

SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL



**2020-2021
COVID-19
FAQ**

GENERAL SCHOOL

1) **Will a hybrid option be available?**

After careful review of CDC guidelines and consideration for the size of our campus a hybrid option was not a further consideration as SJHS can accommodate in-person learning. However, a remote/live streaming option was also offered to our families.

2) **Will SJHS have a Zoom meeting prior to school starting to discuss a summary of this plan and what will be different this year?**

SJHS will create informational videos to help parents and students prepare for the reopening of school.

3) **If students are not provided lockers, how are they expected to manage their belongings and school materials?**

To ensure social distancing, lockers will not be assigned until further notice. Students are encouraged to pack their bookbags thoughtfully. eBooks and other resources will be loaded on the iPads.

4) **Will students from the same family be permitted to eat lunch together?**

SJHS is still developing ways for students to enjoy lunch with friends and siblings while accounting for student placement at lunch tables and outdoor spaces.

5) **Is there any chance that students could have access to their phones at lunch since they will be assigned seats 6 feet apart with limited ability to socially interact with their peers?**

SJHS will continue to enforce our cell phone policy as written in the Student Handbook.

6) **Will arrival and dismissal be staggered?**

Buses arrive at various times in the A.M. where staggering naturally occurs. We are working with the transportation departments of the many carriers that transport SJHS students to and from school to insure social distancing during dismissal time.



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

1) Are any extracurricular activities going to be offered?

Under the supervision of moderators, clubs and activities can meet virtually or outdoors while social distancing until further notice (including lunch time and after school meetings).

UNIFORM

1) If students wear a regular uniform shirt do they have to wear the blazer with it?

Students (remote and in-person) are expected to: 1) wear the school uniform shirt (button down shirt/sweater/blazer), or 2) may purchase this short or long sleeve blue SJHS t-shirt. Blazers and sweaters are optional pieces for the first nine weeks and will undergo review thereafter.



CLASSROOMS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING

1) How many students will be allowed to be in any given classroom? Will you be able to maintain social distancing?

Every effort will be made to position desks at least 6 feet apart for social distancing. The number of desks in a classroom will depend on the size of the room. Larger spaces (e.g. gym, JPII Center, etc.) will be utilized for classroom space as needed.

2) How is social distancing being adhered to during class changes?

We will hold student information sessions to enforce the observation of floor markings every 6 feet for distancing, directional arrows, eliminating locker use and staggering class exchanges.



CLEANING AND PREPARATION OF THE BUILDINGS

1) How is air being circulated and filtered on campus?

SJHS schedules preventative maintenance quarterly on the heating and air conditioning systems including the replacement of filters. In addition, SJHS will open windows and doors to increase the circulation of outdoor air when possible.

2) What is the cleaning agent that will be utilized to disinfect and sanitize the classrooms?

SJHS is using Vital Oxide Mold Remover and Disinfectant Cleaner, which is approved by the EPA for use against SARS-COV-2, the virus that causes the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Vital Oxide kills 99.999% of bacteria, including eColi, Salmonella, Noro Virus and Listeria in less than 60 seconds. It's odorless and requires no rinse. It is an EPA-registered hospital disinfectant with the lowest toxicity category—gentle enough for daily disinfecting and sanitizing. In addition, Vital Oxide sanitizes 99.999% of bacteria on food-contact surfaces.

This product contains no:

- volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- harsh chemicals, non-irritating to skin, no nauseous fumes
- personal protection equipment needed



GENERAL SCHOOL ILLNESS AND COVID-19

1) How should we handle any absences due to illness

Current SJHS absentee policies remain in effect. Parents are required to contact the school office before first period per the normal student handbook policy. SJHS will ask parents specifically if the absence is directly related to COVID symptoms.

2) Are 2 negative COVID-19 tests required to return to school post a confirmed COVID-19 positive test?

No. *

3) What procedure do I follow if my student is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.

Refer to the updated Decision Tree in the SJHS Health and Safety Plan (on the SJHS website under the COVID-19 information link).

4) If my child is asymptomatic and spreads COVID-19 to other students, am I open to a lawsuit?

No. Some people with COVID-19 are asymptomatic, which means that even if they are infected, they show no symptoms and can unknowingly pass the virus on to others.

