

St. Joseph School - Fullerton

2021-2022

Back to School Information



Mission Statement: As a central ministry of our parish, St Joseph School-Fullerton educates children in PreK4 through 8th grade in the Catholic faith. Our mission is to cultivate an environment of academic excellence and spiritual growth within a loving faithful community committed to family, discipleship and evangelization.

Dear St. Joseph School Families,

We hope this letter finds you safe and well rested and that you had time to have some fun this summer. On behalf of the entire faculty and staff as well as Fr. Jesse and the parish community we have truly missed you and your children and look forward to the fall where we can all be together again.

Last year was a year like no other, but we were determined to do our best. To do so, we implemented those safety measures suggested by both state and federal officials. It was thanks to a spirit of collaboration between our parents, students and our amazing faculty and staff that we were able to successfully complete the 2020-2021 school year-a major victory and witness to our resilience in Jesus Christ.

This year as we try our best to “return to normal” on campus we wanted to communicate all of the things that are in place to promote the health and well being for all of our community. Included in this document are the details of how we are going to operate for the 2021-2022 school year. If adjustments are needed, we will share that information with you as well. We will continue to act with the best interest of everyone on campus at the forefront of all of our decisions.

St. Joseph School has put measures in place to mitigate risk. We are grateful for everyone's flexibility, patience, and support as we prepare for the 2021-2022 school year. We appreciate your continued support, dedication, and commitment to Catholic education and look forward to another great year at SJS-Fullerton. We are Wolfpack Strong!

God Bless,

Father Jesse Bolger
Pastor

Mrs. Chrissie Ashby
Interim Principal

Mrs. Kathi Trimble
Interim Assistant Principal

Welcome Back!



All of the updates, changes and news for the year are included. Please read it entirely so that we are all on the same page for a successful school year.

Faculty Updates

We are so excited to welcome the following people to our Wolfpack Family:

- **Mrs. Heather Spilker** - 1st Grade
- **Mrs. Amber Donnelly** - 1st Grade
- **Mrs. Robyn Basehart** - 5th Grade
- **Mrs. Jill Prevatt** - Director of Marketing and Advancement

We are also very thankful that **Mrs. Kathy Diggs will be returning to teach 3rd grade.** Although she retired last year, she has graciously returned due to the teacher shortage. This is a true testament to her love of SJS and teaching. She will be here as a long term substitute until we find a permanent replacement.

Building and Facility Updates

- The front of the building got a bit of a makeover due to the wall underground behind the statue of Mary being waterproofed. This involved excavating down about 10 feet,

waterproofing that wall and then returning the bricks, Mary and landscaping back into place.

- The case that held the historical artifacts was removed to preserve those items. They are stored until we find a better way to safely showcase them.
- An electrical panel that controls half of the building was updated for safety.
- The playground bridge was replaced and the area was mulched.

Gymnasium Updates

- The Gym Roof was replaced.
- The inside ceiling of the Gym was fixed due to a leak
- The Gym Flooring will be going in this Fall. There were many delays due to Covid, but it is coming and will be BEAUTIFUL when done!
- Other updates for the Gym that will be coming soon include Basketball hoops and a keypad for the door.

Academic Updates

- All classrooms are back to their previous locations. If we need to adjust later in the year, we will notify parents of those affected.
- Students will be able to move from room to room as well as for special area classes.
- Students and teachers will use hand sanitizer that will be provided when entering their classroom each day to help keep everyone healthy.
- We will be grouping into 3 levels for Reading and Math in grades 3-8.
- Grade 2 will be split into 3 groups for Reading and 2 groups for Math.
- This year we will be offering the special of S.T.E.M. for grades PreK-4 through 8th. This is in place of where they previously had Library class. Students will still be able to check out books for their reading enjoyment on a regular basis.
- Teachers will be using a combination of paper and pencil activities as well as lessons online. They will use what is best for the students to learn that particular topic/skill.

Catholic Identity

- We will attend Mass each Wednesday as a school community. Parents are welcome to join again as well!
- We will reinstate prayer-buddies across grade levels for Mass and activities throughout the year.
- Each month we will have a monthly focus of service that will be connected to a Saint of the Month.

Technology

- Every student will have a designated device that will only be used by them each day, for the entire year.(PreK through 1st grade - iPads; 2nd through 8th grade - Chromebooks)
- Students will travel around the building with their device. That device will remain in school overnight. Devices will have a cover to protect them.
- Devices are protected through the EnviroShield Spray (see below in Cleaning) however, frequent wiping down of the devices will still occur.
- All students will sign and follow the Technology Usage Agreement which states that they are responsible for the device.

- Screen time will be managed and monitored through the schedule, as we know that this is a concern during these times.

Attendance Policy

- All students who are not feeling well are ***strongly encouraged*** to remain home.
- If your child is staying home, you must report it to the school to provide details.
- Any student who is absent from school for illness or travel, will be given their work upon return to school.
- No students will be virtual unless an entire class needs to quarantine due to contact tracing.
- If a student is required to quarantine due to contact tracing, asynchronous(independent work) work will be provided prior to them.

