workbooks. More information will be provided about procedures to parents choosing this option.

The dismissal schedule will not change. Dismissal is at 2:50 PM. To keep everyone safe, WALKERS will be the last group to be dismissed.

Parents wishing to make a payment on tuition, school lunch account or any other related business will only be allowed admittance to the school between 9 AM and 2 PM. Admittance will be 1 person at a time, others will need to wait outside and remain socially distant.

Early dismissals will not be allowed between 2:30 PM and 2:50 PM. If your child has an appointment you will need to pick them up before 2:30 PM. We ask that when you arrive at school, you call the school main office. Your child will be advised to pack up and a staff person will walk the child out to you so that you can sign them out. Please try to avoid scheduling appointments during school hours if at all possible.

SCREENING

Identifying students, faculty, and staff who may be sick is a critical component of keeping the entire school community healthy. Identification begins before students arrive at school and continues with vigilance throughout the school day. Screening and response to symptoms require faithful citizenship and partnership between parents and the school, with all school community members doing their part to identify potential sickness and respond respectfully, swiftly, and confidentially.

Screening at Home

All parents will be expected to screen their children at home for symptoms of COVID-19 and to take their temperature to ensure that they do not have a **fever of or over 100.4° F**. If children have a fever or exhibit symptoms that are not explained by other conditions, then they should stay at home. COVID-19 symptoms include:

- Cough
- Fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Feeling feverish or a measured **fever of or over 100.4° F**.
- Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19

Parents will also be expected to keep their children home from school if they have had close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19. If this occurs, parents should notify the school immediately. Close contact is considered to be:

- Within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for 10 minutes or more
- Provided care at home to, or visited, someone who is sick with COVID-19
- Direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)
- Shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

Arrival Screening at School

All students, employees, volunteers, visitors, and employees of organizations that serve the school (e.g., food service, educational service providers) will be screened for symptoms, including a temperature check, upon arrival at school.

Arrival procedures for the 2020-2021 school year will be:

Beginning on September 8th, the morning schedule for students in grades K-8 will be staggered to allow our staff to screen each student. Arrival times are as follows:

- 7:35 AM Students whose last name begins with the letters A-J
- 7:50 AM Students whose last name begins with the letters K-Q
- 8:05 AM Students whose last name begins with the letters R-Z

Students will not be marked late during this time. Preschool students will arrive at 8:30 AM and go to the preschool door for their screening.

All students in grades K-8 must arrive by car or bus. Parents will not be permitted to park their car and walk their child to the school doors. All families whose child does not ride the bus must use the car line. Walk-ups to the main office area will be turned away. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated during this time for the safety of everyone.

Arriving by Bus

When the bus arrives a staff person will greet the bus and screen each student before entering the school. Students, according to guidance from the bus company, must wear a mask at all times while waiting for and riding the bus. They will be asked to sit one person to a seat and every other seat for their protection. Multiple children from the same family may at the bus companies request be asked to sit together.

Visitors to the School

Visitors will be significantly limited during the school day. Visitors will be limited to individuals with official business at the school (e.g., contractors, service, sales) and a limited number of volunteers specifically assigned to help the school carry out critical operations. All visitors to the

school will be required to provide their name and contact information and will be required to wear a cloth mask, have temperature taken and maintain social distance (see below) while on the premises at all times.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

In keeping with our duty to protect one another, multiple forms of personal protective equipment (PPE) will be used. Some forms of PPE, such as cloth masks, contribute to health by protecting others from any sickness that the wearer has, even if they do not know they have it. Other forms of PPE, such as face shields and sneeze guards, add protection for individuals from others by blocking the respiratory droplets that carry germs. **It is important that all members of the school community work together to do their part because all forms of PPE are more effective when every member of the community uses them at the same time.**

Face Coverings

All students, grades PreK through 8, will be required to have a cloth mask with them at school every day. Students will be required to wear their mask at all times, even if they are more than 6 feet from others while inside the building. This includes while entering and exiting the building, moving between rooms in the school (e.g., between the classroom and the restroom), and moving about within a classroom.

