



St. Giles Reopening FAQ

Academics and Schedules

Q. What is a cohort?

A. Per our reopening plan, students will be placed in cohorts, which we plan to call Prides, as we are the St. Giles Lions. These Prides are essentially classes, meaning each grade level K-8 will have two Prides. Students will remain in their Pride for the full day; they will not mingle or mix with other Prides, including students within their grade outside of their Pride.

Q. Will the curriculum be adjusted in order to achieve meaningful learning despite new protocols? i.e. PE without physical exertion, music without singing, etc.?

A. Yes, we will focus on any courses that need to be adjusted, like PE and music to include topics such as health and safety, music theory and history, etc.

Q. Will the daily and weekly schedule remain the same?

A. The daily schedule is being looked at for any revisions needed to accommodate smaller groups for recess but the start and end times remain the same. Wednesdays will still be a 2:00 dismissal for PreK full day - 8th grade to accommodate faculty meetings.

Q. What will recess, lunch, and specials look like? Will students be moving to other classrooms/areas during the day?

A. Specials teachers and subject matter teachers in the upper grades will move to individual classrooms; students will not be changing classes. Lunch will be eaten in the classrooms and recess will be with their individual Pride. Students may take off their masks when they are outside for either classes or recess as long as they maintain a safe physical distance.

Q. Will students return to a staggered day schedule or 5 days a week?

A. We will return to a 5 day week, not a staggered schedule.

Q. What will PreK look like for students in various programs, full day vs. ½ day, 5 day vs. 3, etc.?

A. PreK will look the same. The classrooms remain the same and teachers and aides will work to help the students adjust to the new environment. They will have their regular lessons, outdoor play, and rest period for those who are full-day students.

Q. What will transitions look like? Will students be seated at their desks all day?

A. Transitions will be limited to moving to recess and PE, going to the washrooms, and leaving for the day. Students will not change classrooms during the day and will not line up in the hallways as they have in the past.

Q. Why are we returning on August 19th and not later in the month?

A. August 19th is our original start date and we will begin on that date as planned. Moving to later in the month will elongate the school year in order to get in our 180 required days.

Q. How will you keep the younger students (primary and preK) 6 feet apart?

A. Teachers and aides will do their best to help students understand a safe distance. We will teach them “airplane arms” and mark off the floors and outdoor spaces with paw prints, so our littlest lions know where to stand. Desks will be separated so that when seated they are as far apart as possible in classrooms. We know that our littlest lions may not always be six feet apart and, as long as they are wearing their masks, that is OK. Our teachers and aides will help to ensure they are maintaining a safe

distance from other students and teachers. We are waiting for further information regarding PreK in particular and will share that information in a special enews to those parents once it is finalized.

Q. What will the school day look like? Is there any opportunity for small group work within the classroom?

A. We will keep the school day as normal as possible for students. There will be opportunities for small group work as long as students are further apart than they would be in a typical year and group work will not last longer than 15 minutes. We also plan to take advantage of outdoor learning spaces, including the outdoor classroom and courtyard area. If the class can meet outside, they can have longer small group collaboration.

Q. Will 7th and 8th grade continue with iPads?

A. We are currently procuring Chromebooks and hope to have enough for a full 1:1 program in grades 3-8. We are going to be moving to Chromebooks in 7th and 8th grade due to the limitations, cost, and maintenance of iPads. The Chromebooks are touch screens and will give the same opportunity as an iPad experience and will work more efficiently with Google Classroom.

Q. What will PE look like if students are required to wear masks? If we are not comfortable with masks and exertion in PE, can our students opt out?

A. PE will be outside as often as possible so that students can remove their masks while maintaining a safe distance. We will adjust the curriculum to limit exertion while still allowing for physical activity and continue our focus on health and wellness. If a student is not able to or not comfortable participating, they can sit out as they would if they had a physical restriction and unable to participate. They would be responsible for assignments.

Q. Will there be recess?

A. Yes. We will create a schedule to accommodate recess in various outdoor areas on a rotating basis so that all students have access to multiple areas.

Q. How will you manage substitutes when a teacher is absent?

A. We have internal subs that work in the building daily and they will be assigned to classrooms when needed.

Q. If a student does not return to in-person learning, what does the remote learning option look like?

A. Remote learning for those who do not wish to return to St. Giles, or any of the Archdiocesan schools, will be handled through the Archdiocese and an outside vendor. More information will be forthcoming from the Archdiocese about the option as soon as they have finalized their vendor selection. The remote learning option will follow the same standards that all Archdiocese schools follow in each area of the curriculum. Families choosing remote learning will commit to the trimester and can return to in-person learning at the beginning of the next term. As soon as the details are available, we will share that with all families. If for any reason a student is not in-person at St. Giles at the beginning of the term, they will need to wait until the next term to begin in-person learning. For legal and privacy reasons, classes may not be live streamed or recorded.