Uniform Policy

- All students are expected to follow the guidelines for all uniforms.
- We will not be modifying them at this time.
- Students can be in their warm weather options from the first day of school until October 18, 2021 and then switch over to their winter uniform until April 25, 2022.
- Please refer to the Parent/Student Handbook and/or our website for the specific details.
- We have heard that Flynn O'Hara is having delays, if that is the case for your child please let us know.

Spirit Wear

- We will have spirit days once a month and will be noted on the calendar.
- Students can wear any of the items sold from the HASA or SJAA spiritwear stores. If they do not have anything from there, they may wear their PE uniform that day.
- HASA will be having a Spirit Wear sale at the beginning of the year which is a great opportunity to get some new spirit wear and support the school. They will not have another sale until spring.

Communication from the School

- Each Wednesday afternoon the school sends out the ***Wolfpack Weekly Email***. This email is a great resource for you to make sure that you are not missing anything that is occurring on our busy campus.
- We will include the monthly printable calendars for you in the Wolfpack Weekly.
- Other important information will come via email through the Swift K12 Emails. Please be sure to check those promptly for updates and alerts.
- Social Media such as Facebook and Instagram are also great places to check for updates and news.

Cell Phone Policy for Students

- We encourage students to leave their cell phones at home. If your child does bring it to school, it should remain off and stored away while it is in the building.
- Grades 5-8 will have storage for the students to place their cell phones for safe keeping.
- Students who have cell phones in other grades are asked to keep them away in their backpacks.
- No cell phones are allowed to be used during school hours.

Birthday Celebrations

- No birthday treats can be brought into school this year. Student birthdays will be recognized on the morning announcements but please do not send in any treats or snacks.

Masks

- As per the email from the Archdiocese of Baltimore, who will be assessing the rate of transmission in Baltimore County and determining based on the chart below when masking is required or when it is optional.
- When the Baltimore County Level is 7.1 or above everyone in the school must wear a mask, regardless of if they have been vaccinated.
- Each Sunday night you will receive an email stating if it will be a Mask Required or Mask Optional week. The status will be the same for the entire week. This will also be posted on Social Media each Sunday night.

Indicator	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Average new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days	0-1.3	1.3-7.0	7.1-14.1	≥14.2
	Parental Choice	Parental Choice	Masking	Masking

- Everyone in the building must wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth when Masking Required is in effect, regardless if they have been vaccinated.
- The masking rules are for School activities only. Parish events do not need to follow this policy.
- All masks should be labeled.
- All masks will be put in the students' lunch bag in a ziploc bag while they eat.
- Students will be responsible for their own masks while outside at recess.
- As per the AOB Guidance, all masks are to be cloth they can also be disposable masks. Gaiters/neck scarves are **not** permitted., nor are masks with valves.
- The mask does **not** have to be school colors but should be school appropriate and not have any political, suggestive, inappropriate, or distracting content on the mask.
- Students are **NOT** allowed to trade masks for any reason.
- The school reserves the right to determine if the mask is appropriate for school.
- All students need to have one extra mask in their backpack in a ziploc bag in case there is a need to change their mask during the day.
- Families who wish for their child to wear face shields or safety glasses in addition to masks will be permitted but not in place of the required masks.
- Masks must be washed after each day before reuse on the next day so everyone arrives each day with a clean mask.
- Students should practice wearing their masks for extended periods of time before school starts to ensure choosing a comfortable mask.
- Signs will be installed at all entrance/exit doors stating the mask policy.



- Additional information about masks including wearing and washing masks can be found on the Center for Disease Control's website.

Lunch and Recess

- Every child must bring their own lunch to school **EACH DAY** until we begin to offer pre-ordered lunches.
- HASA will begin to offer lunches a few days a week providing we have parent volunteers to assist in this program. More information will be coming in September.
- We will be offering Milk this fall.
- Students should bring all of the necessary utensils for their meals.
- Lunch will not be able to be reheated or refrigerated at school. Lunch will be stored in the coat rooms.
- Please include an empty ziploc bag in your child's lunch box so that they can properly store their mask while they eat lunch.
- Hand washing/sanitizing will be required before and after lunch.
- Peanut butter will be limited for lunches based on the allergies of classmates. Each classroom will be notified if PB will be permitted.
- Children will continue to eat in their classrooms as they have done previously.
- Desks will be cleaned before and after each meal/snack.
- Recess will be outside every day (weather permitting) to ensure students get fresh air and a chance to run around and play with their peers.
- Playgrounds and the fields will be used for recess.
- Masks are not required when students are outside for recess or PE even on "Required Masked Weeks".

Water Fountains

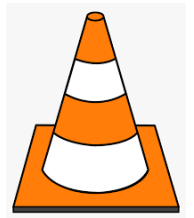
- We have closed the drinking part of our water fountains but are allowing the bottle refill portion of the water fountain to remain open.
- All students should have a refillable water bottle with them daily. All water bottles must not exceed 18 ounces and must be reusable, not disposable.
- Water fountains will be sanitized frequently throughout the day.

