August 20, 2021

Dear Families,

Based on the feedback from principals, the Schools Office in the Archdiocese of Newark have shared the following protocol for the 2021-2022 school year:

- **INSTRUCTION:** Every school will provide full-time in-person instruction for every student. However, every school must be prepared to pivot to remote instruction should the need to quarantine arises.
    o The Academy of Saint Paul is fully prepared to safely welcome students (please refer to previously communicated school COVID protocols). In addition to being prepared to continue full-time instruction, we are fully prepared for remote instruction, should the need arise.
- **MASKS:** Due to Governor Murphy's signed Executive Order No. 251 on August 6, 2021, all RCAN schools will implement a mandatory mask mandate for staff, students and visitors. This will remain in effect until the Governor rescinds the order **and** the Archdiocese gives further direction regarding mask wearing in schools.
    o Please refer to our previously communicated school COVID protocols for specifics on how we will function within the mask mandate, i.e. mask breaks and types of masks allowed. It can be found on School Speak and the website.
- **SCREENING:** Schools must continue their screening techniques and exposure and positive cases reporting protocols.
    o The Academy of Saint Paul will continue to provide the Fever Free app to monitor the well-being of every school community member who enters the building.
- **VENTILATION:** Appropriate Ventilation and sanitizing protocols should be in place.
    o The Academy of Saint Paul has appropriate ventilation and sanitizing stations throughout the building. In addition, we are waiting for additional funding to purchase air purifiers for each classroom.
- **VACCINATIONS:** COVID vaccinations have **not** been mandated by state law or Executive Order nor required by the Archdiocese. "Every member is encouraged to get vaccinated against COVID-19, as it is an act of charity for the greater good." Msgr. McDade) At this time, schools may not require that individuals disclose COVID-19 vaccination status, however, anyone is free to disclose this information. If at some point it is determined that being fully vaccinated is a condition for waiving a specific requirement for an individual, then the individual has the option of deciding whether they wish to disclose their vaccination status.
- Schools are to continue to follow the quarantine protocols in place regarding COVID diagnosis and exposure.
    o The Academy of Saint Paul follows the CDC guidelines. Currently the procedure is:
        ▪ Exposure:

- Vaccinated:
    - Quarantine required: No, unless they have symptoms or symptoms develop
    - Testing required: Yes, 5 days after exposure, even if no symptoms are present
- Unvaccinated:
    - Quarantine required: Yes.
        - How long?
            - 10 days without testing and watch for symptoms to occur for up to 14 days after exposure
            - Test on the 5th day and with a negative result, may return to school/work **(Testing shortens quarantine time)**
- If you test positive, you must quarantine for 10 days and be symptom free to come back to school/work
- If you had COVID-19 within 3 months of exposure and you recovered and remain asymptomatic (without symptoms) you do NOT need to quarantine.

Please remember that the Academy of Saint Paul is guided by the CDC, the state and Archdiocesan mandates and thus, these guidelines are subject to change.

These are indeed unprecedented times, but I remind you of how successful we have been because of the joint efforts and cooperation of our school community. Please continue to remain calm, continue to communicate your concerns and remember that everything we implement is for the benefit of children and staff.

May God continue to bless and keep our school community.

Sincerely,
Tracy A. Graham, Principal