All students in grades PK-8 will be required to wear a mask all day, including while in class. Students will be able to remove their masks at the following times:

- While eating, presently students will eat snack and lunch in their classrooms
- While they are outside and 6 feet apart
- While in the classroom, for a brief break, when they are at their desks and 6 feet apart or when they are wearing a face shield behind a sneeze guard.

Each family will be responsible for providing appropriately sized masks for their children. Every student should have an extra mask with them at school at all times. Masks may be any color. Masks may not have any printed messages. Students may have our school logo on their mask. Gaiters are permitted: Again, they may be any color or may have our school logo, however no printed messages on the gaiter are permitted. Bandanas are not permitted.

All faculty, administration, staff, and other adults in the school building during the day will be required to wear a cloth face mask. Teachers may remove their masks in the classroom for teaching purposes if they are a minimum of 6 feet away from all students and are wearing a face shield.

Face Shields

Each student will be required to have a face shield. Parents should purchase the face shield. We realize that some students may need to remove their masks for their own health and wellbeing briefly from time to time during the day. Should this need occur, the face shield should be worn and the student should be behind a sneeze guard at their desk. At no other time may a child remove their mask.

Sneeze Guards

Each desk will have a three-sided, transparent guard, called a sneeze guard. The sneeze guards will be used as an added layer of protection for all students and faculty. The school has ordered each child a sneeze guard for their desk. The cost is \$30. Parents will pay this as part of their supply fee.

Barriers

Barriers will be used in the school bathrooms in between the sinks as an additional layer of protection for all members of the school community when they are in those locations.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distance is usually described as maintaining a 6 foot distance from all other individuals. This distance is generally understood to be sufficient to ensure that any large droplets that are exhaled and may contain the coronavirus do not reach other people. The minimum accepted social distance is one meter (approximately 3 feet), as described by the World Health Organization.

Maintaining social distance may be challenging for students of all ages, particularly when they have not seen each other or when they have found themselves in social environments outside of school in which social distancing has been relaxed. It may also be difficult when larger classes are gathered. The guidance we are following from the CDC and the NJ Department of Education allow students to be closer than 6 feet apart if other protections are in place, such as masks and sneeze guards. If a student needs a break from a face mask, they must have a face shield and be seated behind their sneeze guard.

Social distancing and PPE work together to ensure the safety of students, teachers, administrators, staff, and the entire school community. Therefore, it is critical that all school personnel and parents remain vigilant in reminding students of their responsibility to each other to maintain a social distance in case they are carrying the virus and may be able to unknowingly transmit it to others, even if they do not have symptoms.

Social Distancing in Classrooms

We have taken extraordinary measures to ensure the maximum distance between students in each classroom. These measures include arranging desks and moving excess furniture from the classroom to optimize the spacing of desks for students and staff protection.

Student desks are being arranged to be at least 6 feet apart for as many desks as possible. In some instances, the spacing may be less than 6 feet due to the size of the classroom. At no time will a desk be less than 4 ft. apart. This approach is allowable under the guidelines we are following as long as, there are additional measures taken, including wearing a mask and having barriers. Our approach is to combine social distancing of students in the classroom with the use of face coverings and sneeze guards (and sometimes face shields) behind a sneeze guard to provide a holistic approach to avoiding respiratory droplets that may carry sickness reaching another child, teacher, or staff member.

Social Distancing in Other Areas of the School

In addition to social distancing measures in classrooms, we are implementing the following procedures and protocols to promote social distancing:

- Physical Education/Gym Class will be held outside as long as weather permits. Students will participate in activities that maximize distance. Masks do not need to be worn during this class.
- The number of students who can enter the restroom at any time will be limited to ensure 6 feet distance between students. The maximum number of students allowed in a restroom will be posted on the door. Students will use assigned restrooms to limit the total number of individuals using any one restroom.
- In areas where students might wait in line (e.g., main office, restroom, cafeteria, entrances, doorways), clear markings will be placed on the ground to identify a 6-foot distance between individuals.
- Student movement through the school will be kept to a minimum throughout the day.
- Directional signage will be used in all hallways. Since our building is all one level, with the use of signage students will be reminded to keep to one side of the hallway as they move in the building.