Masks

Q. Will students and teachers be required to wear masks all day?

A. Yes. We ask parents to provide a minimum of 2 washable masks in paper (not plastic) bags and make sure they are laundered daily. If you choose to use disposable masks, they must have a new one each day. Teachers will wear their own masks. Those teachers who rely on facial expressions for class, i.e. Spanish, reading, phonics, will be allowed to wear shields for that time in class when their mouths need to be visible. In some outdoor circumstances, students and teachers will be allowed to remove their masks if they can maintain appropriate physical distance.

Q. What are the requirements for masks? Do they need to be a uniform mask or can the students wear their own?

A. They do not need to be uniform masks but need to fit well. Not all masks fit every student the same way. Please review with your children the correct way to wear their masks, over the nose and mouth entirely. Families are asked to provide at least two reusable masks for each student, with the expectation that masks will be washed every day. Please provide paper bags (i.e.

brown lunch bags) for mask storage when they are removed for lunch, snack, or when outside for PE or other classes and are socially distanced. Students using disposable masks should discard them at the end of the school day. If you are using disposable masks, parents need to provide extras to replace them if they become damaged during the school day. Masks with distracting messages or images will not be allowed.

Facilities and Physical Distancing

Q. How large are each of the classes?

A. The largest classes are in the middle school with 21 or 22 in each 8th grade homeroom. Other classes are 20 students or below. We have capped classrooms at this size and have created waitlists for interested families.

Q. How will you accommodate larger classes, especially in the middle school unit?

A. The largest homeroom class is 22 students and we have arranged the room with all extraneous furniture removed and desks spread out as far as possible. All students will be at desks; we have removed the table seating to maintain a safe physical distance.

Q. What do the classrooms look like if you can't get 6 feet between desks?

A. We have spaced desks in all classrooms as far apart as possible and removed any ancillary furniture. We currently have 4-5 feet between seats for desks in classrooms. Shared tables, rugs, and flexible seating furniture have been moved to storage and will return once it is safe to do so.

Q. How will you address ventilation in the classrooms during the warm temperature days?

A. All classrooms have ceiling fans and windows and doors will be left open to allow for cross ventilation. We are currently looking into dehumidifiers and other solutions for the upper floors of Frawley that are in direct sunlight throughout the day. More information to come!

Q. What type of filtration system is used throughout the building?

A. We have radiator heat and all classrooms have ceiling fans, with additional fans added when the weather is warm. We will leave windows and doors open to allow for cross ventilation and fresh air when we can, outside of inclement weather.

Q. What will drop off/pick up and entering the building look like to accommodate taking temperatures?

A. We are currently working with our health and safety team to develop the best plan for drop off and pick up procedures. Details will be shared once that is complete.

Q. What protocols have been put in place to ensure proper cleaning and sanitation?

A. Our janitorial service has been working with our health/safety protocols all summer and has completed a deep cleaning of all areas. They will continue to sanitize high traffic areas (doorknobs, light switches, washrooms) throughout the day and at the end of the day when all students, faculty, and staff leave the building. Specific cleaning supplies have been provided by the Archdiocese to ensure that we are maintaining a safe environment. We have purchased electrostatic sprayers to be used in areas for additional immediate sanitization, such as the playground between Prides and frequent bathroom cleaning.

Q. How will the washrooms be sanitized between use? How will students wash their hands regularly?

A. Washrooms will be wiped down regularly and sanitized using electrostatic sprayers. Students will be expected to use the available sinks in some classrooms and we have rented portable sinks to be used on both floors of the Frawley building.

Q. How are teachers being equipped with the necessary supplies for sanitation? Are there ways we can help them in their individual classrooms?

A. We have purchased supplies throughout the summer and are so appreciative of our parents for offers to help! You have seen in the school supply lists that we have added personal hand sanitizer to the list. As we go through PPE supplies during

the year and need additional supplies, we will let parents know. We are looking into creating an Amazon Wishlist so that parents can see what might be needed throughout the year.

Q. Will the outdoor classroom and other outdoor spaces be used for classes? Can McDonough Hall be used for classes?

A. Yes. The outdoor classroom, courtyard, and grass space between Frawley and the church will be available. We have portable desks that students have used in music and primary that fit all grade levels and can be used in outdoor spaces.

Health

Q. Does the reopening plan adhere to the CDC guidelines?

A. Yes, the Archdiocese COVID Response Team works with the IDPH, CDPH, and ISBE following guidelines outlined for a safe return to school.

Q. If CPS and Oak Park schools do not open, will you follow their plan?

A. No, the Archdiocese announced in June that we would open as a system and have worked to put detailed plans in place to ensure the safety of all faculty and staff as well as our families.

