

**SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL  
RETURN TO SCHOOL**



**2020-2021  
Return to School  
Education Plan**

## Summary

Saint Joseph High School (SJHS) is looking forward to safely welcoming students to school on August 26. During this unprecedented time of change, we know that the 2020-2021 school year will look different and we are implementing health and safety measures to protect our students, staff, and families.

While we have comprehensive plans to support the return of all students, the final back to school decision will be driven by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Allegheny County Health Department guidelines and the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Saint Joseph High School will return to school this fall with two learning options for students: In-Person Instruction or Remote Learning. SJHS faculty will be teaching at the SJHS buildings. Any students choosing the remote learning option will be taught the exact curriculum and follow the exact schedule as those in the classroom.

Several factors contributed to both our Health and Safety and Education Plans:

- The commonwealth requires each school entity to create a Pandemic Crisis Response Team. This team is responsible for facilitating the local planning process, monitoring implementation of the Health & Safety Plan, and continued monitoring of local health data to assess implications for school operations and potential adjustments to the Health and Safety Plan throughout the school year.
  - SJHS formed a committee of six members representing faculty, administration, staff and building management. This committee created our Health & Safety and Return to School plans with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Allegheny County Health Department.
- The SJHS plan was approved the SJHS Board of Directors.
- The SJHS plan was approved by the Diocese of Pittsburgh.
- The feedback of parents/guardians from the SJHS Remote Learning and Return to School survey was considered while developing these plans.



The SJHS Return to School plan prioritizes the health and safety of students and staff while maximizing educational opportunities.

SJHS acknowledges that parents and guardians will have questions about the Health & Safety and Education Plans and will work to provide answers. Families, students, and staff will have the opportunity to submit questions via survey. SJHS will compile questions and update our FAQ page (website under “Information on COVID-19”).

The health and safety of SJHS students and staff is the top priority. SJHS encourage all members of the SJHS community to follow the safeguards outlined to help keep our community safe.

The circumstances related to COVID-19 evolve rapidly, and SJHS will update our plans frequently based on guidance from local, commonwealth, and national guidelines.



## 2020-2021 EDUCATION OPTIONS

Parents/guardians will select an enrollment plan that best fits their needs. This Return to School plan prioritizes the health and safety of students and staff while maximizing their educational opportunities. Parents/guardians will confirm an enrollment plan for their child(ren) by August 14, 2020. An additional survey will be emailed to parents/guardians. We realize that circumstances may change after August 14. If so, please contact the school at 724-224-5552.

### Option 1: Full-Time In-Person Instruction on SJHS Campus

With health and safety guidelines in place, students return to a traditional classroom setting when school resumes on August 27, 2020.

### Option 2: Remote/Live-Stream Learning

The SJHS remote learning goal is for students to learn via live stream instruction. Students will follow the same schedule as if in-person at SJHS in Option 1. Students will follow the same curriculum as in Option 1. Regarding curriculum specifications and requirements students will follow the same as in Option 1.

Education Options	
<b>Option 1: In-Person</b> Students attend school physically at SJHS. Students follow their typical 8 (M-Th) and 5 (F) period day. Students attend school 5 days a week.	<b>Option 2: Remote/Live-Stream Learning</b> Students receive remote/ live stream instruction from SJHS. Students follow their typical 8 (M-Th) and 5 (F) period day Students remotely attend school 5 days a week.



## Instructional Delivery Descriptions

Below are descriptions of instructional delivery for the 2020 -2021 school year. The following sections will provide detailed descriptions for both In-Person Instruction and Remote/Live-Stream Learning.

### In-Person Instruction

The In-Person Instruction delivery model is the traditional school setting that staff, students, and families are used to experiencing. During in-person instruction, students and staff will be face-to-face to allow for social interaction and real-time learning within the confines of the SJHS Health and Safety Plan.

### Remote/Live-Stream Instruction

Families may choose the Remote/Live-Stream Learning option. Student will receive remote/ live-stream instruction at the same time as peers in the classroom at SJHS. Students will utilize the “Google Classroom” platform.