5) Why will the school go on a 2-week isolation period if any staff member or student tests positive?

SJHS students will be interacting throughout the day. SJHS determines if the school community should move into a 14-day quarantine, self-isolation and remote learning on a case by case basis. *

6) If students suffer from known seasonal allergies (which show many of the symptoms of COVID i.e., stuffiness, sneezing, coughing, etc), should parents provide a note from an allergist or pediatrician to avoid misinterpretation on a daily basis?

Yes.

**Refer to the updated Decision Tree in the SJHS Health and Safety Plan (on the SJHS website under the COVID-19 information link).*



FACE MASKS

1) **What is the rationale for allowing the students to take off masks in the closed airspace of a classroom as opposed to an outside break?**

The policy was updated in the Health and Safety plan on August 3. At all times when inside, students will be required to wear masks, with the exception of eating lunch. “Mask breaks” may be taken outside only with social distancing (of at least 6 feet) under the supervision of faculty.

2) **Do students have to wear a certain mask?**

Masks will be required by all students, faculty and staff at SJHS. Specific rules can be found in the Health and Safety Plan on the SJHS website (under "Information on COVID-19" on the home page). Masks can be of any color. Anything printed on the mask needs to be consistent with SJHS values (nothing offensive, political or inappropriate). SJHS has the right to replace a student’s mask if the student mask is inappropriate.

3) **If a student has a medical excuse can he/she opt out of wearing a mask and attend in-person learning.**

No. As a private school SJHS is requiring masks to ensure the safety of the whole school community. Students who are unable to wear a mask can opt-in to remote learning.

PROJECT BASED CLASSES

1) **How will project based classes like Art, Science and Robotics be modified for at home students?**

For Art class, alternative assignments may be provided in addition to “Pick-Up” Project Materials so at home students can work alongside their in-person classmates.

In Science and Robotics, lab and project demonstrations will be utilized for all students to observe and participate. Additionally, teachers may choose to provide alternative assignments for remote learners. Students may work remotely with their peers to critique design ideas via google classroom.



REMOTE LEARNING

1) What if a family has an internet connection issue at home?

Internet connection issues and outages should be reported to the office by the parent. Teachers will be informed of the issue and will be addressed on an individual basis. Students are expected to reach out to their teachers upon reconnection of internet and make up missed work.

2) Will classes be recorded in case of absence?

No. Per the attendance policy in our student handbook, students are responsible for contacting their teachers about makeup work.

3) How will live streaming into the classroom work?

Please refer to page 5 of the SJHS Education Plan that can be found via the Covid-19 Information Link on the Homepage of the SJHS website.

4) Is remote learning all year long?

In-Person Instruction and Remote/Live-Stream Learning are the instructional options until we are guided otherwise through the Diocese of Pittsburgh and the Commonwealth throughout the 2020 -2021 school year.

5) What platform will be utilized this year, and who do we contact for IT issues?

SJHS will utilize the “Google Classroom” platform. Students should contact the office with any IT issues.



SWITCHING FROM IN-PERSON TO REMOTE (VICE-VERSA)

1) How long after my child begins the school year can I change their learning option?

SJHS administrators will work with each student wishing to resume in person classes. The process may take 1-2 weeks to update transportation and classroom seating arrangements.

TRANSPORTATION

1) How will I know my bus scheduled and location?

Each student's school district will contact the family for the pickup/drop-off times and location information. SJHS will contact students for the private buses (Verona/Oakmont, Butler, Shaler).

2) What are the changes to bussing due to COVID-19?

Buses are running on the regular schedule, with a 7:45AM tardy bell and 2:30PM dismissal (12:30PM on Fridays). Students will be required to wear masks on the bus and will be spaced 6 feet apart. Individual school districts will communicate any changes to schedules and policies to families within respective school district.

SPORTS

1) If a student has opted for remote/live stream learning are they allowed to play sports?

Students who choose remote instruction can participate in sports and activities. SJHS will follow the guideline of WPIAL and PIAA.

2) When will decisions on winter and spring sports be made?

Currently, fall sports have been delayed to August 24th per the PIAA. Winter and spring sports will proceed as planned unless otherwise dictated by the PIAA.

