



August 9, 2021

Parents of grades prek - 8th,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year at St. John's! Your teachers are excited about the upcoming year and are ready to provide a quality, Christ-centered education that allows your child to grow in the various abilities that God has given. We will be celebrating our 50th year. 1971-2021 The theme "From Generation to Generation" is based on Psalm 78, "so the next generation would know them..and they in turn would tell their children."

The past 16 months have been a trial, not just for St. John's, but for everyone all over the world. We will likely never know why God decided to test us in such a way, especially those who lost livelihoods, health, and even loved ones. However, we continue to steadfastly trust our good and gracious Father in heaven; he has our best interests at heart and the power to see his plan realized!

Solid evidence exists that schools were one of the healthiest, safest places, even when infection numbers were at their peak. Despite the varying degrees of mitigation efforts that different schools and districts implemented, the overall theme was that community spread within school buildings did not often occur. Because of these experiences, the decision has been made to begin the 2021-2022 school year under less stringent policies.

The following document outlines the COVID-19 policies that will be in place when St. John's students return to school. If the relaxed protocols at St. Johns coincide with a significant increase in COVID-19 transmission, then we reserve the right to amend this plan as deemed necessary.

St. Johns YDC

Patriots Return Plan 2021-2022

St. John's, Nodine COVID-19 Rules and Procedures (8/7/2021)

DISCLAIMER: Any rules and procedures that follow are subject to change throughout the year based on changing scientific evidence, government guidance or mandates, and the like. Updates made to this document will be dated and highlighted for everyone to see.

General Points of Information

- We will plan for on-site instruction, 5 days per week.
- We will continue to follow effective cleaning and disinfecting procedures.
- Any individual PreK-8 student quarantine does not necessarily dictate an entire classroom or school closure.
- Students, teachers, and family members may contract COVID-19. We will implement reasonable and feasible safety protocols and procedures so we can do our part to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and make our school a safe place for our students and teachers.

Family Education

- Anyone with COVID-19 or living in the same house with someone who has tested positive to COVID-19 needs to stay home for a period of time.
- St. John's will reference Winona County Health Guidelines.
- The most prevalent COVID-19 symptoms in children tend to be mild and cold-like and may include fever, runny nose, cough, fatigue, aches, vomiting, and diarrhea.
- Students and staff should stay home if they have any signs of sickness, especially those which are known COVID-19 symptoms.
- It is up to the discretion of the school to send home a sick student.
- Before sending your child to school each day, please assess your child's health in the following ways:
 - a. Please check your child's temperature using an infrared thermometer.
 - b. If you would answer **YES** to **ANY** of the following statements below, please do not send your child to school.
 - c. **Screening Questions**
 1. My child has, or has had a temperature over 100.4°F in the past 24 hours.
 2. My child has, or has had potential symptoms of COVID-19, such as excessive or persistent coughing, shortness of breath, vomiting, diarrhea in the past 24 hours.
 3. I have given my child medication to lower his/her temperature in the past 24 hours.
 4. Someone in my household has COVID-19.
 5. I know my child has been exposed to or was in contact with someone who has COVID-19 in the last 48 hours.

Busing

- Any students who ride the bus to school must follow all guidelines set forth by the bus company.

Student Entry to the Building - before school procedures

- Students are allowed to begin entering the building at the usual time. They should go directly into their classrooms.
- Students who are sent home with a fever must be fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medications for 24 hours before returning to school, per CDC and Winona County Health guidelines.
- Each school staff member will self-screen on a daily basis according to the 5 statements on the previous page.

School Visitors

- Volunteers will again be welcome into classrooms this year; however, all volunteers should be sure to self-screen according to the Daily Monitoring Checklist.
- Visitors to the classrooms during the day will be allowed but must give prior notice to the classroom teacher and check in at the office upon arrival; if visitors are ill, they should not enter the school.

Cleaning Procedures

- Teachers will make sure the following are done each day:
 - All door handles and light switches will be disinfected.
 - All student desks will be cleaned and sanitized.
 - All high touch places in the restrooms will be cleaned and sanitized.
- High-touch surfaces will be disinfected throughout the day.
- Disinfectant wipes will be in the classrooms for teachers and students to use throughout the day.

