



SAINT JOHN the EVANGELIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL

111 JOHN E. MANN STREET, WARRENTON, VA 20186

SJES Health Plan Overview 2021-2022

Mission Statement

Saint John the Evangelist Catholic School provides a Christ-centered atmosphere that recognizes the God-given gifts inherent within each child on the journey toward spiritual and academic excellence.

Philosophy of Learning

Saint John the Evangelist School integrates Catholic teachings and virtues throughout our school culture. We foster a challenging and inclusive academic program addressing the diverse needs of students. In partnership with families and the parish community, we encourage students to serve others while growing in the image of Christ.

A framework for making decisions regarding our approach to opening for the 2021-2022 school year was published on July 21, 2021 in Interim Guidance for Covid-19 Prevention in Virginia PreK-12 Schools from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). The guidance document, along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, Office of Catholic Schools, and the local health department.

The guiding principles formed by the VDH in July 2021 recognize that:

- Students benefit from in-person learning
- We must put education first
- Implement preventative measures (coordinate closely with OCS/local health department)
- Be flexible and innovative

For the 2021-2022 school year, the Commonwealth of Virginia has provided schools increased latitude in developing mitigation plans that meet the needs of their specific communities. The following plan has been formed by the guidance provided by the Virginia Department of Health, the Virginia Department of Education, and the Diocese of Arlington.



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Introduction

Saint John the Evangelist Catholic School (SJES) will open on Wednesday, August 25, 2021. Saint John the Evangelist Preschool (SJPS) will also open full-time for in-person instruction on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. Our school continues to receive guidance and feedback from our local health department as well as the Office of Catholic Schools. We remain confident that we are serving our school community as effectively as possible while continuing to take precautions due to the COVID-19 virus and the Delta Variant. Below is a summary of the policies and procedures we are implementing for the 2021-2022 school year.

Instructional Plan: Regular morning drop-off will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. Classrooms will open at 7:45 a.m. Carpool for dismissal will begin at 3:00 p.m. Days when there is an Early Dismissal carpool will begin at 11:30 a.m. As Saint John's Design for Excellence (DFE) re-accreditation process concluded this past school year there will be significantly fewer Early Dismissals this year. We will return to school-wide weekly mass on Fridays at 8:30 a.m.

Health and Safety: Any scenario in which many people gather might pose risks for COVID-19 and the Delta Variant transmission. Transmission from an individual with mild or no apparent symptoms does remain a risk. Our school continues to take a number of actions to help lower the risk of COVID-19 and the Delta Variant exposure while school is in session.

SJES & SJPS will continue to implement strategies for maintaining a healthy environment, encouraging behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19 and the Delta Variant, maintaining healthy operations, and effectively responding when someone becomes ill. These strategies include spacing (a minimum of 3 feet) in all classrooms to minimize exposure. Masks will be optional for all pre-K-8th grade students and adults. The school personnel will continue to use effective cleaning and hygiene practices. We will manage suspected, presumptive or confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 and the Delta Variant as needed. Staff members and school families should continue with health screenings before coming to school daily. All students and staff are encouraged to wash their hands with soap or hand sanitizer before and after eating lunch. Staff will continue to provide opportunities for students to wash their hands throughout the day. The Health and Wellness Coordinator will reinforce best health and hygiene practices with the students. Hand sanitizer dispensers and sinks are available in all classrooms and in various locations throughout the building.



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At this time, masks/face coverings are optional for all pre-K-8th grade students and faculty/staff. Individuals may opt to use face coverings or a mask at any time. This policy will be reviewed weekly to determine if revisions are necessary. If a student presents with possible symptoms related to COVID or other airborne illnesses a decision may be made to require the use of a face mask until a parent or guardian can pick the student up from school.

Summarized Planning

General Training and Communication: The Health Plan Overview will be shared with faculty and staff. The principal and preschool director will continue to communicate regularly with our school community. Information will be communicated through email and/or School Messenger.

