



## **St. Peter Catholic School School Contingency Plan- Executive Summary**

St. Peter Catholic School in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Education, Diocese of Colorado Springs, local health officials, administrators, and other Diocesan staff and organizations has worked diligently to develop a school re-opening contingency plan that allows students to return to school in a manner that reduces health related risks while maintaining an environment in which we focus on the education of the whole child (spiritually, physically, socially, emotionally, and intellectually).

St. Peter will provide on school learning with the necessary school and classroom modifications needed to support students' safe return to school on August 12th, 2020. This plan will be updated regularly based on the guidance of local and state health officials and state mandates and requirements. These updates will be shared by the school principal by use of the school website and The Crusader.

For continuity purposes, the schools within the diocese of Colorado Springs will use the following format in the executive summaries: Element (procedure), Rationale (why), Unknown (Areas to Consider).

### **Element 1**

**St. Peter Catholic School is planning on in person, on school learning 5 days a week for Preschool through 8th grade.**

#### **Rationale:**

Recent statements from Governor Polis indicate that upcoming guidance from the state level will permit class sizes of 25 or more, consistent with realistic protocols for distancing, hygiene, and personal responsibility. By following state mandates, requirements and recommendations provided by El Paso County Health, and the CDE guidelines, St. Peter Catholic School can mitigate transmission of illness and provide a safe, quality, Christ centered education through on school teaching and learning for Preschool through 8th grade.

#### **Unknown/Areas to consider:**

What is the maximum amount of space that can be provided between learners within each classroom?

How can we utilize our space to the best of our ability in order to maintain social distancing measures?

The week of August 3rd, teachers will work as teams to measure classrooms and work in collaboration to set up classrooms to capitalize on class space and room set up.

## **Element 2**

**St. Peter Catholic School will continue to provide remote learning and hybrid options for those families who request different learning at this time and/or should St. Peter Catholic school need to move to remote learning for a student population during the school year at any given time.**

### **Rationale:**

Survey results have shown that some families would prefer remote or hybrid learning because of immunocompromised situations. By providing options for families, St. Peter Catholic School will remain ready to provide remote learning if at any time throughout the year it becomes necessary.

### **Unknown/Areas to Consider:**

Hybrid options include in-person learning for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. This can be a full day or half day option. Students would work from home on Thursday and Friday. Students can join the class instruction using Google Meets.

Families may choose a full time on-line learning option. Students would join the classroom instruction using Google Meets. Teachers will do their best to provide support to the on-line students during the instructional time. Teachers will also record the instruction and post to their Google Classroom. These recordings will also be available to students who miss class due to illness.

We will continue to provide training for remote learning to help streamline the remote learning option while continuing to provide a quality Christ centered learning environment for all students.

We will continue to look at updated technology equipment to help teachers provide quality instruction both in the classroom and during remote learning environments.

### **Element 3**

**Students will remain in cohort groups (grade level placements) to the greatest extent possible throughout the school day.**

Rationale:

Scheduling students in cohorts will help reduce the degree of contact and minimize the need for contact tracing should a student or staff member become infected. Social distancing and cohort placement has proven to greatly reduce transmission of illness amongst certain populations.

Unknowns/Areas to Consider:

Students will move within their cohort groups throughout the school day including the attendance of lunch, recess, and specials.

The Specials teachers and those staff members that see multiple cohorts will wear shields or masks and will sanitize work stations.

### **Element 4**

**Enhanced cleaning protocols have been established to disinfect the school daily.**

Rationale:

By maintaining a clean work environment where frequently touched/used surfaces are regularly cleaned and disinfected throughout the school day, the potential for illness transmission will be greatly mitigated.

Unknown/Areas to Consider:

Teachers and staff will be provided training for cleaning of school surfaces.

Teachers and staff members will be provided with all of the necessary cleaning and disinfecting materials.

We will continue to do research on the best protocols and materials to use to disinfect all surfaces including outdoor spaces such as the school playground and any shared materials.

Any shared materials, ie. Art, Chromebooks, iPads, etc, will be sanitized following each use.

## **Element 5**

**Students will go out to recess during the school day for break periods and will continue to receive specials throughout the school day.**

Rationale:

By using the recommended protocols established by local and state healthcare specialists, we can mitigate the risk of exposure to the best extent possible while allowing students structured and free break periods for their social/emotional wellbeing, thus supporting the education of the whole child.

