



**Saint Aloysius Elementary Academy:
Reopening FAQ for Families**

Parents & Guardian:

I know that you have many questions about the start of the school year. I know that I am new this year, but I could assure you that I am very transparent in making decisions from input from all our stake holders to do what is best for our school community. We have been working diligently during the summer with the Archdiocese, local state and health officials, and a task force of teachers to navigate this new normal. We have outlined many of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) below to provide you with some important details regarding our plans for reopening in September. Specific policies will be sent out in the weeks ahead. As always, any plans are subject to change and must remain dynamic to account for any updates coming from state, local, or Archdiocesan authorities.

We are proud of the progress we have done and know you can count on us to continue to provide the best educational services for your child in a safe and nurturing environment. We appreciate your support and confidence as we will continue to work together to do what is best for our students, faculty, and staff.

Blessings,

Mr. Jorge L. Rivera

Principal

Fundamental Principles of our Reopening Plan



BUILDING LAYOUT

In order to keep the social distancing protocols, we have adjusted pick-up and drop-off procedures, routes within the school building, etc. Signage and tape on the floors will be used to assist clarity in traffic flow.



MASKS

All individuals will be required to wear a mask at all times.



TEMPERATURE CHECKS

Parents should take the temperatures of their children daily. Temperature checks will also occur as students enter the school building every day and throughout the day, to ensure that no student or staff member develops a fever and we could act accordingly.



INFECTION PROTOCOLS

Our plan provides for clear guidance on how to address individuals with COVID-19 symptoms and/or positive COVID-19 tests.

We have written this plan but are awaiting Archdiocesan approval before its publishing. It will be out to families as soon as possible.



REMOTE LEARNING OPTION

Families who are not ready to return to school will have a remote learning option. We are here to make sure everyone is comfortable in their learning experience.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) For Parents/Guardians Regarding the Reopening of Schools

We know that parents have many questions about the start of school year. In this document, we have outlined many of the frequently asked questions (FAQ) from parents about our reopening plan. These questions are divided up into four sections, each addressing a separate aspect of the reopening process. The categories are:

1. **Health and Safety:** General health and safety questions, such as social distancing, masks, and facility cleaning.
2. **Academics and Programming:** Questions related to how classes will be taught. This section also includes information on school events (such as Masses or assemblies) and extracurricular activities.
3. **Infection Protocols:** How we will handle instances where students or employees become ill.

We have written this plan out but are awaiting Archdiocesan approval before its publishing. It will be out to families as soon as possible.
4. **Tuition:** Questions about tuition payments for the upcoming school year.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Q: What does “reopening our school” really mean?

A: Gathering as a school community is an integral part of what makes Saint Aloysius Elementary Academy so special. Our plan is to reopen our school with 2 options, face-to-face instruction, and remote learning this Fall. This means all students are welcome to return to classes for face-to-face instruction within their homeroom. Providing the two options will allow us to provide in-person instruction while allowing social distancing guidelines to reduce student population at any given time.

Q: What will the in-person school day look like?

A: Arrival and dismissal procedures will be adapted to use multiple entrance and exit doors by specific grade levels. Arrival time will be extended from 8 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. with set windows for grade levels to limit student congregating in large numbers. Classes will now end at 2:45 p.m. as we will stagger dismissal times until 3:15 p.m. through the same designated doorways. More details, policies, and plans will be provided as we get closer to the start of school.

Q: What will the distant learning day look like?

A: Live instruction will be taking place daily at every grade level. Students in especially grades 2-8 are expected to attend live classes from home. We understand that parent schedules may always not permit for this to happen, and that students may need breaks. For this reason, everything students need throughout the day will be posted to their Google classrooms as well as recordings of live classes from earlier. (Cameras will be mounted at the back of the classroom; privacy guidelines will be followed). Teachers will follow up with the students daily. More detailed policies and plans will be provided as we get closer to the start of school.

Q: Who decides when a school has met the requirements to reopen? When will this happen?

A: Our plan for reopening has been submitted to the Archdiocese for review and approval. We have been in regular contact with leadership about how to safely reopen the school. We are also following all federal, state, and local health guidelines to ensure any reopening is safe for our school community.

Q: Will students need to wear masks at school?

A: All individuals will be required to wear a mask at all times.

Q: Do I need to purchase masks for my child?

A: Yes. While we will have an inventory on hand at school, we are asking all parents to purchase masks for their child. Parents may opt to buy disposable or reusable masks. Disposable masks, each mask must be thrown away at the end of every school day and parents should send plenty of extra masks with their child. For reusable masks, masks should be cleaned after every use and parents should send at least one extra reusable mask to school. More information will come in the near future in regard to replenishing supplies.

