

Thank you for all of your questions throughout the week on our Re-Opening plan. We have compiled answers to your questions in the document below. Some families had similar questions, so you may not see your exact question answered if it was fully addressed in the response to another question.

Cohorts

1. How many people are in a cohort? The same number as their homeroom?
 - a. Homeroom classes are considered the cohort. Our goal is to have students stay within their Homeroom Cohort for most of the day. This will be considered “Cohort A.” Knowing that many students will have friends in the other homeroom we would like to safely try to have those homeroom cohorts interact during lunch and recess. The Grade-Level cohort will be considered Cohort B. Please know that interactions across grade-levels (Cohort B) will be implemented only when we feel this can be done safely and will still include appropriate social distancing, might look different per grade-level, and even look different from week to week. We will be discussing all of this and monitoring our students mental health often, as we also work diligently to help kids feel connected. We know not being in homerooms with their friends is often challenging for kids and the idea of not getting to spend any time with them during the day, even more challenging. We will daily be monitoring the risk benefit for this topic.
2. Can we know our assigned cohort and teacher prior to our decision for the first quarter?
 - a. Class lists will be posted to families on August 7. As a reminder, we are unable to take requests for Homeroom Cohorts, and Homeroom Cohorts will not be changed after they are posted. There is a great deal of work that goes into forming the Homeroom Cohorts and many factors are considered. We are doing everything we can to let both homerooms of students safely interact.
3. Will the grade cohorts be based on classrooms from last year to extend comfort or will there be shifts based on cohort?
 - a. The Homeroom Cohorts are not based upon last year’s homerooms.

Learning Environment

4. Will the 5th/6th graders also have desks versus tables to keep social distance?
 - a. The classrooms for 5th and 6th grade will have tables and chairs in them, as we are able to achieve appropriate social distancing for the number of students.
5. If the students move between classrooms during the day, will the desks be sanitized between students?

- a. There is not a final decision made with regard to whether students will be moving from room to room or if we will have our teachers move from room to room. We will be working diligently with our teaching staff to finalize this plan in early August. We plan to follow all guidance with regard to sanitizing in between groups of students if needed.
6. How many students will you permit in each classroom? I know you will not know the exact number of students in each classroom due to some choosing the online version but what is your max number of students that you will allow in each classroom?
 - a. Homeroom classes at St. Francis are capped at 25 students. Currently our largest homeroom classroom is 23 students. All classrooms will be set up to ensure physical distancing.
7. Since 3rd graders will be in the trailer this year, will they still be following the same drop off and pick up procedure, which is going into the main building, not directly to the trailer?
 - a. This procedure is still in the discussion phase but will be communicated to parents during the 3rd grade Course Information Night presentation.
8. What will be the specific layout of the rooms in the trailer for the 3rd graders? Are there tables or desks? How will they be spaced and seated? Will there be cubbies for each student and how will those be kept clean?
 - a. Furniture from the original 3rd grade classrooms will be placed in the mobile unit for this year. The students will continue to use tables and chairs and will be spaced six-feet apart when possible, but no less than 3 feet. The cubbies will not be moved to the mobile unit at this time. Students will carry their backpacks to the mobile unit and place them in the hallway of the mobile unit.
9. Will both 3rd grades be in the trailer or just one?
 - a. Both 3rd grades will be located in the mobile unit for this school year. Mr. Macko's class will be in the Art room and Mrs. Shankel's class will be held in the Music room.
10. Will the 3rd grade teachers send an email regarding the procedure for bathroom breaks?
 - a. Absolutely. In addition, all teachers will present virtually for Course Information Night and detail specifics of their classes to parents at that time.
11. How is the switching of classes being done? How can all desks and chairs be thoroughly cleaned after each rotation in a timely manner for so many students?
 - a. We are still in the decision making stage of the answer to this question. We have not decided if students will move from room to room or if teachers will move from room to room. We will have the decision made by early August. Please be assured that sanitation and the well-being of our students is our top priority in this and every decision.