PERSONAL HYGIENE

In addition to PPE and social distancing, each member of the school community will be expected to take responsibility for his or her personal hygiene, including responsibility for personal belongings and space. Teachers will provide instruction and allocate time in the classroom to ensure that students understand and can take these responsibilities seriously.

Hand Washing and Hand Sanitizing

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important defenses against the spread of all sickness, including COVID-19. The virus may survive for a period of time on surfaces that students touch throughout the day. For this reason, it is critical that students, teachers, and staff wash or sanitize their hands regularly.

- Each class will have a regular schedule, at least once per hour and before and after all meals or snacks, for students and teachers to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds or to use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol to sanitize their hands.
- Hand sanitization stations will be set up in the following locations:
 - In each classroom
 - At all entrances and exits to the school building
 - At the entrance to the school office
 - At the entrance to or in the nurse's office
 - At the entrance to or in the faculty lounge
 - Multiple hand sanitization stations will be set up in the cafeteria, gym, and media center/library

- Each student should have a personal bottle of hand sanitizer and a personal container of sanitizing wipes for use in his or her personal space.
- Teachers will reinforce hand washing and the importance of students avoiding touching their faces and masks, particularly with those in the primary grades.

Personal Space and Belongings

Personal responsibility is an important skill for students to develop and exercise as a defense against the spread of COVID-19. Students have a responsibility to each other that they demonstrate through hand washing, social distancing, and the use of PPE. Taking responsibility for their own belongings and contributing to cleaning their workspaces are additional ways that students can be accountable to each other for maintaining the community's health.

- All students will need to have their own set of school supplies, as students will not be allowed to share their supplies.
- Each student's belongings will be separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas. Students' belongings will be stored in their desks and each student will need to bring a **file crate** for extra items that don't fit in their desk. Closets and middle school lockers will not be utilized at this time. Backpacks and jackets will be kept at the student's desk.
- Where supplies must be shared, such as math manipulatives, each student will be given their personal supply in a plastic bag, labeled with their name, and they will be cleaned and disinfected between use.
- The Science Lab and Computer Lab will not be used until January, 2021 when the situation will be re-evaluated.
- Middle School Lockers will not be used to avoid student clustering in backpacks will be kept at their desks.
- When students use spaces that may be used by others, they will wipe down the space with a disinfecting wipe after they use it.

Students in Grades PK thru Grade 8 will not be switching classrooms as they have in the past for different subjects with the exception of Physical Education. Instead, teachers will switch classrooms. This is being done to limit the number of students who use specific desks and classrooms.

Backpacks, Clothing, and other Belongings

We are asking all students to limit the number of items they transport between home and school. Students may bring a backpack and lunch box to school. If possible packing lunch in a brown bag would be appreciated. We recommend that students remove shoes immediately upon returning home and that all school clothing be washed promptly after students return home.

FOOD SERVICE AND RECESS

Food service, including breakfast, lunch and snacks, and recess are important parts of the school day. They will be particularly important this year as opportunities for students to socialize and exercise during the school day.

Breakfast, Lunch and Snacks

As a participant in the Free/Reduced Lunch Program, breakfast and lunch will be offered as will snack. Students will complete an order in their homeroom. Breakfast will be packaged as a grab and go. The student will pick it up on the way to their homeroom. Lunch and snack will be delivered to the classroom in a container or packaged individual serving. Students will be directed to always sanitize their hands before and after eating. Students are permitted to bring their own food from home. If possible, please pack in a disposable bag. Students will not be allowed to SHARE food at any time.