Q: Can face shields be used instead of masks?

A: No. Face Shields cannot be used instead of masks but may be worn in addition to. We want each student to be safe during our face-to-face instruction.

Q: Will students be required to socially distance at school?

A: Yes. At Saint Aloysius Elementary Academy, our goal is to ensure that every student, teacher, and staff are always safe. We will enforce the social distancing policies as recommended by the CDC.

Q: Should I take my child's temperature every day before school?

A: Yes. A high fever is a key symptom of COVID-19. Parents should take their child's temperature everyday before their child is taken to school. If your child has a fever of over 100°F, your child should be kept home from school. Any child who arrives at school and registers a temperature of over 100°F, will be sent to an isolation room until a parent/guardian arrives (this will be a location away from the student body). You should contact your child's doctor and the school's main office. Similarly, you should ask your child if he or she has any of the other symptoms of COVID-19, such as a sore throat, coughing, or nausea. If your child complains of these symptoms, you should keep him/her home and contact your doctor and the main office.

Q: How will drop off and pick-up be handled?

A: We are adjusting our regular arrival and dismissal procedures to use various entrances and exits to minimize contact between students. Parents will be asked not to congregate near school doors. We will communicate specific drop off and pick-up procedures to you ahead of the start of school.

In addition, when students enter school every day, they will be asked to participate in four tasks. These are:

1. All students must be wearing a face covering and following all social distancing guidelines.
2. Student's will be asked if they are feeling well.
3. A temperature check, administered by a school employee (please note that parents should also take temperatures every day, as noted above).
4. Once admitted to the school building, students must use the hands-free sanitizer station at each entrance.

If a student has a temperature of 100°F or complains of any other COVID-19 symptoms, he/she will go into the isolated area to ensure they will not have interaction with any other students for the safety of all. This will be done discreetly as to not make the student feel singled out. Parents will be contacted and asked to pick up the child (see infection Protocol section for more information).

Q: What does the plan say about safety and cleanliness requirements for the school building?

A: Our plan includes very specific requirements for ongoing cleaning and sanitizing of our school building. Generally speaking, buildings will be cleaned very frequently, with a particular focus on high/traffic areas and common surfaces. Classroom ventilations will be addressed. We have prioritized securing additional cleaning supplies and sanitizing products in our budget.

Q: How will lunch take place when school reopens?

A: At this time to minimize any congregation of students in one particular area, they will have lunch in their classrooms (we are still devising a plan to have limited groups eat in the cafeteria, of course following social distancing protocols. This will be discussed further). Parents may opt to send lunch from

home or continue to have their child eat lunch from the school (grab-and-go, still finding solutions for this area).

Q: What about recess?

A: When possible we will still have recess outdoors, but on a modified schedule to maintain proper social distancing protocols. If recess is outdoors, masks may be removed but students must stay at least 6 feet apart (this will be once again be reviewed to ensure all students are safe and all proper guidelines are followed).

Q: Can I still volunteer at school?

A: To mitigate risk, access to the school building from any visitors will be strictly limited, so volunteering in any capacity is on hold.

Q: Will Before Care and After Care be available this year?

A: At this time, we will continue to discuss this service that some parents need, we at Saint Aloysius Elementary Academy have the students, teachers, and staff safety as our first priority. We will continue to devise different scenarios for this program.

Q: My child and/or another member of my household is in an at-risk group for COVID-19. Should I send my child to school?

A: Centers for Disease Control (CDC), has defined conditions in which certain people maybe more at-risk for severe illness through COVID-19. If your child or another member of your household is an at-risk group, we encourage you to speak to your doctor. Ultimately, you should decide whether it is safe for your child to attend school, a remote learning option is available for families that do not wish to return to the school building at this time (see next question).

Q: What do I do if I do not feel safe sending my child back to school?

A: We have taken every step to ensure the safety of students at Saint Aloysius Elementary Academy this Fall. However, we understand that some families still may not wish to return to face-to-face instruction. Some families may include individuals in at-risk groups for COVID-19, while others may feel uncertainty. As such we are developing a remote learning option, that will be available to any family that does not wish to return to the school building. Families will be given the choice to opt-in for distance learning only model at some time in August. You will remain responsible for your tuition contract. We are working to ensure that our remote learning model provides the high-quality education you expect from Saint Aloysius Elementary Academy.

Q: Is it okay for my family to travel out of the state during the Pandemic?

