



It's a New Day at SSJ!

Dear SSJ Families,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well and enjoying some well-deserved relaxation and family fun time. We have been busy on campus processing enrollment, purchasing curriculum, giving the interior a bit of a face-lift, and preparing a re-opening plan for August.

We plan to be open for in-person, on-campus instruction, 5 full days a week, beginning in late August. We will continue to offer before and after-school Stay Care.

I received the guidance document from the Diocese of Orange for re-opening a school. The guidelines list "must implement" and "strongly encourage" actions based upon the guidance from the CDC and the state health department.

After consultation with professionals in various medical fields, our new clergy team, other educators, and parents of children young and old, we drafted a basic plan for SSJ. During these consultations and research sessions, our re-opening plan organically grew into an overall **Health and Safety Plan** (not just a plan to open the school doors after/during the pandemic) that involves two phases.

Phase One will be implemented now with the installation of a safety fence/gate system that would secure the campus. Historically, this has been a request from the parents and our new clergy team recognized the need and my sense of urgency to provide this measure of security.

To address the safety concerns of the pandemic, **Phase One** also includes the following facility enhancements, as well as new measures and protocols:

- **Introducing Learning Zones:** campus will be compartmentalized into multiple zones - zones will not interact - zones have separate entrances and exits with defined traffic patterns and flows.
- Active Screening for students and visitors - temperatures taken twice daily (upon arrival and before lunch).
- Mandatory PPE for teachers/staff.

- Students are highly encouraged to wear PPE (early childhood students excluded). We are exploring PPE options for students including branded masks, shields and gaiters (we continue to explore resources).
- Installation of water filling stations - no more drinking fountains!
- Installation of hands-free faucets, toilets, and foot pulls for the bathroom doors.
- Sanitation stations - at every exit/entrance to each zone.
- Classroom sanitation spots - each room will have hand sanitizer bottles and students will be required to sanitize their hands upon entry (at the minimum).
- Classroom moisturizing spots - to counteract the drying effects from hand sanitizer.
- Maintenance staff to clean high traffic touch areas multiple times throughout the day.
- Nightly deep cleaning with an industrial fogger by a professional company - campus WILL NOT be used by any other group once the school closes each day.
- Social distancing - we will cap each grade level at 50 - a grade will be split or moved into a larger room if the numbers require - desks will be spaced out (no more than 25 in an existing classroom).
- To better support physical distancing while allowing for social interaction, we will issue personal desk shields for every student (also known as sneeze guards). These clear "cubicles" are portable and will wrap 3/4 of the way around - for use on desks and tables.
- Use of an isolation room for any person exhibiting signs of COVID-19.
- Limited visitors and volunteers - must pass health checkpoints before allowed entry.
- Staggered lunch/recess times.
- Modified drop off and pick up procedures.
- Activities will take place outside as much as possible and communal spaces including Colman Hall and the Community Center will be repurposed as "learning spaces" as needed including full access and use of SSJ's grass field.

Phase One also includes intentional instruction on healthy hygiene and cleaning along with procedures for campus/classroom management to mitigate the spread of germs (all germs - not just COVID-19). Our campus and daily school routine will have a different "look" next year for everyone involved; students, teachers, and parents.

We have a comprehensive vision for a **Phase Two** that would include installing a state-of-the-art air filtration system. All of the actions of Phase One coupled with the addition of the Phase Two air filtration would create a healthy learning environment. The spread of the common cold, flu, and allergic reactions to airborne particles could be significantly mitigated by

the implementation of Phase Two. **Phase Two** would require a significant commitment of funds.

Next week, I will be hosting informational meetings for each of the **Learning Zones**. The schedule is as follows:

- 5-8th grade - Wednesday, July 22nd
- 1-4th grade - Thursday, July 23rd
- TYKE - Kinder - Friday, July 24th

All meetings will be held in the field (similar to mass) at 4:00 pm. A brief overview will be presented.

Yes, you do have to come to the meeting assigned to your grade level. Each Learning Zone will have distinct traffic patterns. Middle School students have different protocols that will only be discussed on the assigned day.

However, if you cannot attend your assigned meeting, it will be recorded and made available through YouTube.

A detailed plan will be published shortly on our website and will be provided to SSJ parents. This plan will discuss each of the bullet points listed in Phase One.

We will continue to be receptive and responsive to the information being provided by the various health organizations. **Our Health and Safety Plan may be adjusted or enhanced if the situation requires.** I apologize for this lengthy newsletter, but I hope it gives you the basics of what has been happening at SSJ and our direction for the new school year. Please remember that Rome was not built in a day, but we are on our way to a **new day at SSJ!**

We miss you all! Stay safe and healthy.