



SAINT PASCHAL BAYLON CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Preschool Responsive Return Plan 2020-2021

The Responsive Return Plan outlines the first steps as we prepare to reopen for the 2020-2021 school year. We will continue to adjust and revise this plan based upon guidance from state, local, and diocesan authorities. The ability to adapt and modify our plan quickly and effectively as needed is critical. The plan has been developed in concert with our Responsive Return Plan Committee consisting of parents, medical professionals, educational leaders, faculty/staff members, and administrators and follows the guidelines and recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Education, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, and the Diocese of Cleveland. It begins with five basic layers of protection used to mitigate risk. Our foremost concern is our students and staff members and what we can do to keep them safe and healthy. We are committed to doing all that we can to protect our students, and we pledge to provide you with timely communication regarding any new developments.

VIGILANT SCREENING

TEMPERATURE CHECKS



A self-screening tool will be shared with family members to screen for symptoms at home each morning. It is critical that students not be sent to school if they are exhibiting any of the symptoms listed. Please do not give your child fever-reducing medication and send them to school. Upon arrival at school, students will have their temperatures checked and immediately proceed to their classrooms. Staff members will be stationed at the entrances. Any child exhibiting a temperature of 100° or higher will not be permitted to attend school. Staff members will also complete self-screenings at home and a temperature check before arrival. The individual shall not return to school until he or she has been fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication for at least forty-eight hours.



ISOLATION ROOM

An isolation room has been identified near the school nurse's office for students and staff who are exhibiting symptoms and are waiting to be picked up from school.



SCHOOL NURSE

Hours for our school nurse have been increased this year so that she is present at the beginning of the school day and at drop off. School administrators and the school nurse will oversee health and safety standards and communication with the local health department regarding updated COVID protocols, testing, and reporting.

HANDWASHING AND SANITIZATION



All children and staff members shall wash their hands when they enter school and prior to leaving for the day. Every classroom will have hand sanitizer pumps near the entrance. Sanitizing stations will also be added to high traffic areas, including the entrance to the school. Most importantly, teachers will build into their schedules opportunities for handwashing, sanitizing, and cleaning of desks and materials.

CLEAN SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT



High touch surfaces (i.e. doorknobs, counters, toys etc.) will be cleaned regularly. All classes will be cleaned and sanitized before students arrive. Our custodial staff will thoroughly clean our school at the end of each school day, and germ foggers will be used more often in classrooms.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING EFFORTS AND COHORT GROUPING

By offering in person instruction to all of our students, we acknowledge that we may not be able to achieve six feet of physical distance consistently. Adjusted classroom practices and routines, however, will decrease the contact and increase the distance typically experienced by students. Preschool students will remain in contact with only their classroom cohort.



- Excess furniture in classrooms has been removed in order to maximize the space used in each classroom.
- Desk shields will be ordered for all preschool students.
- Teachers will be encouraged to take their students outside for class weather permitting. Other areas on campus, such as O'Brien Hall and the Eymard Room, can be utilized when available to allow for physical distancing.
- Signs/floor markings will be used as visual cues to remind students to maintain physical distance.
- Hallway movement will be limited. Hallways will be labeled as one way in certain areas and marked in the middle to aid in traffic flow.

FACE MASKS

STUDENTS

Preschool students are **strongly encouraged** to wear masks, but are not required to do so. **Each preschool student will be required to have a mask in their book bag to be used for hallway transitions as needed.** Face masks have been shown to be more effective than face shields at this time. Face shields can be worn; however, face masks are recommended. Face masks should cover the nose, mouth, and chin.



FACULTY AND STAFF

All staff members will be required to wear face coverings (face masks or face shields) throughout the school day.

VISITORS

All visitors to the school building are required to wear a face mask. During student drop off, parents will be required to wait to leave until the child's temperature has been taken; however, parents will not be permitted to walk their child to the classroom.

ACADEMIC LEARNING AND PLAY

TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM



The traditional learning format model of instruction provides face to face learning for all preschool students.

- All large toys (kitchen sets and dramatic play areas) have been removed from preschool classrooms to discourage children from congregating during play.
- Children will be directed to participate in parallel play.
- Sharing of toys will be discouraged. Each student should have their own supplies and materials.

