

St. Michael Swords News

August 26, 2021

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*to be friendly, respectful, responsible
and Christ-like*

Covid Questionnaire Results

Here are the results of the Covid Questionnaire that was recently sent to families.

Please choose one of the following. If other, please explain.

20 families (42.55%) responded, “I would like masks to be optional and completely parents’ choice. In this case, the school will continue to notify families of any positive cases and allow parents and students to decide if they will be wearing a mask. Masks will only be encouraged not required.”

23 families (48.94%) responded, “I would like the current Covid mask guidelines to continue: ‘SMCS is encouraging all students to wear a mask at school in the hallways and as they travel about the campus. However, SMCS staff, parents, and students will not be required to wear masks at school. If a student or SMCS staff member is in close contact with a person who tested positive, they may return to school but must wear a mask for 10 days.’ (This was recently amended to 7 days to be worn in common areas like hallways and bathrooms.)

4 families (8.51%) responded “Other” with the following comments:

1. “I agree with the second option, but feel we should also add, that masks should be worn, regardless of vaccination status. This could also be re-evaluated as cases increase in the school family. But if this is not an option, then I will agree with the second choice, I feel SMCS admin should have the authority on masks mandate.”
2. “Required – I would like to see everyone wearing masks everywhere except at their desks.”
3. “Mrs. Order (sic) is our principal and has the authority to make any policy she feels is appropriate. This is not a democracy. A small piece of cloth covering the mouth to prevent the spread of a highly contagious illness is common sense and not burdensome. Parents should respect the authority and judgement of our principal.”

4. “Mandatory for all in the school building.”

Teachers and staff were also sent the same questionnaire. Here are their results:

1 staff member (7.14%) chose the first option.

8 staff members (57.14%) chose the second option.

6 staff members (42.86%) responded “Other” with the following comments:

1. “I feel like our protocols should be more strict. Our kids safety should be first priority. I think masks should be worn at all times except (sic) when outside or at PE to minimize spread.”
2. “I will support whatever administration decides.”
3. “The CDC only recommends not to quarantine for exposure when both people were wearing masks. Our school is allowing adults and children who have been directly exposed to only wear a mask in hallways which is putting everyone else at risk. There is no protection for students or teachers with the current policy. Opinions and politics need to be put aside. Science, health, and safety should be the focus right now.”
4. “I will support any decision made by the school administration because I know they are only looking out for everyone’s health and safety.”
5. “I like our current protocol and think that works best for everyone. You are never going to please everyone, but what is most important is the safety of all students and faculty.”
6. “I would like masks to be required in the hallways and bathrooms, regardless of whether or not students, faculty, and staff have been in contact with someone who tested positive. I would also like them to be encouraged in the classroom, even if you are behind a shield.”

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In careful consideration of the results of this questionnaire, and the mixed concerns and opinions that were offered, our SMCS Covid Guidelines will remain in effect for the time being. The administration will continue to monitor the ever-changing situation and reevaluate our policy regularly. We appreciate you sharing your thoughts, concerns, and opinions with us.

Renaissance Star Testing

The Renaissance Star Testing continues through next week. Classes were tested in Reading this week, which will determine their AR level. Math testing will occur next week.

Fall Pictures

Individual pictures will be taken on Friday, September 3rd, for Pre-K through 8th grades. Students must wear their mass uniform that day. A proof and price list will go out soon for families to order. **This proof must be returned to school, even if you are not ordering.**

Safe Environment Training

The first training session for parents and others interested in volunteering at SMCS will be held on Tuesday, September 7th at 5:30 p.m. at the school. Anyone interested needs to register at www.victoriadiocese.org. Look under the Safe Environment tab and complete the required online application/background check.

Pecans Needed

Mrs. Daria Emmel, who bakes the strudels and rolls for our annual sale, would be appreciative of any donations of shelled pecans. She says our families have been generous in the past to help out with this fundraiser. If you have any to donate, please bring them to the school office and we will get them to her.

IOWA Testing Week

IOWA Testing will be held the week of September 20th – 24th. All testing will be conducted in the mornings. Please schedule any appointments for the afternoons if they are scheduled for that week.

August Birthdays

Happy birthday to Lynlie Janak, who will celebrate her birthday on August 30th. I unfortunately missed her name last week. My apologies.

Sports News

Our SMCS Cross Country team participated in their first meet in Yoakum last Saturday. Ella Herzik ran her personal best time. Their next meet is Thursday, September 2nd in Schulenburg. Team members are: Connor Elstner, Emma Koeth, Trey Silcox, Ella Herzik, and Sarah Jane Berger.

Our volleyball team continues to perform well, but have still not pulled out their first win. Their next game will be at Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca on Tuesday, September 7th at 5:00 p.m. Team members are: Kylie Ohnheiser, Madelyn Rerich, Ella Herzik, Kendall Jahn, Callie Jo Janak, Victoria Sherwood, Sarah Jane Berger, Chloe Brandt, Emily Wied, and Mallarie Williams.

Our first football game is almost here! Our SMCS football team play on September 1st against St. Rose at 5:30 at the Schulenburg ISD Stadium. Team members will be announced next week.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who has helped us begin this 2021 – 2022 school year.

--Jeremy Hillje and Eric Billeck for framing the separating section of the hallway in the brick building.

--Dennis and Mary Lou Kristynik (grandmother of Dylan and Kassie Moeller) for donating a “bagful” of snacks for the faculty and staff.

--The Banse Family for donating donuts for the faculty and staff for the first day of school.

--The Moeller Family for donating an additional three reams of paper.

--Ed & Jennifer Moeller (grandparents of Dylan and Kassie Moeller) and Chelsea Moeller for donating 180 pounds of hamburger meat to our cafeteria.

--Weimar Encore Lions for donating school supplies and a monetary donation for school supplies.

--Weimar Rotary Club for donating school supplies.

--Fayette Savings Bank for donating bottled water for us to sell in our concession stand.

--Martin Luchak for organizing and participating in the summer repairs and cleaning.