

Thank you for your emails and questions. We are all working on doing the best we can so your support as a community means the world to us. I wanted to answer some questions I've received (especially because in some cases I've received the same question several times).

Will Meet the Teacher still take place?

Unfortunately, there isn't a way to allow large gatherings like a Meet the Teacher. Teachers will prepare a letter for families/students sharing information about herself, contact information, and the classroom. This will also be how students are notified which teacher they have been assigned to. These letters will be sent out in early August. We are working on creating a video to help families know how to use Google Classroom as this will be used for Remote Learning but also in the case that we have to shut down as we had to in March.

What will our start day be?

Our target date is still August 20th. Again that is at this moment but we do recognize that things with this pandemic seem to change almost weekly (if not daily) so we continue to monitor things and will communicate with you if any changes are made!

What supplies should students bring?

The teaching staff is in the process of updating our school supply list. Once this list is finalized (hopefully by early next week) we will publish the updated list on our website and sent out via email. Some changes from the original supply list will be necessary in light of students not sharing supplies.

What will remote learning look like?

As much as we felt we did the best we could last spring with paper packets, etc. we know instruction time with teachers was lost. Knowing that we will most likely deal with the effects of COVID 19 all school year long we want to make sure we are offering the best education to our students. This is why we have decided to invest in Cameras to be used in the classrooms that will allow for students choosing remote learning to take part in what is happening in the school classroom. Students at home will log in by 8 am and attendance will be taken by the homeroom teacher. Teachers will be instructing students and students choosing remote learning will be asked to complete the assignments and take part in discussions (answering questions, asking questions, etc) just as students in the classroom are doing. Students will have textbooks/resources at home just as students in the classroom will have. Again, because we are trying the best we can we do know there may be times when some assignments will be modified or changed for students doing remote learning but our goal is to provide students with the same instruction and assignments as much as we can. Parent/guardian support at home will have to happen when it comes to those doing remote learning especially at the beginning when students are learning how to log on, access Google Classroom, etc. We understand that students in K-2 may not be able to stay logged in all day and want to make sure the core subjects are covered in the morning. Work is still being done to develop the best schedule for students but the expectation is that they will attend/work during the entire school day time

frame. Special area teachers will travel to the classrooms and instruct students. Again, students doing remote learning may not be able to take part in PE for instance because the class may go outside for PE. This would be a time when the student would be given an alternative assignment or activity to complete. Breaks in the classroom will be scheduled each hour as well as lunch- students doing remote learning will also be given those breaks. Again, this may require some parent guidance to make sure students get back on the computer (sit back down) to resume class. Students will be able to submit work via Google Classroom (we are working on putting a training video together for families), email, or dropped off in the school office.

Students & Masks

We recognize the Governor's suggestion of students 10 years and older to wear masks. However we want to do our best to ensure the safety of all on our campus. All students and staff will be asked to wear masks at the following times: upon entering and exiting the building, anytime there is movement through the building(s), and in the classroom when teacher instruction is taking place because students will be responding, speaking, etc. Teachers will have scheduled breaks and time outside as weather permits to allow students the breaks they physically and mentally need. Below is a helpful visual to help with children wearing masks. Face coverings can include face masks, bandanas, face shields, surgical masks, etc.

What happens if a teacher or student tests positive for COVID?

Again please know that the health and safety of all individuals is our priority. The Montgomery County Health Department will be contacted and give us guidance on what steps to take. Information from the Health Department is used when making decisions as our goal is always to keep the students and staff safe and healthy. The most recent document can be found here: <https://www.phdmc.org/coronavirus-updates/373-guidance-for-montgomery-county-schools>

How will preschool be handled?

We are still waiting for the Governor's updated guidance when it comes to some things specifically related to preschool. Again, once we have more specifics we will make sure this information gets passed on to preschool families. Preschool already eat in their classroom and have a sep bathroom for use. The ratio for preschool is reduced during this time from the state and the classroom will need to be divided into two areas. Again once we have more information and a finalized plan can be put together we will absolutely communicate with families.

One thing we do ask families to do is help your child now with some independent skills to lessen the need for physical contact with staff (i.e. tying his/her own shoes, unbuckling his/her own belt, etc).

I know more questions will come up and that is great as we are truly all in this together. Again as we continue to finalize plans, etc we will work to communicate with you. Please know that I am available to answer your questions or address concerns to the best of my ability.

July 24th

What will the timeframes for switching from Remote Learning to Face to Face Learning be for this school year?

Remote learners will be asked to commit to it for a half trimester at a time. If a change is requested parents will be asked to notify Principal Walters by the following dates:

- September 18th - *Face to face learning will begin on Sept 28th.*
- October 30th- *Face to face learning will begin on Nov 9th*
- December 11th- *Face to face learning will begin on Jan 4th*
- February 5th- *Face to face learning will begin on Feb 16th*

There will be no opportunity to change in the third trimester

What will remote learning look like for students participating in this option?