Students learning remotely/live-stream are required to:

- Check-in to homeroom during homeroom period. If students do not check in student will be marked absent.
- Utilize their device camera to be “live” in the classroom with your face in view.
- Wear the typical school uniform top (button down shirt/sweater/blazer) or purchase the short or long sleeve blue SJHS tshirt.
- Follow their schedule and attend every class virtually.

SJHS Education Plan based on County Phase		
Allegheny County Green Phase	Allegheny County Yellow Phase	Allegheny County Red Phase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-person instruction.</li> <li>• Remote learning/Live-Stream.</li> </ul>	Remote learning.	Remote Learning.



## HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN OVERVIEW

SJHS submitted a Health and Safety Plan to the SJHS Board on July 24, 2020, and the plan was approved on July 26, 2020. On July 27, 2020 the plan was submitted to the Diocese of Pittsburgh. A full copy of the plan can be found on the SJHS website (from the home page click on the red button “Information on COVID-19”).

Below are the key health and safety updates that students, parents/guardians, faculty and staff should know before in-person instruction begins.

### Getting Ready for School Safely

- Before students come to school, parents/guardians will be responsible for monitoring students' health.

### When should I keep my child home from school?

Please keep your child home from school if they show any one or more of the following symptoms:

- Feel sick.
- Active vomiting or diarrhea.
- Fever (forehead (temporal) scanner 99.5°F or higher), chills or general body aches.
- Has shown any COVID-19 symptoms:
  - Fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, repeated shaking with chills, achiness, sore throat, and a new loss of taste or smell.



## When can my child return to school after illness?

### SYMPTOMS of COVID-19 (negative diagnosis)

- Stay home, self-isolate.
- Seek medical attention.
- Remain out of school until:
  - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared,
  - AND remain symptom free for at least 3 days (72 hours) define as resolution of fever without fever-reducing medications),
  - AND other symptoms have improved.
- Clearance from healthcare provider to return to school.

### RELATED to COVID-19 (positive diagnosis)

- Stay home, self-isolate.
- Seek medical attention.
- Remain out of school until:
  - At least 14 days have passed since symptoms first appeared,
  - AND remain symptom free for at least 3 days (72 hours) define as resolution of fever without fever-reducing medications,
  - AND other symptoms have improved.
- School requires 2 negative tests and clearance from healthcare provider to return to school.



## STUDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY AT SCHOOL

### Face Coverings

- Students and staff will be required to wear masks/face coverings when:
  - Traveling on bus,
  - Walking in to SJHS buildings,
  - Hallways,
  - Walking to and from any SJHS room (restrooms, JPII, Gymnasium, etc.),
  - Walking to and from classes
  - Entering and exiting classrooms:
    - Desks will be positioned at least 6 feet apart for social distancing.
      - Once an entire classroom of students is seated at a desk where at least the 6 foot social distance is adhered, according to current CDC guidelines, the mask may be removed for a break upon teacher's cue.
- In the event a face covering needs to be replaced at school, SJHS has face masks available to ensure compliance with this requirement.

### Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

- Before students come to school, parents/guardians will be responsible for monitoring students' health which includes taking the student's temperature.
- All students will have their temperatures taken again before walking into homeroom.
  - If a temperature is forehead (temporal) 99.5 degrees or higher the student will be sent home and must be immediately picked up by a family member.
- Lockers will not be used until further notice. Students are encouraged to pack their bookbags thoughtfully, and take advantage of SJHS ebooks.
- Information regarding late arrivals, item drop off, and early dismissals will be communicated prior to the start of school in a Newsletter.



## Hygiene and Social Distancing

- Students and staff will follow good hygiene practices, including frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing.
- Students and staff will practice social distancing at all times.
- Lockers will not be used until further notice. Students are encouraged to pack their bookbags thoughtfully, and take advantage of SJHS ebooks.
- Students and Staff will avoid congregating in communal spaces.