Recess

- Students will remain with their class for recess. They will not be able to mix with classmates from other grades. The play area will be marked to prevent grades from mixing.
- Students are not required to wear masks for outdoor recess or breaks if they are able to maintain a 6 feet distance from one another. They may wear them if they feel more comfortable doing so. Masks must be worn if students are between 3-6 feet of one another.
- Students will participate in outdoor recess by classroom group. Students from different classrooms/homerooms should not come within 6 feet of each other.
- We will limit the use of playground and sports equipment. If students use playground equipment, they will be encouraged to stay 6 feet apart. All playground and sports equipment will be disinfected after each use by a class.
- Students will wash or sanitize their hands after recess.

BEFORE CARE AND AFTER CARE

We will continue to offer before care and after care. We ask that only those families who need these services use them, and that they not be used for convenience. Parents will not be permitted to use the program on a drop-in basis. We ask that you keep a schedule and commit to it for the safety of your child. If you don't really need the service this year, please have your children picked up promptly. Students in before care and after care will be grouped with family members or members of their homeroom class to reduce the number of interactions across groups of students. In addition, social distancing and mask wearing will be enforced. Additional information about before care and after care procedures will be provided to families who use these services.

The before and after care program will remain in the school gym. The area will be sanitized before and after its use. Hand sanitizing stations have been set up. Students will complete their homework, and if there is time will go outside weather permitting. Students will be permitted to bring their own toy, iPad, etc. for their personal use, items may not be shared.

HEALTHY FACILITIES

An important part of maintaining the health of the school community is ensuring that the school grounds and systems support the health of students and employees. St. John Paul II Regional

School has developed enhanced practices to increase our attention to the cleanliness of the school grounds, facilities, and environment.

Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection

We have developed protocols to ensure that all areas used by students or staff are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected every day.

Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each day. This includes:

- All desks, tables, and chairs
- Any barriers present in the room (e.g., sneeze guards)
- Bookshelves, windows, and blackboards/whiteboards
- Carpets (vacuum) or floors (mop)
- Frequently touched objects, (pencil sharpeners, coat hooks, door handles, light switches)

For classrooms that are used by multiple classes, including shared use spaces, frequently used objects (e.g., doorknobs, pencil sharpeners) and all student seating (chairs, desks, tables) will be disinfected after every class. At this time, St. John Paul II Regional School has arranged the classrooms so that they are not used by multiple classes.

In general, rooms that have been disinfected will not be used for any purpose until the next school day. Some rooms may be used for after care. When they are, cleaning will occur after school and after the after care program.

Bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected every 2 hours, and at the end of the day.

Presently, the cafeteria/gym is only being used for our before and after care program. At this time outside groups are not being permitted. Sanitizing will occur before and after use for the after and before school program.

In addition, frequently used objects in common spaces, offices, and other rooms throughout the school will be disinfected multiple times per day.

We will be using a hospital grade disinfecting agent for misting all classrooms and offices. This will be the final cleaning at the end of the day in preparation for the next school day.

Frequently used objects in kitchens and food service preparation areas will be disinfected multiple times per day. The entire kitchen and food service preparation area will be cleaned and disinfected at the end of the day and will not be entered or used for any purpose until the next school day.

Ventilation

Ventilation of our spaces is an important component of keeping members of the school community healthy. We will keep windows open to the maximum extent possible, when not possible, air that is circulated through the building we ensure that all filters are replaced and equipment serviced on a regular basis.

PART II: MANAGING POTENTIAL SICKNESS

St. John Paul II Regional School is taking precautions to limit the transmission of sickness, especially COVID-19, including the use of personal protective equipment, social distancing, and enhanced personal hygiene and facilities cleaning protocols, as described in the rest of this guide. However, we recognize that some students and/or staff may still show symptoms of COVID-19, or students, employees, or their family members might be exposed to or test positive for COVID-19. Our response follows guidelines established by the CDC and followed by the Camden County Department of Public Health.