- b. If we decide it's in the best interest of the students to switch classes at any point during the day, all surfaces will be sanitized. Even if they do switch at some point during the day, it will be significantly less than in years past.
- 12. I am aware that the diocese was allotted money from the government to assist in COVID updates. Is it possible to seek out those funds to add individual window air conditioning units?
 - a. The Diocese of Cleveland was not allotted any sum of money from the Government. However, each private school within the Diocese of Cleveland is working with their local public school district to receive an equitable amount of ESSER funds. These funds are meant to aid schools in purchasing necessary supplies to safely re-open, and keep our schools open. This is a work in progress at the State level and final amounts have not been disclosed to schools and will most likely not be awarded until late October.
- 13. What will the protocol look like for monitoring and enforcing the social distancing guidelines with the younger kids?
 - a. We are looking into some fun ways to help our youngest Falcons understand the importance of Social Distancing. We have seen the use of hula hoops and pool noodles and will most likely adopt some practices like that.

Temperature and Well-Checks

- 14. Why are you letting kids come in the building and then taking their temperatures? Why is the nurse scheduled from 10-2 and not when students are coming to school?
 - a. After meeting with the Task Force and reviewing a number of scenarios we have decided that taking temperatures at the homeroom door prior to entering the classroom was the best option. First, this process allows us to avoid bottleneaking of traffic in our parking lot and get everyone into the building safely. Second, this process allows each teacher to be in their homeroom monitoring students until the first bell rings instead of requiring teachers to be outside the building in order to take temperatures. Finally, this method prevents a large group of kids standing together waiting to have their temperatures taken, both for physical distancing purposes and in the event of inclement weather.
 - b. Our funding only allows for us to have a paid health aide from 10a-2p. We are asking for qualified volunteers from our school and Parish family to help us cover the times of 8a-10a and 2p-3:30p. If you are interested in applying to be a part of this rotating schedule please contact Stephanie Sykes at srh7578@yahoo.com.

If an Individual Tests Positive for COVID-19 and General Sick Policies

15. If a student tests positive, what happens to the classmates and teacher in that classroom?

Will we be notified? If a sibling of a classmate tests positive, are we notified?

- a. We are following the guidelines of the Summit County Department of Public Health. The SCPH will provide all contact tracing, and will notify families if anyone came into direct contact with a COVID-19-positive individual while at St. Francis de Sales.
 - b. Close Contact is defined as an individual within six-feet for more than 15 consecutive minutes with someone who tests positive for COVID-19.
 - c. A Covid positive sibling in another classroom would cause the sibling in your child's classroom to be quarantined but no other members of the class since they would not be considered a close contact.
 - d. In order to help with contact tracing we have decided to have students remain in their Homeroom Cohort for most of the day. Additionally, very specific seating charts will be kept on a two week basis in both classrooms and the cafeteria. We will work promptly and closely with the County Health Department in contact tracing.
 - e. At this time, the Diocese of Cleveland is recommending to school administrators that the school not send home paperwork to other children's families like we do in the event of Head Lice or Hand, Foot and Mouth. This is due to the fact that the County Health Department is providing this notification.
 - f. Those individuals who are contacted by the Summit County Public Health Department will need to quarantine for the recommended amount of time. Quarantined students will still be able to participate in Simultaneous Learning if they have no symptoms or mild symptoms. We have also provided [this link](#) to help families better understand quarantining procedures.
16. What happens if the teacher tests positive for COVID-19?
- a. A teacher who tests positive will follow the quarantine guidelines of the CDC and Summit County Public Health. A substitute will be provided for the class. We will work with Summit County Public Health to assist in identification of any close contacts in the school.
17. If a child is kept home due to any type of symptoms associated with COVID, will they have to have a negative COVID test prior to returning?
- a. Not at this time. Summit County Public Health has shared that tests, while helpful, also are just a point in time test, meaning that someone could test negative today but possibly positive tomorrow. Symptoms must be the main indicator of what you need to consider regarding when your child can return to school. When you call off your student, you will be asked to be specific regarding

why they will be absent. You should monitor your child for symptoms and only send them back to school when those symptoms are no longer present. This is the CDC recommendations for being around others again after illness: “3 days with no fever AND 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND Other symptoms have improved”. Our school, in cooperation with the Diocese of Cleveland, will share any specific requirements for return to school from Covid symptoms with you in the near future.

