

Safe Learning for our Students

A RE-ENTRY GUIDE FOR OPENING OUR SCHOOL

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your partnership and support during these unprecedented times. Please know that our continued prayers are with you and your family for healthy, safe, and happy homes. We will continue to work together to provide as safe an environment for our faculty, staff, and students so that we can begin on-campus, daily learning starting on August 12th. In order to accomplish this massive task, it will take the cooperation of us all to get our students back in school. Now that we have received the Louisiana State Department of Education, BESE, and Diocesan guidelines, this document will give you a broad outline of some of the procedures and protocols being put into place so that our students will be able to return to SLS. Please note that these can change at any moment, as we continue to face a rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic.

As we move through each Phase of pandemic protocols issued from the state and the Diocese, we will adjust our school's procedures to reflect the directives given. Through an abundance of prayer, we hope to move through each of these phases quickly so that our school can look and feel like it usually does.

This year will undoubtedly be like no other, but one thing is certain. We will live our SLS motto of "We are Family" by working together to give our students the best faith-filled school experience possible. With everyone working together, we will have a better chance of minimizing the risk for our students, faculty, and staff.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The education and faith formation of our students is our utmost priority. All healthy faculty, staff, and students will attend school for face-to-face learning beginning mid-August. Half of our students will attend on August 12th and the other half will attend on August 13th to allow for small group instruction on the many new safety and movement protocols on campus. Starting on August 14th and each day thereafter, ALL students will attend school each day. We have made adjustments to our learning spaces to accommodate the restrictions on the numbers of people in one location so that all students can attend SLS for face-to-face instruction with protocols in place to mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19. Some of these adjustments are unique and unlike anything we've done before, reflective of the unique times we are in right now. We are willing to do anything and everything within our power to be able to provide face-to-face instruction for our students. Students who are ill or quarantined due to exposure will access classroom instruction online and will return to school when appropriate.

Should Louisiana revert to Phase 1, the current guidelines will not allow all students to be on campus at one time. In that situation, we will attempt to continue face-to-face learning for our littlest learners (grades PreK-1st) with much smaller groupings and our older students will have distance learning as they are able to work a little more independently. This is a worst case scenario, as our prayers and hopes are that we will continue to move toward a normal that we are most familiar with and not to move backward to a more restrictive Phase. We will follow all state and Diocesan mandates issued to us.

A FAMILY PLEDGE

In order to keep all of our students as safe as possible and to limit the exposure to COVID-19, it is imperative that all families commit to following all health and wellness protocols put in place. Students who are ill, have symptoms of illness, or have been exposed to COVID-19 must stay home until a doctor releases them to return to school. All parents are encouraged to take a daily temperature check of their child during their morning routines to get ready for school. If your child has a temperature above 100.4 degrees, they are not allowed on campus. We also need all of our families to commit to punctually picking up their child from school if they happen to develop a temperature during the school day. The only way we can limit the exposure of illness to other students and equally important, to our teachers, is to keep the illnesses off of our campus.

TEMPERATURE CHECKS UPON ARRIVAL

Students will have their temperature taken using a thermal, no-contact thermometer by a duty teacher in car line before they exit their car each morning. If a student has a temperature of 100.4 or higher, they will not be allowed to exit the vehicle and enter campus.

WHO SHOULD STAY HOME?

- Students who are sick should stay home. This is required for all illnesses.
- Students who have COVID-19 are to stay home for at least 14 days and have been determined to be recovered by a doctor. A doctor's release is mandatory for the student to return to school.
- Students who have a member of their family that has tested positive for COVID-19 or is waiting for the results of a COVID-19 test.
- Students who have flu-like or Covid-19-like symptoms.
- Students who were in close contact with a COVID-19 positive student or faculty/staff member.
- Students traveling to locations out of state determined to be "hot spots" may be required to quarantine for 14 days.

DEFINITION OF "CLOSE CONTACT"

"Close contact" is defined as being within 6 feet of another individual for 15 or more consecutive minutes without the use of adequate personal protective equipment. We will limit close contact of our students throughout the day to help minimize the need for extensive quarantining of our students.

FACE COVERINGS

Students in 3rd grade and higher and all adults on campus are required to wear a protective face cover. Students must provide their own cloth mask or neck gaiter, either store bought or homemade. Masks can be any color or design, but must be appropriate for an elementary Catholic school campus. Cloth masks should be cleaned before re-use. If there is a medical reason that a face mask cannot be worn, documentation from a physician is required. Students in PreK-2nd grade can wear face masks if they wish, but it is not mandatory.

