



Dear St. Pius X Families,

I would like to personally welcome you to the 2020-21 school year and to thank you for your commitment and continued support of the Rochester Catholic Schools! Our final day of in person instruction last year was on Friday, March 13th and so much has changed in our world! However, we are an Easter people filled with hope, and the light of Christ is what leads us into this new school year with an opportunity to learn together once again. We are stronger together, and I truly believe that our students will reap the benefits socially, emotionally, and spiritually by coming together as a physical community this year. There will most certainly be challenges that we face, but with faith and determination, there are no obstacles that we cannot face and overcome.

I am delighted and blessed to serve you as the principal of our St. Pius X school community. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me personally with any general questions or any clarification about our school's plan to safely reopen the building this school year. While the method of instruction, location where learning occurs, or protocols that we are following may change this school year, our commitment to providing the absolute best Catholic education for our students at St. Pius X does not. Each of us is called to see Christ in others and to be Christ for others.

May God be with you always and keep you safe,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'Dave Jenson'.

Dave Jenson
St. Pius X Principal

Please see the following note from Mr. Matt Langsdale, RCS Lead Administrator and principal of the Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist:

As I write this message, it has been exactly 5 months since we have had students seated in our classrooms experiencing the joy that Catholic Education brings to God's children. Our teachers, support staff, and administration have been working, and will continue to work, feverishly to allow a safe return to campus for all of us. We are also preparing to meet the needs of our distance learners, should families choose this option or the need arise. Together we will be able to safely keep our school building open for the students and staff members. We need your help. We trust that you will not send your child to school when they are sick. We ask you not to give your child a fever reducer to lower their temperature for the morning temperature check. We ask that you monitor symptoms for your child and not send them to school if they experience symptoms that could be related to COVID. We ask that you not put the school community at risk, and we promise to do the same. This will be a year unlike any other school year. Many of the things you will be asked to do may be inconvenient, but they are absolutely necessary to ensure the health and safety of our school and church community.

We will be offering on-campus and distance learning for our students. You could describe our school as meeting the hybrid guidelines that were described by Governor Tim Walz. Our families will have a choice of on-campus or distance learning. We have worked with medical professionals from the Mayo Clinic to ensure that social distancing can take place in classrooms. We have capped our enrollment at a number that allows us to welcome new families to our school, without compromising our current/previous students. We have taken necessary precautions to minimize the risk of illness exposure to our students and staff in classrooms and common areas. We can't guarantee that your child will not be exposed to COVID while at school. However, we can work together as a community to reduce the risk of exposure by doing our part.

This plan is based on the requirements of the **COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS GUIDANCE: A PATH FOR STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL FALL 2020**. This guidance was provided by the Dioceses of Crookston, Duluth, New Ulm, St. Cloud, and Winona-Rochester. It meets the requirements of the **MDE 2020-2021 Planning Guide for Schools**. As a school we are committed to providing the very best spiritual, social, emotional, and academic opportunities for your children. We will all wear masks and keep distance from each other to prevent potential spread of illnesses. And, we must all be flexible and prepared to make necessary changes, should the need arise.

Please be patient and supportive as we navigate this important time in our history. Guidelines will change throughout the school year and we will modify our plan accordingly. As plans change, we will communicate with you. We are all in this together. God Bless.



Return to School Plan

August 13, 2020

St. Pius X Elementary School

1205 12th Ave NW

Rochester, MN 55901

Operational Practices	
Training/Communication with Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• St. Pius X will have a designated COVID-19 Point of Contact with Public Health - St. Pius X secretary, TBD.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Olmsted County Public Health will be notified about confirmed cases of COVID-19.• St. Pius X will have a designated trainer for staff and students - Patty Ward-Montoya.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ COVID-19 training will be provided on washing water bottles, proper hand washing, how to cover coughs and sneezes, how to properly wear a mask, and social/physical distancing.◦ Instructions will be provided to both staff and students about cleaning protocols for

	<p>their areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keeping physical distance of 4-6 feet between people in hallways and in classrooms. ○ Lunch and Recess social distancing instructions ○ Online instructions will be provided to parents as well so they can remind their student(s) about how to practice safety at school.
Entrance/Dismissal Protocols	<p>Students and staff are expected to self check for symptoms prior to arriving at any school building and stay home if experiencing or having been in direct contact with anyone that has received a positive test for Covid-19. Parents should complete a health screening questionnaire each day before sending their child(ren) to school. This screening can be found at https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facilityhlthscreen.</p> <p>Entering school in the morning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Drop off starts at 8:30. Upon arriving at school, students will have their temperature checked by a staff member prior to entering the building. Upon entering the school, students will be required to go straight to their locker to drop off personal items and then they will report directly to their classroom. ● Students that arrive prior to 8:30 will need to report to morning extended care through door 1, at the main entrance off of 12th Ave NW. Temperatures will be taken prior to the student entering the building. <p>Entrance/Departure during school hours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents/guardians will remain by entrances and use the security buzzer to tell who they are picking up. The student will then come to the parent/guardian after checking out at the office.