18. If a child is sent home with a fever or stays home due to illness, what will be your requirements for the child to return to school?
- a. A student must be fever free for 72 hours, without the aid of over-the-counter medicine, as well as symptom free for 10 days before returning to school. If families would like to send their child back to school before the 10 day window is cleared they must provide a doctor’s note stating that fever and accompanying symptoms were caused by something other than COVID-19.

Simultaneous Learning and Technology

19. If we opt to send our child first quarter, can we change to Simultaneous Learning if circumstances change such as increased cases, a child becomes anxious, or other concerns?
- a. Though we are asking for a quarter-by-quarter commitment from families in order to help our staff adequately plan and keep accurate records, we are always willing to do what is best for our families on an individual basis. If this situation occurs please contact Mrs. Dougherty as soon as practical to discuss what the options could be. The decision to participate in SL must be consistent per family; we are not in a position to have one sibling in the building and another sibling participating in Simultaneous Learning.
20. If we decide to keep the kids home we can send them a later quarter right?
- a. Yes, SL commitments will take place on a quarterly basis.
21. We are leaning towards online for the fall but I’m concerned about the Simultaneous Learning. Seven hours at a computer is unrealistic for student learning. I will have to wait and see what the video example looks like.
- a. Families who opt into Simultaneous Learning (SL) will not be required to be logged on for the full school day. Requirements for SL will look different at each grade level. Though you are receiving a demonstration video today of what SL will look like, we are still working through requirements for each grade level. For example, it might be that students in grades PS-4 are only required to be logged on for Math and ELA/Reading Classes and some center time whereas students in grades 5-8 will be required to be present for all core classes(which includes

Religion). Our Curriculum and Instruction Task Force members will be working on all of our scheduling and will have more specific information out to you prior to August 19 for your decision making purposes. The Diocese is assisting schools in creating policies and procedures for simultaneous learners. At this time, we know that students will need to be in their school uniform, seated at a desk or table, and attendance will be taken.

22. I have three boys. How will they all be online “in class” for the simultaneous learning and will the class then hear and see everything in my house?
 - a. Each family is welcome to organize their SL in a way that works best for their family as long as students meet the guidelines listed above (i.e., wearing a school uniform, sitting at a desk or table, and present for all required classes). We encourage you to find locations in your home that are suitable for the ages of each child in your family, as well as away from household distractions. These locations might look different depending on the ages of your children.
 - b. If a family who opts into SL discovers that they are having difficulty with internet service/speed or school devices we urge you to contact Mrs. Dougherty and your child’s homeroom teacher as soon as practical, so we can find ways to troubleshoot and help. The school has been working diligently this summer to ensure that all wiring and cabling in the building will provide solid connectivity on our end. As well, student devices have been purchased and updated to ensure that students have reliable access to SL.
23. Are computers or tablets provided for each child in the family?
 - a. All students in grades 2-8 will be provided with a school issued device. Families who are in need of devices for PS-1 students should contact the school and the remainder of the devices owned by the school will be distributed to those who need it on a first come, first serve basis.
24. If a family opts into synchronous learning, will there be any opportunity for the students of that family to physically come to school (such as any special presentations or occasions)?
 - a. At this time we are planning for any large gatherings such as special presentations and occasions to happen virtually. We are acting with a tremendous amount of caution when planning special events. These policies will be consistently revisited throughout the year.
25. Will the simultaneous learning that occurs be recorded if there are circumstances that occur that the family could not access during the time of the learning? If a child in K-1 had to stay home due to COVID related illness or the family had to quarantine would technology be provided for that student or would worksheets be sent home?
 - a. At this time, the Diocese of Cleveland has mandated that SL lessons not be recorded. However, we are willing to work with families on a case by case basis

to develop solutions for special circumstances where needed. Technology for our PS-1 students can be requested and signed-out on an as-needed basis; it will be provided if the school has the resources to do so.

26. Will remote learning occur on days when the building is too hot due to the heat or will there be a building closure as in the past?
- a. We do have calamity days built into our schedule to cover closure due to inclement weather so that we do not need to facilitate distance learning on those days. However, if we exceed those days we will utilize distance learning to reach our students academically.