SICK ROOM

A small room adjacent to the front office has been identified as our Sick Room during this re-opening phase of school. Any student on campus who begins to exhibit symptoms of illness or starts running a temperature during the school day will be isolated in this sick room. Parents will be contacted to pick up sick students and it is expected for parents to make arrangements for students to be picked up promptly.

CAMPUS VISITORS

At this time, we will be operating under a "closed campus" model which does not allow any visitors or volunteers on campus. Only under very specific circumstances will anyone besides students, faculty, and staff be allowed on campus. Parent meetings will be held via phone calls or through the use of digital conferencing.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

All of our teachers have set up their classrooms and learning spaces to accommodate for the restrictions of the number of students and for the physical distancing requirements. Student desks are spread out using as close to a six-foot from center distancing protocol as possible. Our classrooms certainly don't look anything like we are used to seeing at SLS. Although student movement on campus will be extremely limited, anytime the students walk in a line or move around campus, they will do so using the six foot distancing guidelines.

A CLEAN CAMPUS

SLS has always had a commitment to providing a clean campus and school environment for our students. We will continue these same practices but have added additional protocols and procedures to address COVID-19 concerns. We will continue to educate our faculty, staff, and students on healthy habits of personal hygiene to minimize the spread of germs. Frequently touched surfaces like light switches, doors and desks will be cleaned every two hours throughout the day using CDC approved disinfectants that are safe to be used around students. Any time there is a change of students from one class space to another, it will be disinfected before a new group of students enter. Hand sanitizer dispensers have been installed on the inside and outside of each entry/exit door of our buildings for our students to sanitize before touching any door handles. Students will wash their hands (or use hand sanitizer) at least every two hours throughout the day, including before entering/exiting the building, before/after lunch, before/after outside play time, etc. There will be no sharing of supplies or materials; each student will have their own materials so that they will not be in direct contact of any other student. Water fountains are closed, so students are encouraged to bring a couple of water bottles each day.

LARGE GROUP GATHERINGS

All large group gatherings are cancelled at this time.

- Weekly Mass will be livestreamed to each of our classrooms so that our faculty, staff, and students can participate in this much needed and cherished activity.
- Afternoon dismissal will take place from the classrooms.
- Extended Day will follow the same size and social distancing requirements as the regular school day.

LUNCH AND SNACKS ON CAMPUS

Lunches will still be provided but will be eaten in the classrooms or outside if the weather permits. Any food sent to school from home (PreK and K snacks) must be individually wrapped. No homemade food items are allowed on campus at this time.

DELIVERY OF INSTRUCTION OPTIONS

There are three models of instructional learning environments available at this time. Please note that SLS is not mandated to follow the same model at the Lafayette Parish School System. We follow the guidelines issued to us by the state and by the Diocese of Lafayette. The three models of instructional learning environment are:

Option 1 - Traditional

Option 1 is the traditional face-to-face instructional model, which we are most familiar. This is the option that SLS has chosen to adopt, using the state and Diocesan guidelines to provide for a socially distant learning environment. All students will attend school each day and have instruction delivered to them at school by a teacher.

Option 2 - Hybrid

Option 2 is what is known as a "hybrid" model which incorporates some face-to-face instruction and some distance learning. You may have heard of other school systems' models in which some students attend school on certain days and some days they have online learning. SLS does not wish to use this model as it would offer some difficulties for our families. Please know that SLS would only use this model if we were directed to do so.

Option 3 - Distance Learning

Option 3 is a distance learning model, which we had some experience with at the end of the last school year. If our COVID-19 numbers would force our state to revert to a lower Phase forcing us back in our homes, we would use distance learning, but it would look a little different than what was done at the end of the year. Lessons would be presented mainly live, with the teacher teaching throughout the day to the students while they would be at home on a device in a "virtual" class. Students would be expected to be up and logged on to their classroom each morning, just like a regular school day. SLS will only use this model if we are forced back into our homes, for those students who are quarantined because of exposure to COVID-19 and for those families who opt in for virtual learning instead of face-to-face instruction.

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

There is no way that we can include everything that we are doing at SLS to re-open school in one document. We are constantly looking at new opportunities to help re-open our school as safely as possible. Of course, our main goal is to teach our students, but we realize that many of our students are anxious about the uncertainty of COVID-19. Our focus upon re-opening our school is to rebuild our community and to provide a safe place for our students to help ease their concerns and worries. Holy Spirit, surround our school, our families, and our nation.