	<p>Dismissal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus students will be called and dismissed (if busing is provided). • Car students will wait in a carline outside on 12th St. NW. Students will be required to have their masks on, socially distanced, and will be called by car assignment (subject to change pending bussing). Each family will be given a number to be used in the carline for more efficient pickup, with parking along • There will always be two adults supervising this process.
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus services will depend on Rochester Public Schools, which is currently 2 mornings per week. Parents may choose Monday and Tuesday or Thursday and Friday. Afternoon service is not available since the RPS is ending the elementary day at 2:30. • All students will be required to wear face coverings while utilizing transportation.
Meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our lunch program continues to be served through Taher. The cost of lunch for the 2020-2021 school year is \$3.10 per meal (adults \$4.10). A carton of milk is provided with each lunch. Extra cartons of milk price is \$.50/each. Taher will need to follow federal guidelines about food serving. • Kindergarten receives a free breakfast each day. • Scheduled lunches to maintain safety of students. Taher will need to follow the federal guidelines. At this time we are expecting that lunches will be in the cafeteria with distancing of 6 feet between students. Students will be expected to follow hygiene protocols for eating meals; masks are worn until the student is seated at a table and then removed for eating. • Students will be asked to bring a transparent water bottle from home as all drinking fountains will be used only for filling water bottles. • Instruction will be provided to students on how to correctly wash their water bottles at home.

Before and After School Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended Morning Care and After School Care will be provided at St. Pius X. Upon entering the gym, a staff member will take the temperature of each student and complete a symptom check entering the building. Policies and procedures for the regular school day, specific to hygiene, handwashing, physical distancing, etc. will apply to Extended Morning Care and After School Care.
Health and Well-Being	
General Health and Safety	<p>If your child is ill, please keep them home. We want to keep the RCS community well. Parents are expected to check their children each morning for a fever or other symptoms of COVID. Any student showing symptoms must stay home.</p> <p>Students with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher will not be permitted to attend school on campus https://www.rcsmn.org/parentresource/health-services</p> <p>Returning to school after having COVID-19 will be determined by guidance from Olmsted Public Health.</p> <p>Temperature Checks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parents will check the temperature of their child(ren) before they come to school. If your child has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, the student may not attend school on campus until they have 24 hours fever free, without medication. 2. A staff member will check each student's temperature upon entering the building. 3. Daily checklist will need to be completed for students' temperature. 4. Temperature checks will happen at lunch time also. <p>General Health and Well-being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will be asked to bring a transparent water bottle from home since all drinking fountains will be used only for filling water bottles.

- | | |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Signage will be posted throughout the school reminding students of proper hygiene practices.● Areas throughout the school will have physical distancing markers to facilitate correct social distancing practices.● Classroom spacing will be optimized. Whenever possible students will be spaced six feet apart from others, and seating will be arranged so that students are spread out as much as possible. Physical barriers such as plexiglass may be used in some areas where physical distancing ability is limited.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Markers for movement in stairwells and hallways will be placed where students can visually see the markers.○ Within the classroom, desks will be spread out.● The school will strictly follow all health guidelines on when students and staff need to stay home due to illness.● Recess: We plan to continue having recess for students. Scheduling is to be determined. Students will be instructed on protocols for recess such as use of equipment and keeping physical distance.● Movement during the day:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Students will not be allowed to congregate in the hallways.● Mental Health:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ St. Pius has a counselor on staff who is a resource to staff, parents, and students.○ Services will be offered in person and remotely.● Lockers:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Students will have access to one locker.● Excess school supplies should be kept at home and not stored in lockers.● Students must bring their own pencils and pens.● Sharing of materials will not be allowed.● If students leave something at home, classroom teachers will have a system for access to clean writing instruments.● Backpacks will not be allowed in classrooms. |
|--|--|