Facial Coverings

27. If a class has enough room to maintain six-feet of space, can masks be eliminated while in class?
- a. Staff will build in breaks for each group of students to remove the masks when it is safe. Breaks will be monitored by the teacher and will only occur when students can achieve a safe distance of six feet. At this time, we will not eliminate our mask policy in the classroom, but will continue to review the policy regularly.
28. Can my 2nd grader wear her mask all day and be encouraged to do so?
- a. Yes. Summit County Public Health, The Ohio Department of Health, and the CDC all recommend that if students younger than 3rd grade can wear a mask, they should. While we are not requiring this for our youngest students, if parents would like their child to wear a mask, please let their teacher know at the onset of the school year.
29. What if they arrive and don't have a mask?
- a. We will have a limited supply of disposable masks on hand for any student in this situation. If you would like to donate a box of disposable masks for this supply, please let Mrs. Dougherty know.
30. What occurs if my child decides to take their mask off or pull down in class due to being hot or breathing?
- a. Our staff recognize how challenging mask wearing can be. We are fully aware that students may need a break from a mask. We will be addressing this with our students immediately, and discussing the proper procedures to request breaks and where those breaks can occur. If a teacher notices a student removing their masks they will need to assess that situation individually based on the child; e.g., if we need to re-teach the procedures, if the teacher needs to offer the student a break, if the student needs to clean hands and switch to their second mask, etc. We will of course be gentle and loving, and use these opportunities as teachable moments.

31. Are they required to have a mask to attend? I'm hearing these are recommendations from the state but not a law.
- a. Each school has the ability to develop their own mask policy based on the recommendations. Just like other policies that schools implement, these become what needs to be followed in our building for students to attend. As stated in our Phase I roll-out, this policy will be reviewed regularly and adjusted where and when appropriate.
32. Would part of the phase-in plan be to require masks on all of parish property? Part of the social responsibility and habit making of safe pandemic behaviors.
- a. Though there are members of the Parish staff working on our Task Force we currently are only working on solidifying, and implementing, plans for our Parish School families. As with all things, we encourage everyone to follow the guidelines but cannot monitor what families choose outside of school hours.
33. With the potential of smaller class sizes due to some parents choosing the at home option, will the students be able to take their masks off while in class if they are seated in their seats six feet apart?
- a. We will start the school year maintaining the Gold Standard of face coverings as outlined in the PowerPoint, wearing face masks all of the time except during lunch and recess. The Task Force will continue to review numbers of cases in our school and county and modify decisions on mask-wearing accordingly. Layering methods of protection (masks + distance + sanitation) are the best means to keep our students and staff safe. If we remove a layer the risk increases.
34. How will comforting of the younger kids such as preschool and pre-K students be handled? For example, concerns about being able to connect with the kids going through difficult periods without the same level of facial expression, etc.
- a. Staff will be working closely with our School Counselor, Miss Schneider, to meet the Social and Emotional needs of our students. The small size of our school is beneficial in that teachers will still be working with small groups of students and be able to form good relationships with their students. Additionally, the school has purchased clear face masks, which will enable students to see the facial expressions of their teachers.

Sanitation

35. How will students' hand washing be monitored throughout the day?
- a. Our goal is to train our students well in this practice and also to come up with developmentally appropriate and fun means to ensure they have washed their hands. (ie: Teachers may place stamps on students' hands and they will need to wash until stamps are gone) There will be some breaks that are only for

handwashing and will be monitored by an adult directly. Hand sanitizers will also be used regularly in the classrooms.

36. Why is the recess equipment being used at this critical COVID-19 spreading stage?
- a. Students need physical activities and mental breaks during the school day. It is of utmost importance to allow our students to have some normal kid behaviors. Summit County Public Health, Ohio Department of Health, and the CDC have all shared that surface transmission is not the primary mode of transmission of Covid 19. We will have students sanitizing their hands prior to exiting the building to recess and upon entering the building from recess. Students will be trained in how to safely participate in recess activities. We will be cleaning equipment between Cohort groups of students. We also hope, with the help of volunteers, to come up with non-equipment, physical distance games and activities to keep our students safely engaged at recess.
37. How specifically will learning be decreased due to sanitization as stated in the plan and how will the curriculum be prioritized?
- a. As our students and staff get into the habits of more frequent breaks for handwashing and sanitizing, instruction of proper practice and procedure, and frequent sanitizing of desks and classroom materials throughout the day, some instructional time will be lost. Curriculum and instruction, and meeting all standards at each grade level are a top priority, and we believe that once students and staff are properly trained and routines are developed, the loss of time will decrease. In general, even outside of this current pandemic, we are always researching and continuing to develop means to maximize our instructional time and make our learning effective. Although the pandemic offers us a unique set of challenges, we are determined to teach and assess all grade-level standards for all our students this year.