## Classroom Arrangements

- Desks will face the same direction. Desks will be measured at least 6 feet apart.
- When required, other spaces (gymnasium, Academic Commons, JPII Center, etc.) will be utilized to accommodate the 6 foot requirement.
- Students will be assigned seats in all classrooms and educational spaces.

## Food Service

- All students will be required to bring their lunch. No food or services will be provided.
- Students will be assigned a seat at lunch socially distanced at least 6 feet apart.
- SJHS will utilize the cafeteria and Patterson Hall for lunch space.
- Students will wash their hands before and after lunch periods.
- Students will wear masks/face coverings when not eating or drinking.

## Physical Education

- Students will not have physical education until further notice.

## Athletics

The Return to Athletics plan can be found on the SJHS website (from the home page click on “Information on COVID-19”).



## Large Assemblies and School Activities

- Events and extracurricular activities will be limited to maintain physical distancing.
- There will be no field trips until further notice.
- Clubs and activities will meet virtually until further notice (this includes lunch time and after school meetings).

## School Visitors

Visitors will only be allowed by appointment.

- Visitors will have a temperature check upon arrival.
- Visitors will wear masks/face coverings at all times.
  - In the event someone arrives without a face covering, each school has face masks available to ensure compliance with this requirement. If a visitor is unable to wear a mask, the school will make other arrangements for the visit.
- Visitors will complete a Visitor Health and Safety Form.

## Our Commitment to Keeping Schools Clean

- All buildings have been subjected to extensive summer cleaning.
- Equipment has been purchased to support the cleaning and disinfecting of each building by day and night utilizing electrostatic sprayers and appropriate disinfecting solutions. Custodial staff will conduct frequent cleaning of high traffic areas throughout the school day.
- HVAC systems will remain in “occupied” status 24/7 to support increased air circulation and filtration. Enhanced air filters (MERV-13) are being installed in air handlers for the start of school to further improve indoor air quality.
- Where feasible and safe, classroom and office windows will be opened to increase outside air supply into the buildings. Building HVAC systems will be adjusted to operate with increased outside air circulation.
- Additional disinfecting product will be available for staff to apply to classroom surfaces or supplies.
- Traditional water fountains are being closed off. Students will be able to carry water bottles in all schools.



## Monitoring Student and Staff Health

- If a student or staff member presents any of the described symptoms of COVID-19, they will be isolated in an identified area and picked up immediately by a family member.
- Upon a student or staff member reporting exposure to someone who tests positive for COVID-19, if symptom-free, may continue attending in-person instruction provided that additional precautions are taken for a minimum of 10 days unless directed otherwise by a health care provider. Further information on self-assessment can be found through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, PA Department of Health, or Allegheny County Health Department.
- If a student or staff person is diagnosed with COVID-19, with or without a positive test and/or symptoms, SJHS will follow applicable health department protocol and guidance on contact tracing, quarantine, and/or isolation while respecting the confidentiality of those involved.



## COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

SJHS recognizes that information and safety recommendations are rapidly changing. SJHS will continue to develop ongoing communications to provide staff and parents/guardians with timely information on the SJHS community's preparation for, incidence of, and response to COVID-19.

### On-going COVID Communication

To provide full transparency to our community, SJHS will update the COVID-19 page on the SJHS website frequently with any updates to announcements and plans.

SJHS will notify parents/guardians via email when their student has been in a classroom, bus, sports team, or activity with a student or staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19. There are two types of communication that will occur:

- When a student or staff member is present in a classroom, bus, sports team or activity where an individual tests positive for COVID-19:
  - Staff and parents/guardians will receive communication via email sharing that they may have been in direct contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.
  - The letter will contain action steps to be taken and any recommendations provided by the Allegheny County Health Department.
- When a student or staff member at SJHS tests positive for COVID-19:
  - Staff and parents/guardians will receive communication via email notifying them that a person in the school has tested positive for COVID-19.
  - The letter will contain necessary action steps to be taken.