RESPONSE TO COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

Students and Employees who Show Symptoms of COVID-19

Any adult or student who shows symptoms of COVID-19 upon arrival at school or at any time while they are in the school building will enter a protocol to protect them and other members of the school community that will result in their leaving the school building as soon as possible.

- Students, employees, and any other adults in the school will enter an isolation area if they show symptoms of COVID-19.
- All students, employees, personnel, and others in the isolation area will wear a mask and gloves and maintain 6 feet distance from each other as practicably as possible.
- A parent, guardian, or authorized adult will be called to pick up any student who shows symptoms of COVID-19.
- Students will be isolated safely and respectfully, with continued supervision and care and respect for their privacy, until an authorized adult can pick them up. The isolation area will be thoroughly disinfected after it is used by symptomatic students.
- If symptoms appear after the school day has begun, the teacher and students will wash their hands thoroughly and immediately, the classroom or workspace of the student or employee will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, and the class will meet in an alternate location for the rest of the day.
- The Camden County Public Health Officer will be notified that an individual with symptoms that are potentially due to COVID-19 has been sent home. This contact will be made confidentially to protect the individual.
- The County Public Health Officer will advise the school about whether or not any additional steps, such as asking other students to self-quarantine, need to be taken. It is important to understand that such decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis, depending on the circumstances. Not every case of an individual with symptoms that are potentially due to COVID-19 will lead to self-quarantine for other individuals, a class, or the school.
- Parents will be contacted with basic information about any symptomatic individuals if the school is advised to do so by the public health officer. All information will protect the privacy of the individual(s) involved.
- Students and staff who show symptoms that could be attributed to COVID-19 will be advised to seek the advice of a physician about whether isolation is necessary.

Isolation due to Symptoms COVID-19:

Students or staff may be advised to isolate by a physician or a public health official because their symptoms are new and cannot be explained by another condition. Isolation refers to staying home and away from others because of symptoms that may be due to COVID-19. An individual who is advised to isolate will be permitted to return to school in any of the following circumstances:

- If the student has a COVID-19 test, and the test is negative, then the student may return to school after they are fever free without fever reducing medication for 72 hours and other symptoms disappear.
- If the student has a COVID-19 test, and the test is positive, then the student may return to school after following the guidance of their local public health department. This will generally be after 3 days with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND respiratory symptoms have improved AND 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- If the student does not have a COVID-19 test and is determined to have a sickness other than COVID-19 by a physician, then the student may return to school with a written clearance from a physician.

Any employee or student who is absent due to symptoms that could be attributed to COVID-19 for 3 days or more, including those sent home from school, must have a physician's clearance to return to the school and must be fever free for 72 hours before returning to school.

POTENTIAL AND CONFIRMED EXPOSURE TO COVID-19**Students and Employees who have had Close Contact with Someone with COVID-19**

Any member of the school community who has had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 must alert the school. We will immediately notify Camden County Public Health Officer, while maintaining confidentiality. This includes employees of the school, students, volunteers, and family members of students. Close contact is considered to be:

- Within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for 10 minutes or more
- Provided care at home to, or visited, someone who is sick with COVID-19
- Direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)
- Shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

Students or staff may be advised to self-quarantine by a physician or a public health official because they have had close contact with someone who has COVID-19. Self-quarantine refers to staying home and away from others because you might develop symptoms of COVID-19 or might have asymptomatic but contagious COVID-19. It is important to understand that such recommendations to self-quarantine will be made by a public health official or a physician on a case-by-case basis, depending on the circumstances.

Self-Quarantine

Students who are advised to self-quarantine by a physician or a public health official are expected to stay in the home for 14 days. The 14-day count will generally begin on the day of potential exposure to COVID-19, as advised by a public health official, even if the individual does not begin self-quarantine immediately. Students who do not show symptoms during this period will be expected to participate in school remotely.