In regards to remote learners spending "time" in the classroom, this will vary based on grade levels. Students in K-2 will spend the morning time with their teacher and class doing LA and Math lessons. This will allow students to learn along with their classmates through live instruction. At the primary level, students will not be expected to be on a computer for 5 solid hours, but within those 5 hours, they will have specific times they do need to be online.

Depending on the schedule for the afternoon (specifically specials and subject material for the day) remote learners may continue to be in class with his/her teacher and classmates or he/she may be given an alternative assignment (i.e. a prerecorded instruction, website for practice or independent assignment). This will really be based on the subject matter and how practical it is for the remote learner to be in session. For example remote learners won't be able to take part in gym class so an alternative assignment may be given to the remote learners. In grades 3-8 our hope is that students will be with the class for the majority of the school day taking part in each core subject and specials, although there will be some exceptions to this (i.e. PE) and alternative assignments or activities may be assigned.

How involved will the parent need to be when it comes to remote learning? Will the parent act as the teacher?

Our hope is that students will be able to take part in remote learning with minimal assistance as they become familiar with the procedures and routines. Kindergarten-second grade students would need more support than middle school students, especially at the beginning.

Will work be graded?

Student work will be graded using the grading process outlined in our student handbook. Students will continue to receive report cards documentation of progress.

What if my student receives Title I Reading and/or Math?

If your student qualifies, arrangements will be made through catapult teachers for online intervention instruction per the requirements of Catapult Learning.

After July 24th

What happens if I have technical difficulties or problems during remote learning?

- If students are having technical difficulties with their devices, they should contact their teacher **and** send an email to help@sainthelenschool.org explaining the problem.
 - Someone from the school or our tech department will get back to you as soon as possible.

Will my child need PE Uniforms?

Students taking place in face to face learning will need PE Uniforms. Our students wear their gym uniform on the day(s) they have PE. Students learning remotely will be given alternative assignments to complete during PE time and will not need PE uniforms unless they rejoin their classmates at school. PE Uniforms are available at school through Mrs. Simmons or Tuffy Brooks.

If my child is doing remote learning are they required to wear their school uniform?

Yes! We ask students learning remotely to have a spot at home worked out where they can sit and do their school work, have supplies out and be able to take part in classroom instruction and discussions without interruptions.

How will drop off be handled this year?

More information will be given about drop off and dismissal as we finalize details but we will have teachers in the parking lot to take student temperatures upon arrival. Once students have been checked they will enter the building and go straight to his/her classroom. Dismissal will be a bit different as well. Students will be called out when their bus and/or parent/guardian arrives.

If my child's last name starts with a B and we are scheduled to attend on August 31st does that mean my child will not come to school on the 1st?

That is correct. Students will have one of three start dates: Remote learners will schedule a meeting time with his/her homeroom teacher on Friday, August 28th. Students doing face to face will come either Aug 31st or Sept 1st based on their last name and then all students (face to face and remote) will start on September 2nd.

Are face shields acceptable?

Face shields may be worn during the majority of the day as students will be seated at their desk and have limited access to other areas of the classroom, however, we ask that a mask also be sent to school for the students to use during transition times like arrival, dismissal, bathroom breaks, etc as well as times in the

classroom that the teacher deems appropriate. Students will have a lanyard to hold their mask during the day to prevent excessive playing, dropping, etc.

When will I find out who my child's teacher will be?

Typically class lists are posted and/or students find out at Meet the Teacher but this year we have had to change things up a bit. Students will find out who his/her teacher is through a letter from the teacher. Letters will be mailed out on Monday so be on the lookout for this information.

What all is happening again on Monday, August 17th?

The uniform company will be here from 530-730 pm selling new uniforms. We ask that you enter through the East Wing doors if you are wanting to go to the uniform sale.

Mrs. Simmons will be the old music room from 5-700 selling PE uniforms. If you are in need of PE Uniforms you can enter the side door by the grassy circle around the side of the main building. This will lead you to a set of steps. Please take these steps upstairs. You will be asked to exit down the fire escape.

In the school gym (please enter by the grassy circle straight into the gym around the side of the building): we will have family envelope pick up (1 per family by youngest students name). *Those doing remote learning are asked to pick up their family envelopes on this day and complete the paperwork included so that it can be returned during the August 28th session with the homeroom teacher.* Supply drop off from 500-730. Families can bring the following items ONLY and drop them off in the gym - copy paper, paper towels, storage bags, baby wipes/Lysol wipes. Other supplies will be brought with the student on their first day of school. *Students taking part in remote learning will need the supplies at home to complete assignments and tasks. If they return to the classroom during the school year, supplies should be brought in on their first day back in the classroom including paper, tissues, etc.*