Unknown/Areas to Consider:

We will be working on recess space to allow for strategic distancing protocols.

## **Element 6**

**St. Peter Catholic School plans on following the traditional school calendar (August through May) and listed events marked on the school calendar without extending or shortening the school calendar to the greatest extent possible.** (Calendar link)

Rationale:

Remaining with the standard schedule will maintain a known, sustainable model, which will help provide much needed continuity and routine for all stakeholders.

Unknowns/Areas to Consider:

How will the transitioning between various cohorts increase the need for structure/new procedures and safety protocols to maintain social distancing guidelines?

How will events/traditions need to be changed or adapted in order to continue while following guidelines?

## **Element 7**

**St. Peter Catholic School will follow recommended hygiene precautions throughout the day to mitigate potential transmission of illness (masks, hand washing, cleaning of surface areas, avoiding shared materials, etc):**

Rationale:

Current best recommendations from CDE and health agencies include, wearing masks when social distancing is not possible, frequent hand washing, avoiding the sharing of classroom supplies, and cleaning all hard surfaces throughout the building throughout the day.

Unknown/Areas to Consider:

Staff members will be required to wear some form of face covering during the school day.

Students in K - 8 will be required to wear a mask when entering the school after morning drop off.

Students will be encouraged but not required to wear masks in the classroom. However, masks or face shields may be required during transitional periods where social distancing cannot be accomplished.

We will continue to social distance in the classroom setting whenever/wherever possible.

Hand sanitizer will be available for frequent hand washing when soap and water is not available.

## **Element 8**

**St. Peter Catholic School will implement recommended and mandated health protocols for screening, detecting, and responding to exposure and infection.**

Rationale:

Screening for symptoms such as elevated temperatures, or contact tracing after exposure to infected individuals provides an additional layer of protection to students, parents, and staff.

Unknown/Areas to Consider:

Students, teachers, and staff will be required to get temperature checks daily upon arrival.

Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 F or above will be isolated and sent home.

Random temperature checks may be done throughout the school day.

Anyone with a temperature or feeling ill should stay home to maintain a healthy school.

If one student in a cohort tests positive for COVID, they will self quarantine for 14 days along with their siblings.

If two students from the same cohort test positive for COVID, all those in the cohort will quarantine for 14 days, (siblings of those infected will also need to quarantine).

## **Element 9**

**Visitors will be kept to a minimum; all visitors must receive permission prior to a scheduled visit; all visitors will be given a temperature check upon entering the office area; and all visitors must check into the main office prior to entering the main classroom areas. All visitors must wear a mask when moving around the building.**

Rationale:

There is no way to guarantee that visitors have not been in contact with infected individuals. By limiting the number of visitors and volunteers, we can prevent, as much as possible, the spread of COVID.

Areas to Consider:

At this time, it is our recommendation that for the 2020-2021 school year, we forgo the use of school volunteers when possible.

St. Peter Catholic School will provide alternative means of serving our community.

Visitors will not be permitted in school during the school day other than from the front office after a thorough screening is conducted.

These recommendations are made based on the need to limit the exposure of our students, faculty, and staff.

## **New Procedures/Routines:**

### **Drop Off:**

Parents are not allowed to walk their child into the building. Drop off will begin at 7:45 AM. at the usual playground parking lot area. Staff will conduct a temperature screening at the car. If the temperature is below 100.4 F., the student will enter the building and go directly to his/her classroom. Students will wear a mask when traveling to their classroom. Students may remove the mask when they enter the room. Students will wash hands after entering the room.

### **Pick Up:**

Parents are not allowed to pick up students inside the building. Cohorts will be separated in the gym and hall (we will use the gym divider). Families with preschool siblings will continue to pick up in the preschool car line. Older students will exit the building through the Kindergarten

classroom.

- 3:00 PM pick up for Kindergarten through Second Grade
- 3:10 PM pick up for Third through Fifth Grade
- 3:20 PM pick for Sixth through Eighth Grade and younger siblings.

**Lunch and Recess Schedules:**

- **Middle School 11:00 - 11:30**
  - 3 separate areas for eating and play
- **Third through Fifth Grade**
  - 11:30 - 11:50 Lunch - 3 separate areas for eating
  - 12:00 - 12:30 Recess - 3 separate play areas
- **Kindergarten - Second Grade**
  - 12:00 - 12:30 Lunch - 3 separate areas for eating
  - 12:30 - 1:00 Recess - 3 separate play areas