Bussing

38. Will students be able to get bussing from the districts in which they live?
- a. Bussing is dependent upon the decisions of our local districts. We have not yet received a plan from each individual bus garage. We do know, however, that each district that bussed our students last year plans to bus our students again. We encourage all parents to contact the bus garage of the district within which you live for more information.
39. If there is no bussing this year, will parents be able to walk their children into the school? Otherwise there may be a huge bottleneck of traffic into Deiderich Lane.
- a. Each district that bussed our students last year plans to bus our students again. Thus, we do not anticipate a significant increase in traffic into Deiderich Lane.

Lunch, Recess, Snacks, and Before and After Care

40. If the student is bringing their own lunch, where will it be kept?
 - a. All lunch crates are being eliminated. Students will keep their lunches in their book bags until lunchtime.
41. Will students be having snacks during the day?
 - a. Students will still be permitted to have their class snack and snacks will be stored in each child's book bag until it is snack time. If students want to send in a birthday treat, it will need to be pre-packaged. Please consider non-food birthday treats and know that students will no longer be permitted to travel from classroom to classroom to deliver birthday treats to additional staff.
42. The PowerPoint mentioned before and after care but no details. Will that be offered this year? What are the details? If offering, when will we be able to sign up? That information will be critical in making plans.
 - a. Before and after care will take place this year. In order for us to properly plan to have enough staff on-hand, we are asking that each Sunday, families notify us as to what days they will need before and after care for the coming week. Electronic forms will be provided closer to the start of school

Mass

43. How many children would be attending Mass at one time? How would they be seated? How would Communion be safely distributed? Will the church be cleaned prior to the Mass? Will students be required to wear Mass attire on Fridays?
 - a. Our Parish has been hosting Mass publicly since the weekend of May 31st. Specific seating and sanitation practices have been successful since that date. The final decisions regarding our School Mass plans have not been finalized. We will most likely be sending our students by Cohort B to mass and maintaining distance. Our Priest and Eucharistic Ministers are well trained in and have been practicing safe distribution of the Eucharist for that last several months. Students will be taught the procedures for receiving Jesus at school. The students remaining in the school will have planned activities to participate in the daily Mass during that time as well. Sanitation of the church is a regular occurrence after each Mass, and will happen for our School Mass.
44. Is the gym going to still be open to the public for Mass during the weekend?
 - a. The gym was only opened for Mass the weekend of May 31st. It has not been used as an additional site since then, and there are no plans for that to happen, currently.

Miscellaneous

45. Although my twins are typically in separate homerooms, for this year I think it is best to keep them in the same cohort/homeroom to lessen the chances of being exposed. Is this possible for this year given the circumstance?
- a. Yes, all twins will be placed in the same Homeroom Cohort. We intend for this to be for the 2020-2021 academic year only.
46. What will happen with instruction if school is shut down periodically due to infection outbreak or due to a county or state mandate? How will things be different under this scenario than in the Spring?
- a. In the event that we are required to be fully remote for any reason our staff will still be reporting to school to teach from their classrooms. Each distance learning model employed by staff will vary based on grade level and age of students. Staff was provided with a myriad of Professional Learning opportunities for the Summer months and were allowed to choose what fit them best. Additionally, teachers will be reporting to school on August 19 and throughout the weeks leading up to our new start date in order to plan together and find ways to consistently roll out curriculum.

We are still in discussions with staff regarding what worked during the Spring semester and what needed to be improved regarding distance learning. We will be solidifying what fully remote learning will look like this year, and will have that information to you sometime in August.