- If the self-quarantine is due to a contact with someone you will not encounter again, then you may return to school 14 days after the contact, or with a negative COVID-19 test.
- If the self-quarantine is due to a positive COVID-19 test for anyone who lives in the household, then the quarantine likely will be longer.
 - If you can avoid contact with the person (for example, they are isolated in their bedroom), then the length of the self-quarantine will be calculated as 14 days from the date that person began isolation.
 - If you cannot avoid contact with the person, then the length of the self-quarantine will be 14 days from the end of that person's isolation.
- In all cases, an individual who is advised to self-quarantine will only be permitted to return to school when cleared by a doctor to do so.

Students and Employees who have Tested Positive for COVID-19

Any member of the school community who tests positive for COVID-19 must alert the school. We will immediately notify the Camden County Public Health Officer, while maintaining confidentiality. This includes employees of the school, students, volunteers, and family members of students.

- All parents and employees will be notified, maintaining confidentiality, sharing information advised by the Public Health Officer.
- The individual's classroom will be closed off and not used until after cleaning and disinfecting. All common areas will be immediately cleaned and disinfected.
- Upon the recommendation of the Public Health Officer, some students, a class, multiple classes, or the school may be asked to self-quarantine and monitor symptoms as a precautionary measure. If this occurs, the school will implement remote learning for teachers and students affected.

Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 may be readmitted under the following conditions:

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
- At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication **and**
- Symptoms have improved **and**
- Cleared by a physician to return to school

PART III: SUSTAINING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Academic excellence is a hallmark of Catholic schools. We are implementing some changes to our instruction for the 2020-2021 school year based on what we learned during the 2019-2020 school year. The intent of the changes is to maximize student learning, regardless of the context. Our expectation is that most students will be in classrooms, onsite for the 2020-2021 school year. However, students who are advised to isolate due to COVID-19 symptoms or self-quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure will learn remotely for short durations, and some might learn remotely for longer periods. It is also possible that the progression of COVID-19 in our community and/or in the state may require us to transition to remote learning temporarily as we did last year. The instructional plan leverages technology so that instruction and learning are as fluid and transferrable as possible between onsite, in-classroom and remote learning.

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Continued strategic use of technology will allow teachers to personalize learning and also provide instruction that is fluid across onsite/in classroom learning and at home.

Hardware

Presently at St. John Paul II Regional School we have technology available in the classrooms for student and teacher use. We are not a 1:1 school which would enable every child to have a school computer issued to them for the school year. Efforts are being made to make this a reality, and we are also investigating having students bring their own device. If a bring your own device program is implemented, the school will require that it install data management software on the student's computer to protect them, for example by preventing them from visiting sites that are not appropriate during the school day. More information will be available by August 17th, 2020.

Software

The use of instructional software will aid teachers in understanding student progress and learning, personalizing learning, and organizing assignments for students.

- All students in K-8 will use Google Classroom during the school day.
- Google Classroom will be used to organize instruction during the day for students in school and learning at home.
- All students in Grades K-8 will use Freckle as a regular part of their in-school learning experience and for homework.
- Login information for all student accounts will be shared with students and parents to ensure access.

CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT, AND INSTRUCTION

Some changes will be made to the instructional program to ensure that all students show appropriate growth from the previous year.

- St. John Paul II Regional School will continue to follow the curriculum for the Diocese of Camden. Some changes to the curriculum are being implemented to ensure that any changes in students' learning due to remote learning in the 2019-2020 school year are addressed.
- Volunteers will be limited to our school during this school year. At this time programs such as Middle School Electives, Legion of Mary, and DARE will not allow for in person instruction. Students will see additional minutes for major subjects such as Religion, Math and Language Arts during this time until such programs are permitted.
- Special Classes will meet beginning October 5th, 2020. Teachers will visit the classroom. Instruction will permit for an appreciation of Music (no singing), Art (no shared supplies), and Spanish. As mentioned, students will participate in Physical Education beginning September 14th, 2020.
- All students, grades 1-8, will participate in the Star Assessments in Reading and Math to help teachers identify their growth and customize their learning.
- All teachers will use the educational technology infrastructure to incorporate blended learning into their classrooms. Blended learning incorporates technology into instruction to assist teachers with personalizing instruction for all students. Blended learning in the classroom can also help prepare students for learning at home, if necessary.