A: If travel is necessary, we encourage you to become familiar with the New Jersey's Department of Health travel guidelines. If you or a member of your household travel to another country or to another state that has a travel advisory for COVID-19, your child will be required to isolate from the school building for 14 days. Remote instruction will be provided during an isolation period.

Q: What happens if there is a COVID-19 surge in New Jersey, and the state imposes more restrictions on schools?

A: If a COVID-19 surge occurs, we will work closely with state officials to determine whether we can continue face-to-face instruction. If necessary, we will return to at-home remote instruction.

ACADEMICS AND PROGRAMMING

Q: Will my child's curriculum be changed this year?

A: Saint Aloysius Elementary Academy will still deliver high-quality instruction in core subjects (religion, language arts, math, science, and social studies). Special requirements will be in place for departmentalized classes and special area subjects (see sections below). The implementation of safety and health requirements (outlined earlier in this FAQ) will create new complexities in instruction, but our commitment remains to provide your child the best possible faith-based education.

Q: Will my child's classroom look different?

A: We have adjusted the layout of desks and tables in classrooms to meet social distancing guidelines, to maximize floor space, we will ask teachers to remove non-essential furniture, rugs, and other items. We will also ask that desks and end tables be arranged so that they face the front of the room.

Q: Will student's share school supplies?

A: No. Students will not share school supplies (e.g., books, crayons, technology, etc.), including for such subjects as art and music. We are trying to minimize the potential of cross contamination.

Q: I have a child in Preschool or Kindergarten. Is high-quality learning possible?

A: Yes. We will work very closely with our early education team to continue the best possible quality of instruction in Preschool and Kindergarten. While health and safety requirements are in place, our teachers will continue to work hard in the coming year to ensure your child grows intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually.

Q: Will students still change classes?

A: No. To protect everyone, students will not move to different classrooms in departmentalized settings. Instead, the teachers will rotate to the student's homeroom for instruction. The non-homeroom teacher should always remain 6 feet apart from students.

Q: Will school still offer classes in Special Subject areas (e.g., Art, Music, P.E., etc.)?

A: Yes. As with departmentalization, please see last question. Special subject area teachers will travel to each homeroom class for instruction whenever possible. This will particularly be for such subjects as Art, Music, and Spanish. Physical Education classes will be held outdoors when possible (weather permitting) and when not possible, a health course will be provided.

Q: Will tests still be given this school year?

A: Yes. It is important that we continue to gauge student academic growth throughout the school year as such, you should anticipate tests to be administered in your child's class.

Q: Will students participate in field trips?

A: Due to COVID-19 pandemic, we will not be scheduling in person field trips at this time. We may do some virtual trips (we will be in discussion about this).

Q: I need to meet with a teacher or my school principal. Can these meetings occur?

A: Yes. These meetings can take place virtually via phone or video chat.

Q: Can we still have meetings of stakeholder groups such as School Board, Home School Association?

A: Such meetings should take place virtually and in accordance with all local and state health guidelines as they change.

Q: How about school fund raisers and other gatherings?

A: At this point any events should be done virtually when possible and will be re-evaluated as necessary in accordance with local and state guidelines.

Q: Will school masses still take place?

A: The Archdiocese has defined a specific plan for parishes that allows the celebration of mass virtually. We will be asked to follow this plan, in close coordination with the Pastor and Parish, in determining how/whether Masses will be celebrated.

Q: How will extra-curricular activities be impacted this year?

A: We are working in accordance with all health guidelines and the Archdiocese to make decisions about all extra-curricular activities. Highlights of this guidance include (by activity):

- **Athletics** – We are awaiting further information from the state and Archdiocese regarding athletics. More information will be provided to parents as it is known.
- **School play, Christmas pageant, etc.** – Due to ongoing health concerns, such programs will be conducted virtually or cancelled for the upcoming school year (this will be discussed for final determination).

TUITION AND FEES

Q: Will school still collect tuition this year?

A: Yes. While this school year may look different, Saint Aloysius Elementary Academy will continue to provide a rigorous academic experience while supporting the moral and spiritual development of each student.

Q: I am having difficulty paying tuition, as my own workplace has been impacted by COVID-19. What do I do?

A: We know that some families may have difficulties paying tuition due to the loss of pay during workplace closures and will do our best to support those in need of assistance. If this is happening to you, please contact Mrs. Pena directly.

INFECTION PROTOCOLS

***We have written out this plan but are awaiting final approval from the Archdiocese before publishing. It will be available to parents as soon as possible. ***

If you have any other questions about the coming school year, please contact Mr. Rivera by email (jrivera@stalselem.org) I will respond to your email promptly. Thank you for your continued support and patience as we navigate this together.

Blessings,

Jorge Rivera
Principal