

ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL
103 E. North Street
Weimar, Texas 78962
979-725-8461

REVISED AUGUST 6, 2020

Dear Parents,

I am including the “Readiness for Safe Return to School” plan that we will be using at St. Michael Catholic School this year. Please keep in mind that this plan is as fluid as all responses to COVID-19 have been. We will adjust as needed. Our first priority is keeping your children and our teachers and staff safe and healthy.

Compromise and cooperation are key to successfully completing this school year. Please look over the plan to see what is expected of the students, and you, this year. The plan includes drop-off and pick-up times and locations. The procedures used for walkers will be the same as in the past. Some students will be expected to wear masks at certain times. These may include the “neck gaiter” if that works best for your child. The school will provide masks as long as our supplies last. If you are unable to find hand-sanitizer, just please send a used bottle as we have plenty to refill them with when needed. Students will also need to bring their own water bottles from home. Water fountains will not be used, but we will have water coolers set up when refills are needed. Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students will begin the year with Fr. Wayne visiting their classrooms weekly in lieu of the weekly Mass. They will also begin the year with lunches being served in their classrooms. Masks, social distancing, and sanitizing hands, desks, and classrooms, during the school day and in the after-school program, will be key. Yes, I know we are dealing with children, but we will do our best.

We will begin our school year on August 12th with direct one-on-one teaching in our classrooms. Families who prefer remote learning will need to contact me via email to let me know your intentions. Our intent is to provide live streaming through the Google Classroom Meet. If students are required to stay home for a few days if someone in their class is infected or if a student needs to quarantine according to the requirements, the Google Classroom Meet will also be used. Students in Grades 1-8 will be trained in Google Classroom as their teachers will use this for disseminating and receiving assignments in the case of a school-wide shutdown. We will also have a training soon for parents to learn how to use Google Classroom, especially if your child is in Grades 1-5.

Please keep in mind that this is a plan and not a meticulous directive. None of us can truly tell at this point what the year ahead of us will bring. Please keep all of us in our school family: students and their families, teachers, staff, and their families, parishioners, and our school supporters in your prayers.

Sincerely,

Judy Roeder
Principal

Current Understanding of COVID-19

*Taken from Diocese of Victoria in Texas Catholic Schools
COVID-19 School Continuity Plan 2020 - 2021

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

Disease Transmission:

The virus is thought to spread primarily from person to person¹.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms (known as asymptomatic spread).

Preventative Health Measures:

- Frequent handwashing
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands and properly cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Avoid close contact with others- stay at least 6 feet from others and do not gather in groups.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Stay home if you are sick.

Symptoms of COVID-19:

- People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness².
- Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms or combinations of symptoms may have COVID-19:

Cough	Chills	Shortness of Breath	Fever > 100 or feeling feverish	Repeated shaking with chills	Congestion or runny nose
Muscle Pain	Headache	Sore Throat	Diarrhea	New loss of taste or smell	Nausea or vomiting

Additional Information about COVID-19 Symptoms in Children³

The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar in children and adults. However, children with confirmed COVID-19 have generally presented with mild symptoms. Reported symptoms in children include cold-like symptoms, such as fever, runny nose, and cough. Vomiting and diarrhea have also been reported. It's not known yet whether some children may be at higher risk for severe illness, for example, children with underlying medical conditions and special healthcare needs. There is much more to be learned about how the disease impacts children.

Although most COVID-19 cases in children are not severe, serious illness that needs to be treated at the hospital still happens. Some data on children reported that the majority who needed hospitalization for COVID-19 had at least one underlying medical condition. The most common underlying conditions reported among children with COVID-19 include chronic lung disease (including asthma), heart disease, and conditions that weaken the immune system. This information suggests that children with these underlying medical conditions may be at risk for more severe illness from COVID-19.

ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Readiness for Safe Return to School

THIS PLAN TAKES THE PLACE OF ANY RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
IN THE PARENT-STUDENT HANDBOOK UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Promoting Healthy Behaviors, Environments, and Operations

TEMPERATURE CHECKS: Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors arriving to campus before school for athletics practices or academics, during morning carline, or after the start of the school day will have their temperature checked by a St. Michael Catholic School staff member. Children and adults who have a fever (temperature equal to or greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit) will not be permitted to stay on campus. Parents, guardians, or other drivers should not depart until a staff person has confirmed the student(s) does not have a fever.

MASKS: Students in Grades 1-8, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will be required to wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth upon arrival and while in common areas such as hallways, the church, the library, the computer room, the school bus (if students must sit in close proximity to one another), all bathrooms, and other spaces where they may come into close contact with other people. Masks will not be required while students are inside their classroom or while outside, so long as proper distancing is maintained. Masks will be provided as long as our supply lasts.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING: Students in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten will not attend Mass until it is deemed safe for them to do so. Fr. Wayne will offer alternative religious experiences for them weekly in their classrooms. These students will have their school lunches delivered to them in their classrooms. All other students will eat in the school cafeteria with staggered seating. Any parent who comes to eat with their child will be required to distance themselves from the other students. Morning and lunch breaks/recesses will also be staggered.

ENHANCED SANITATION: The custodial staff will follow additional protocols for frequent disinfection of high-traffic areas. Teachers and students will follow disinfecting procedures in their classroom, including wiping down desks, tables, chairs, doorknobs, or any frequently touched surfaces. Hand-sanitizer stations will be available at school entrances, classrooms, and key passing areas.

WATER: Students must bring a filled water bottle from home. These bottles should be clearly marked with the student's name. Water stations will be available for students to refill their bottle if needed during the day.