Food Service/Handling: Students will eat lunch in Trinity Hall. Recess will be outside weather permitting. We will continue to offer bought lunches through Campus Cuisine and milk service. Extended Day will provide an afternoon snack and drink to students in attendance; **Preschool does not participate in Campus Cuisine or milk service. Currently, Preschool parents are to provide a nutritious pre-packed snack and drink from home. Those staying for Extended Day will bring a packed lunch from home.**

Gatherings and Mass: We will return to our school-wide mass on Fridays at 8:30 a.m. The preschool will attend once per month on Wednesday or Thursday.

Classrooms: SJES classrooms at this time will maintain spacing of 3 feet between students. Due to the current Department of Social Services (DSS) guidelines, Preschool will cap their preschool students at 12 students per class and their pre-k students at 14 students per class. All grades will maintain at least 3 feet of distance between students.

Daily Start and Finish Times, and Daily Schedules: Regular morning drop off begins at 7:35 a.m. Student arrivals after 7:45 a.m. report directly to their homerooms. Those that arrive between 7:35 a.m. and 7:45 a.m. will remain in Trinity Hall with Morning Care supervision. SJES dismissal begins at 3:00 p.m. and ends approximately between 3:15-3:20 p.m. Designated faculty will monitor the hallway and parking lot during the time of dismissal. Our placard system remains in place. Refer to carpool procedures in the handbook and distributed via email from the school office for further information.



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SJPS dismissal will start at 11:30 a.m. on a regular day and at 11:50 a.m. on days when SJES has an 11:30 a.m. dismissal. SJPS will inform families when there is to be an 11:50 a.m. dismissal. The Preschool placard system also remains in place and staff will escort students to their vehicles.

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL): SJES/SJPS will attend first and foremost to the social/emotional needs of students. Administration, front office staff, and our school Health and Wellness Coordinator will be available to meet individual needs that arise.

Teaching and Learning: Teachers will review data collaboratively for student progress and use this information to plan for instruction. Teachers will refer to diocesan curriculum monitoring sheets and use assessments to guide instruction to master objectives.

Traditional Face to Face Instruction: SJES/SJPS will remain current on the latest guidelines and continue to seek advice/guidance from the local health department, the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, Virginia Department of Education, and the CDC to ensure student safety while we continue in-person learning. All current information is guidance. Mandates or directives have yet to be provided by the CDC, state, or Office of Catholic Schools. Each individual school is asked to implement procedures that best fit their school community.

Distance Learning (if necessary)- Distance learning is no longer an option for our school families. With that said, should a student(s) need to isolate or quarantine, they will complete assignments independently from home.

*If phase restrictions require a shutdown, we will transition to remote learning online through Google Classroom, Google Meet, and ZOOM. An online schedule will be implemented and details will be shared.

Grading and Assessment: SJES will continue to implement the following school and Diocesan assessments. SJES and SJPS will utilize the standardized assessments as directed by the Office of Catholic Schools. Ongoing formative and summative assessments will continue to be provided to students on-site. As evidenced throughout the shutdown, our faculty and staff will continue to be flexible and reasonable should e-learning become necessary. In all scenarios, teachers will be evaluating the students in all subjects and standards. Please note that Diocesan deadlines will need to be honored.



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Extended Day: Extended day will follow the Childcare/Preschool guidelines issued by the Department of Social Services (DSS) found here:

<https://www.dss.virginia.gov/cc/covid-19.html>. Further information regarding Extended Day Programs will be communicated by our Preschool and Extended Day Director.

- Morning Care at the Elementary building will be reinstated
- Preschool Morning Care will also return to normal
- Elementary Extended Day will start from 3:20 p.m. and go until 6:00 p.m. everyday
- Preschool Extended Day will start at 11:30 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. on Mondays. Tuesday through Friday the program will end at 6:00 p.m.

Please Note: School health policies and procedures may continue to change throughout the school year based on guidelines provided to our school by the Fauquier County Health Department, the Virginia Department of Health, the CDC, and the Catholic Diocese of Arlington. SJES/SJPS will comply with directives from the Office of Catholic Schools. The school will communicate these changes to our families in a timely manner. We remain grateful for your patience, cooperation, and understanding.

Sincerely,

Mr. Temple W. Macdonald

Saint John the Evangelist Catholic School provides a Christ-centered atmosphere that recognizes the God-given gifts inherent within each child on the journey toward spiritual and academic excellence.