Q. If a student tests positive for COVID would they be enrolled in the remote learning option?

A. No. Any student who is out sick, COVID or otherwise, would receive make-up work with check-ins by their teachers just as they would for any other extended absence in a typical year.

Q. Will temperature checks be required for students and teachers entering the building?

A. Yes. Parents are asked to check temperatures of students before leaving home and we will take temperatures as they enter the building with a contactless infrared thermometer. Any students who are not feeling well, have a cold, bad allergies, stomach bug, are asked to remain home when they are sick. Teachers will provide work for them and flexibility will be applied in returning assignments.

Q. What is the protocol if a student or teacher tests positive for COVID-19? What if a family member of someone in the class tests positive? Will families in that class be notified?

A. Current guidelines from the Archdiocese team are that if a student or teacher tests positive for COVID-19, that they notify the principal immediately and remain home for at least 14 days from the positive test. Once their symptoms have subsided and they have been fever-free for 3 days after the 14 days, they may return with a doctor's release. Parents in the Pride and the community will be notified and the Pride will be monitored for any additional cases. Unless additional cases in the same Pride have tested positive, there would not be a need to quarantine the entire Pride. If that Pride were to quarantine, their lessons would be taught remotely by the teacher unless he or she is unable due to illness.

Q. What precautions are being taken to keep the faculty and staff safe?

A. Faculty will be provided with masks and cleaning supplies as well as training in order to maintain safety in the classroom for them and for students.

Q. What is the threshold of COVID cases before St. Giles returns to eLearning?

A. We are waiting for additional information from the Archdiocese as to what would warrant St. Giles to move to eLearning outside of a state or local mandate.

Q. If a student becomes ill or needs to leave for any reason during the day, where will the parents pick them up?

A. Currently, our health and safety committee is working to determine the best ways for isolating a student who becomes ill. More information will be shared with families once our plan is finalized.

All-School eLearning

Q. If the Archdiocese or state determines we need to return to eLearning, will there be a tuition reduction?

A. We will continue to provide full instruction of all classes online if we need to return to eLearning. This will look different than it did in the spring during the emergency closure. We will begin the day at a specific time, use synchronous instruction, and expect full participation from all students. Families who may need electronic devices if we return to eLearning will be provided devices as we did in the spring. Tuition is our revenue source that enables us to pay our teachers and staff and supports other school-related expenses whether we are in the building or remote learning, and thus tuition will not be reduced during eLearning.

Q. If we return to eLearning, will it be the same as it was in the spring?

A. No, it will be more synchronous instruction on all levels. All classes will use Google Classroom and Google Meet, not Zoom, for direct and recorded instruction. The day will be structured with our opening prayer and pledge as we do on regular days and move on from there. Our teachers have worked this summer to develop recorded lessons and improve video skills in order to provide more direct instruction for all students. It will be flexible but more scheduled than during the emergency closure.

Q. If we need to return to eLearning, will there be technology available for those who may need it?

A. Yes. We provided technology to those who needed it during the emergency closure and will continue to do so if we need to return to eLearning.

Extras

Q. Will there be enrichment after school?

A. We will be able to have enrichment activities as long as we can maintain social distancing. Those activities will be addressed at a later date once we have all of the academic and safety protocols in place.

Q. How will athletics work? Will sports be canceled?

A. Athletics is TBD.

Q. What is the plan for weekly and all-school masses?

A. Due to restrictions for gatherings under 50 people, weekly masses will not continue for multiple grades and all-school masses will not be held. We are working on a schedule with Fr. Carl to hold opening class masses with each Pride once school begins.

Q. Will there be Kids Klub and how will that work?

A. There will be Kids Klub. PreK students will remain in the Gleeson building for afterschool Kids Klub and K-8 students will be in room 100 and adjacent classrooms when needed. Morning Kids Klub for all students will be in room 100 in the Corrigan building as it was last year. More information regarding Kids Klub will be forthcoming.

Q. Will Marla's Lunch still be available? What about PTO Fun Lunch?

A. Marla's lunch will be available. We are working with Marla to ensure that lunches are self-contained and they will be delivered to each classroom. PTO is working on an alternative to the regular fun lunch that will fit the parameters of our safety protocols.

Q. Will there be a uniform resale this year?

A. Yes. PTO has scheduled an outdoor uniform sale for Sunday, August 2nd from 11:30 am - 2:00 pm in the courtyard between Frawley and the church. Information will be shared in enews.

Q. Can the uniform policy be adjusted during the warm weather given that the students will also be wearing masks??

A. Yes, we will monitor the weather and allow for out of uniform days when needed to keep everyone as comfortable as possible.