CAR LINE PROCEDURES: Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students will be dropped off before 7:45 a.m. and picked up at 3:15 p.m. in the driveway in front of the Pre-Kindergarten building. Students in Grades 1-4 will be dropped off before 7:45 a.m. and picked up at 3:30 p.m. in the parking

lot in front of the white building. Cones will be placed for drivers to follow. Students in Grades 5-8 will be dropped off before 7:45 a.m. and picked up at 3:30 p.m. in front of the brick building in our usual car line.

Exclusion and Re-admission Criteria

*Taken from Diocese of Victoria in Texas Catholic Schools COVID-19 School Continuity Plan 2020-2021

St. Michael Catholic School will adhere to the current recommendations from the CDC and Texas DSHS, subject to change.

1. Any employee or student who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, diarrhea, feeling feverish, or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100 degrees Fahrenheit, or close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 will be immediately isolated and sent home.
2. Employees or students with new or worsening signs or symptoms listed above will not be allowed to return to school until:
 - In the case of an employee or student who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to work/school when all three of the following criteria are met. (a) at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery; including resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, (b) the individual has improvement in respiratory symptoms, e.g., cough, shortness of breath; and (c) at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
 - In the case of an employee or student who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19. The individual may not return to work/school until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above.
 - If the employee or student has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work/school before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.
3. An employee or student with known close contact to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 will not be allowed to return to work/school until the end of the 14-day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure.

Students who are absent due to following school requirements for fever, symptoms, or quarantine do not accrue absences if they keep up with their class via remote learning while away from campus.

Teacher absences due to following school requirements for fever, symptoms, or quarantine will not count against a teacher's personal days during the 2020 – 2021 school year if the teacher maintains his or her remote classroom.

Emergency Response for COVID-19

If a confirmed case of COVID-19 has entered a school building, the following procedures will be observed:

- The Office of Catholic Schools will be notified.
- The local health department will be notified and the school will follow the latest required action steps and guidance for the appropriate response.
- The local health department will likely advise an initial short-term (2-5 days) dismissal to allow time for tracing and required cleaning. Partial school closures are possible if affected areas are limited and can be closed off. For example, limited to one building on campus.
- Confidentiality of the student or staff member is required in all communications by the school.
- Areas used by the individual with COVID-19 will be closed off and specific CDC instructions will be followed before cleaning and disinfecting.

Distance Learning

If schools are once again mandated to close, St. Michael Catholic School will use the same curriculum for distance education as for in-school instruction. Materials will be adapted and on-line resources will be supplemented. As early childhood and elementary school students are still developing their independence, a teacher-parent partnership is necessary for students to engage in distance learning tasks and to access online resources. Expectations include:

Pre-Kindergarten

The distance learning plan for Pre-Kindergarten will include a daily meet (Mon-Thurs), recorded sessions from grade level teachers, and online or home activities. Families will also have the opportunity to participate in daily, (Mon-Fri) scheduled office hours with teachers between 8:00 – 3:00 to answer questions or if your child needs extra help. Students will participate in Religion, Literacy, Math, Art, Music, Movement, or Library each week. Assigned activities should last

approximately one hour per day. Additional activities that take place throughout the day are extensions of this hour (e.g., reading aloud, pretend play, investigations, writing, or drawing).

Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grades

The distance learning plan for Kindergarten – 2nd grade will include a daily meet (Mon-Thurs), recorded lessons from grade level teachers, and online or home activities. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in daily, (Mon-Fri) scheduled office hours with teachers between 8:00 – 3:00 to answer questions or for extra help. Students will participate in Religion, English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies daily and will have weekly opportunities to participate in Art, Music, PE or Library. Assigned activities should last approximately 2 hours daily. Fridays will be used for ensuring students have met individual Lexia, ixl, and AR targets. Students will also have the opportunity to attend a classroom meet during scheduled office hours and teachers will invite students to support/remediation small groups based on need.

Third through 5th Grades

The distance learning plan for grades 3 – 5 will include a daily meet (Mon – Thurs), recorded lessons from grade level teachers, and online or home activities. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in daily, (Mon-Fri) scheduled office hours with teachers between 8:00 – 3:00 to answer questions or for extra help. Students will participate in Religion, English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies daily and will have weekly opportunities to participate in Art, Music, PE or Library. Assigned activities should last approximately 3 hours daily. Fridays will be used for ensuring students have met individual Lexia, ixl, and AR targets. Students will also have the opportunity to attend a classroom meet during scheduled office hours and teachers will invite students to support/remediation small groups based on need.

Sixth through 8th Grades

The distance learning plan for grades 6 – 8 will include a daily meet (Mon – Thurs), recorded lessons from grade level teachers, and online or home activities. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in daily, (Mon-Fri) scheduled office hours with teachers between 8:00 – 3:00 to answer questions or for extra help. Students will participate in Religion, English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies daily and will have weekly opportunities to participate in Art, Music, PE or Library. Assigned activities should last approximately 4 hours daily. Fridays will be used for ensuring students have met individual Lexia, ixl, and AR targets. Students will also have the opportunity to attend a classroom meet during scheduled office hours and teachers will invite students to support/remediation small groups based on need.

Chromebooks or laptops are available to be checked out to families in Grades 1-8 with multiple students or families who do not have access to a computer for student use at home.

Attendance

A student's attendance in a Google Meet and/or turning in assigned work determines one's presence or absence. Students and parents will be notified weekly of any absence with a due date for any missed assignment and removing the absence. As per the Parent-Student Handbook (p. 20), "State law requires students must be in attendance 90% (162 days) of the school year to receive credit. *The 90% rule applies to all absences, including excused absences.*"

Grading

The current grading system as specified in the Student-Parent Handbook will be used.

Thank you to our teachers, staff members, students, and families for your patience and cooperation. We will work together to continue to provide a quality, Christ-centered education in these challenging times. St. Michael, pray for us!