ADDITIONAL ADAPTATIONS AND PROTOCOLS



SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

We have decided to adjust the calendar and push back our start date one week. The preschool staggered start will be held the week of **August 31**. The first day of preschool will be **September 8** with the last day of preschool on **Thursday, May 27**. A staggered start letter as well as a revised calendar for the year will be shared soon.



SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

We recognize that the social and emotional health of our students is also important. All staff will continue to create a sense of family within the school and their classrooms. While things may look different, our goal is to create an environment that is **safe and secure** while also **warm and welcoming**. We feel strongly that class “meetings” and informal conversations can be used to assess students’ comfort and connectedness.



ABSENCES

Parents are required to report all absent or late students by no later than 8:30 a.m. Parents should provide details as to their child’s symptoms. If the child or immediate family member has tested positive for COVID-19, please share this information with the school. Families will follow the CDC guidelines and the Ohio Department of Health for a safe return to school.



ARRIVAL

Drop-off for arrival will remain the same. During student drop off, parents will be required to wait to leave until the child’s temperature has been taken; however, parents will not be permitted to walk their child to the classroom.

DISMISSAL

Dismissal will remain the same. We ask parents to practice physical distancing while waiting for their child at dismissal. Once your child exits the building, we ask that you refrain from gathering.



PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF OF STUDENTS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Parents/guardians may walk their child to the door, ring the bell, and announce the child who will then proceed to the office. Please do not enter the building. If picking up a student, the procedure can be followed. The office staff will sign the child in/out. If picking up a child early, please remember to send in a note so that the child is waiting in the office.



WATER FOUNTAINS

Students are asked to bring water bottles to school as the water fountains should only be used to refill water bottles. Please be aware that we currently do not have “no touch” refilling stations. Students may bring an additional water bottle to leave in their bags.



SPECIAL CLASSES

Although there will be subject-specific adjustments made to classroom instruction, we will continue to have special classes for preschool. These teachers will move to the classrooms to teach.



VISITORS TO SCHOOL

We are limiting visitors to school, and all visitors are required to wear face masks and have a temperature check. A Visitor Self-Screening Form will also need to be completed. We kindly ask that all visitors remain outside our main doors and communicate with our office staff through the security system when possible. A plexiglass shield has

been installed in the front office in order to safely serve our visitors. We ask that parents do not deliver forgotten items to school.



AFTER CARE/EXTENDED DAY

Due to new licensing guidelines, we will NOT be able to continue our After Care and Extended Day programs for preschool for at least the first quarter. We will share more information about this as the year progresses.



FIELD TRIPS

We are suspending field trips for the first semester and will reevaluate in January for the remainder of the year. Teachers will be encouraged to take virtual field trips or participate in experiences through outside organizations via Zoom, Google Meet, or Skype.



PRESCHOOL EVENTS

We are committed to maintaining our strong faith and school community. Unfortunately, some events may not be held, but our goal is to be innovative in creating meaningful ways for us to continue these events.



COMMUNICATION

Gradelink (emails, text messages, and phone calls), Bloomz, the school website, and the weekly family newsletter will be used to communicate information to families. In order to limit/eliminate the number of papers being sent home, communication folders will be used on a very limited basis. All groups are asked to submit items digitally to the school office, and they will be linked in our family newsletter.

QUARANTINE AND RETURNING TO SCHOOL

SPB will follow the guidance of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) in the event of an exposure or suspected exposure of a student, staff member, or a member of the immediate household. Below is guidance from the CCBH:

- Anyone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 should contact their primary care provider and depending on their access to care, they will be given testing instructions. Families and staff members must notify the school if they have been diagnosed with COVID-19, exposed to anyone with COVID-19, or if a member of the immediate household is presumed to have COVID-19.
- If you have had close contact with someone with COVID-19, you must stay home from school for 14 days from the date of exposure. Close contact includes direct physical contact (i.e. touching, hugging, kissing) with a person who has COVID-19 or being within 6 feet of that person for more than 15 minutes.
- Anyone testing positive for COVID-19 is isolated at home and receives a call from the county/city of residence's health department with instructions on how to keep themselves and their family safe.
- The CCBH, not the school, will contact the person diagnosed and conduct the contact tracing.
- All students and staff will follow the CCBH guidelines for school attendance and readmittance to school after a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, including self-quarantine for 14 days, significant improvement in respiratory and gastrointestinal symptoms.





We are grateful to our Responsive Return Plan committee members who gave of their time and shared their expertise and input in the development of these guidelines:

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