REMOTE LEARNING

We anticipate that there may be a need for remote learning during the 2020-2021 school year. More students may be absent for sickness, and likely for longer duration, than usual. Some students will be asked to self-quarantine, meaning a minimum of 2 weeks absence. Other students may need to learn remotely for longer periods, even the whole year, due to health concerns. **Therefore, we will support remote learning every day for students who are in need of it so that students learning at home have a learning experience as close to the classroom experience as possible.**

Daily Remote Learning for Temporarily Absent Students

The intent is for instruction to be as similar as possible, and as simultaneous as possible, for students in-seat and learning remotely.

- Each classroom is set up with videoconferencing capabilities so that students can be "live" in the classroom through Google Meets. Students will be able to login to join their classes regular schedule.
- Students who are learning remotely and in the classroom with both have access to lesson materials using Google Classroom.
- Teachers will schedule their classes consistently every day so that students who may be learning remotely will be able to follow the schedule to participate in class.

- Schedules, assignments, time for remote students to be “live” in the classroom, and approaches will vary according to the age and grade level of the students.

Temporary remote learning is intended to serve students who are out for health reasons (such as COVID-19-related isolation or quarantine) for longer than they would be in a typical year.

Students may not choose not to come to school for reasons other than illness and learn remotely on that day.

Full-Time Remote Learning Option

Students with physical or mental health concerns related to COVID-19, or who have a member of the household with physical or mental health concerns related to COVID-19, may choose a full-time remote learning option.

The decision to exercise the full-time remote learning option will be made collaboratively with the principal on an academic QUARTER by QUARTER basis. There will be special considerations for ensuring that students in this status experience a robust curriculum and engage with the teacher.

The full-time remote learning option is intended to serve students with circumstances that merit it. **Students who are attending in school instruction on a daily basis, and are not ill, DO NOT have the option of selecting remote learning for the day.**

Mandated Remote Learning

It is possible that during the 2020-2021 school year, St. John Paul II Regional School will be advised by public health officials to close temporarily due to the presence of COVID-19 cases so that members of the school community can self-quarantine. It is also possible that St. John Paul II Regional School will be ordered to close temporarily due to the progression of COVID-19 in the region or state, as it was during the 2019-2020 school year.

In the event that the school is advised or ordered to enter remote learning status, teachers and classes will adhere to the following guidelines:

- We will continue the use of Google Classroom established for in-class and remote learning. Using it in school regularly should make access to and completion of assignments at home easier.
- The schedule for the remote learning school day will continue as seamlessly as possible from the schedule for in-classroom learning, with live teaching and learning scheduled every day.
- Teachers will use specific guidance from the Office of Catholic Schools for the type and duration of live instruction, established in response to parent feedback and in light of best practices for remote learning for students of varying ages.
- The same comportment expected of students while in school will be expected during remote learning. This includes that the students are dressed in their school uniform, groomed and seated at a desk or table, as free from distractions as possible.

- We are committed to making remote learning as close to the classroom experience as possible to ensure that teaching and learning are continuous and students progress as expected regardless of the learning environment.

ATTENDANCE

The attendance policy will be adapted for the 2020-2021 school year to accommodate students who may be learning remotely. When in-classroom learning is occurring, attendance will be marked as: Present, if in school; Remote, if learning remotely (present for live teaching and turning in assignments within class time expectations), or Absent, if home and too ill to participate.

If the school building is closed for all students due to advice from a public health official or an order, then attendance categories will be Remote or Absent. It is expected in this scenario that students learning remotely will attend all live instruction and submit all assignments on the deadlines expected. **Any family who would like special consideration for an alternate deadline due to supervision or childcare challenges must ask for such consideration in writing. Students who are sick or who do not attend classes and do not submit assignments will be marked as ABSENT.**