	<p>If a student is symptomatic, the student will be sent to the Conference Room. Parents/Guardians will be contacted for immediate pick up, within 45 minutes.</p>
Face Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All K-5 students and adults will be required to wear face coverings in the building as per the MN state mask mandate 20-81. • Teachers may use a face shield rather than a mask during teaching if physical distancing is also followed. • Students may remove masks for eating and drinking, during physical activity/recess, and outdoors at teacher discretion. • Families will need to provide face coverings. One face covering should be left at school to have a spare available if needed. It is recommended that families purchase or make multiple masks in order to appropriately clean in between uses. • There is no dress code for face masks. Face coverings must simply be appropriate design/pattern for school. • Face coverings must fully cover mouth and nose. • The office will have a limited number of spare masks available in case a student forgets to bring one.
Cleaning Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage will be posted throughout the school reminding students of proper hygiene practices. • Students will wash/sanitize hands when they arrive at the classroom. • Students will wash and sanitize hands throughout the day especially when transitioning between activities and different areas of the school. Hand sanitizer will be provided in classrooms and other areas of the school. • St. Pius X is blessed with an excellent janitorial and maintenance staff. They will clean the bathrooms and common areas throughout the day as recommended by CDC and MN Public Health recommendations. The main floor drinking fountain has now been equipped with a water bottle refiller and the spout is blocked from use. • Students and staff will be provided training on cleaning protocols based on CDC and MN Public Health recommendations on the individual areas in the classrooms and work areas.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and staff will be responsible for cleaning their individual work areas before and after use. • Cleaning supplies will be provided. • Bathroom protocols: 1 student in the bathroom at a time, unless there is an urgent reason. Doors will remain open to the bathrooms to limit touching of door handles. Bathrooms will be monitored by staff. • High-touch areas will be cleaned frequently. • Bathrooms will be cleaned multiple times throughout the day. • Cleaning charts will be posted outside of bathrooms and other shared spaces to keep track of the frequency of cleaning/disinfecting.
Curriculum and Instruction	
Classrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social distancing will be used whenever possible in the classroom. • Rugs, pillows, cloth furniture and soft items that are difficult to clean will be removed from classrooms. • Students are asked to not bring unnecessary personal items to school. Students will not be allowed to share personal items or use them on the playground. • Each student is expected to bring his or her own classroom supplies, and these will not be shared between students. • Classroom items that are shared between students will be sanitized after usage. • Items that are difficult or impossible to sanitize will go through a quarantine period between usage by different students. All library books will go through a quarantine period of at least 48 hours before being reshelfed.
Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily attendance will be taken for both in person and distance learning. • If your child will be absent, please call us at 507-282-5161 or send an email to stpattendance@rcsmn.org by 9:30 am. If your child is ill, please identify the symptoms. • If your child is distance learning, but will not be participating that day, parents need to let the office know.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a family decides to travel or attend a large gathering, please self quarantine for 48 hours before returning to school to monitor developing symptoms.
Distance Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the event of closure and movement to distance learning, teachers will have adequate time to prepare for distance learning. • Mentorship will continue with students. • Reopening and returning to face to face learning will be based on the recommendations of Olmsted County Public Health.
Creating and Maintaining Community, Catholic Identity	
Social, Spiritual, and Emotional Well-Being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In person learning will take place as long as possible. • Daily prayer will continue each day. • Mass will be held weekly on Wednesdays. • Staff will implement community activities as the year progresses based on CDC guidelines.
General Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication will come from St. Pius X via email, text, and broadcasts. • School community will be notified of any changes via email, text, and broadcasts. • Parents will be encouraged not to bring children back from appointments during the school day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Families are encouraged to schedule appointments outside of school hours. • Families are responsible for keeping personal contact information, including email addresses and phone numbers up-to-date in Infinite Campus.
Parents, Guests and Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you need to pick up your student during the school day, parents/guardians will remain by entrances and use the security buzzer to talk to the office. • Parents/guardians will be asked to sign the liability waiver for each student at the beginning of the school year. • To avoid contact and exposure, we will be limiting the number of extra people in the building each day.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer opportunities will be very limited. • Classroom guests and special visits will be done virtually. • Parent meetings, including conferences, IEP meetings, and Diocesan Plans will be done virtually and planned in advance. • Students who show symptoms of COVID while at school will be placed in an isolation room until they can be picked up. Students who are ill will need to be picked up promptly, within 45 minutes of parents being contacted. • When picking up students, please do not congregate in groups in the parking lot or sidewalk.
--	--

Resources	
	<p>'Leading with Hope' from the Andrew Greeley Center for Catholic Education https://www.luc.edu/gcce/index.shtml</p> <p>'Guide to Reopening' from Catholic Mutual Group http://catholicmutual.org/en-us/home/covid-19caresresources.aspx</p> <p>Minnesota Department of Health https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/k12planguide.pdf</p> <p>Center for Disease Control https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/prepare-safe-return.html</p> <p>American Academy of Pediatrics https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/</p>