Student Education

- Teachers will teach and enforce proper handwashing.
- Students will be taught the reasons why you should not share water bottles. They are to go home regularly to be washed.
- Students will not be allowed to share snacks.
- Teachers will emphasize the importance of personal space.

Student Groupings and Spacing

- Multi-grade recess will resume as it has been in the past.

Vaccinations

- Currently, children 12 and older are eligible to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination.
- Families should decide individually if the vaccine is an option for their children if they are eligible.

- St. John's will not require vaccination for students or staff; if, in the future, the COVID-19 vaccine is added to the list of required vaccinations for schools in Minnesota, it will be subject to the same rules and exemptions as all other required vaccinations.

Face Coverings/Masks

- Mask usage throughout the day by staff and students will be a personal or family decision.
- If masks will be used, they need to be appropriate and not distracting.

Positive Test Quarantine/Close Contact

- If a student tests positive for COVID-19, he or she will need to isolate at home.
 - 10-day isolation from onset of symptoms/positive test
 - Students may return to school after 10 days if they have been fever-free without medication for at least 24 hours and their other symptoms are improving or gone.
- Siblings/family members of anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 will need to quarantine at home for the appropriate period of time.
 - 10-day quarantine from last close contact.
 - Students/staff may return to school on Day 11 if they have no symptoms.
 - Students/staff may return to school on Day 7 if they have no symptoms and receive a negative test result.
- Regardless of vaccination status, all will be asked to follow these isolation/quarantine protocols
- St. John's will not quarantine entire classrooms or the entire school unless it is deemed necessary due to obvious community spread within the school building.
- Students who are a close-contact of a positive case from a non-household member and are symptom free can attend school while closely monitoring symptoms.

Lunch

- K-4 Students will eat lunch with their grade level in the APR.
- 5-8 Students will eat lunch in their classrooms at their desks.
- Hot lunch through school will still be available. Lunch staff will continue to maintain exemplary hygiene standards when serving food.
- Students will not be allowed to share food with each other.

Chapel

- Chapel will continue to be held once a month.
- All students will have chapel together in the church sanctuary.

Dismissal Procedures

- Students will be dismissed using the school PA system
- Students should wait in their classrooms
- Bus students will be dismissed first.
- Parent drive students and walkers will be excused after busses have left. Parents picking up their children should either wait for their children in their vehicles or enter the building and wait in the entry.

Chromebooks

- We praise God that this year every K-8 classroom will have their own set of Chromebooks. Students will not be sharing with other groups. This will ensure that the device your child is using is safe and clean.

School Supplies

- Students may bring a water bottle to school, which may be filled up at the water bottle filling station.
- Drinking fountains will be operational this year, so students do not NEED water bottles.
- Students should not share their personal items throughout the day (pencils, markers, crayons, glue, etc.).
- In general, the sharing of school supplies among students will be limited. If any supplies, materials, or items from school would be shared among students.
- Handwashing stations or hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom.

Music

- Classrooms will be scheduled to sing in church as in the past; the singing schedule will be available to parents.
- 3rd - 5th and 6th - 8th will have music classes.
- Piano Lessons - Mrs. Lindemann is planning to have piano lessons this school year.
- Band - Luther grade school band program will be giving lessons.

Extracurriculars and School Activities

- The Lacrosse Area Lutheran Schools Athletic Conference (LALSAC) will be making decisions for all sports during the 2021-22 school year. Mr. Hengveld will be communicating those decisions with the appropriate families. At this time, cross country and volleyball will proceed as normal.
- All decisions regarding non-athletic after-school activities (Science and Fine Arts Fairs, Harvest Fest, etc.) will be considered individually and communicated when necessary.
- All decisions regarding activities that may occur during the school day (Grandparents' Day, etc.) will be considered individually and communicated when necessary.

Miscellaneous

- Efforts will be made to increase the amount of outside air being brought into the building.
- Field trips will occur as in the past at the discretion of the classroom teachers and the principal.
- Birthday treats may be brought to school as in the past.

We thank parents for their support, trust, and partnership in the Christian education offered at St. John's. Please reach out to us with any questions, comments, or concerns as we move through the school year. May our Lord who promises that "Dedicate a child to the way he should go, and even when he becomes old, he will not turn away from it." (Proverbs 22:6) continue to bless each of you, your families, and our school as we work together to carry out our mission of equipping children of Jesus for this life and the life to come in the 2021-2022 school year!