After School Activities

- All after school programs, activities, clubs, teams, and Homework Connection after school will begin again, please look for information to sign up.

Drop Off and Pick Up Times and Procedures

- All students will need to be dropped off in the front lot via the "snake line".
- No one will be allowed to park in the back parking lot and walk up for safety reasons.
- We will have our Student Safety Patrol out each morning and afternoon to assist your children as needed.
- Please follow the signs and directions of the faculty and staff for morning drop off.
- Pre-K students and their siblings will be the only students that are dropped off in a different location, which will be next to the Gymnasium doors.



Morning Drop Off General Procedures

- All students must have a mask on when they arrive on Masked Required Weeks.
- All students MUST be dropped off in the snake line out front of the school.
- No student is permitted to be dropped off early.
- The congregating of students outside the main entrance will not be permitted for the safety of all students.
- Our doors will open at 7:40 a.m.
- We will start the car line at 7:40 a.m.
- Once students enter the building they will go directly to their homeroom.
- Students will enter and exit through their designated areas and an adult will be there to monitor.
 - Pre-K and siblings enter by the Gym-Parents of PreK ONLY are allowed to park in the lot in front of the gym to help the PreK students exit their cars
 - Grades 1 and 2 enter via the stairs behind the statue of Mary
 - Grades 3 and Kindergarten enter via the main entrance
 - Grades 4 and 5 enter by Gym but exit via the “snake line”
 - Middle School will enter via the Parish Center

Pre-K

- We will continue to follow the MSDE Office of Childcare Guidelines
- All students must have a mask on when we are in a Mask Required Week
- PreK students and their siblings will be dropped off in front of the Main Gym entrance closest to the prayer labyrinth.
- Pre-K students will be picked up in the same location.
- All Pre-K Parents must enter campus by the Labyrinth/Playground entrance and park in front of the Gym or via the “Snake Line”.
- All Parents for Pre-K must exit the parking lot via the traffic light to ensure safe, 1-way traffic flow.

Afternoon Dismissal General Procedures

- Students will exit the building via the same door that they entered with the exception of 6th grade, as they will exit via the Main Entrance.
- **Times for Dismissal are:**
 - Pre K-2:35pm
 - Kindergarten-2:45pm
 - Grades 1-8-3:02pm



Health and Wellness

Daily Screenings

- We will not be asking faculty or parents to complete these each morning this year.
- We ask that you please be diligent and that if someone does not feel well, keep them home.

Guidelines for Fevers

- No one with a temperature of 100 degrees or more will be permitted in school.
- Students and Faculty must be fever free for 48 hours prior to the return to school.
- Temperatures must be taken **WITHOUT** the use of any fever reducing medicine.



Health Suite

- Our health suite has been modified to ensure healthy students who need medication to be dispensed or who need other non-illness related treatment, will be cared for without exposure to potential infection.
- SJS has a supply of additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (including gloves, goggles, gowns, and N-95 rated face masks) for staff who are caring for a student or staff member who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
- A Hepa-Filter has been added to purify the air in the Health Suite as well.

Isolation Area

- We have created an isolation area where students and staff who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 can be separated from the rest of the school population.

Mental Health

- The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all students and now, more than ever, it is critical for students to be equipped with the necessary skills to express and regulate their emotions, problem solve, develop and strengthen relationships, reduce stress and anxiety, and build resiliency.
- Ms. Grace, our school counselor, will be working closely with all grade levels to provide class meetings and lessons to address the emotional well-being of students.

COVID-19 Protocols

[Decision Aid Link](#)

[Communicable Disease Summary Link](#)

[CDC Guidance Link](#)

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Daily Procedures

- We will follow our normal cleaning procedures with our cleaning company but have also added extra measures to disinfect the building.
- Our staff will clean frequently touched surfaces periodically throughout the day where it is deemed necessary.



Extra Protection

- The building will be sprayed with a protectant called VYTIS Enviro Shield. This is a spray that will protect all surfaces for at least 90 days from germs and viruses. Links for this product can be found at the end of this document under resources. We will have the product reapplied when it is needed.

Social Contract of Our Community

Keys to Success

- The key to the entire program's success and what we can do this fall is **OUR** social contract.
- Our values, honesty and mutual sharing of information based on respect are required if we are going to glean the significant benefits of a Catholic Education.
- There are no guarantees. The only certainty is that each community member's behavior will determine our collective success.
- It is critical that we all do our part to make this plan successful. If everyone follows the guidelines that are put into place, then we are all helping to promote the health of everyone at SJS.
- Due to these uncertain times, things can change at a moment's notice. It is very important to **read all emails and the Wolfpack Weekly Wednesday Email** for updates.
- **As per the Archdiocese of Baltimore, all students that are attending school, are required to complete a Notice of Risk.**
- The Notice of Risk will be in School Admin for you to log in and complete. Please look for an email coming this week as this document needs to be completed prior to your child entering the building for the first day of school. Please note that this needs to be done for each child.

Thank you for your continued commitment and support of St. Joseph School. We appreciate you taking the time to read this document and we pray that you are all safe and well.

