

Together Again!
St. Peter Claver Regional
Catholic School
Return to School Plan
August, 2020

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Background

Sars-CoV-2, commonly known as COVID-19, is the virus which causes the novel coronavirus disease of 2019 (COVID-19). At the end of June 2020, there are 2.5 million confirmed cases and more than 150,000 deaths due to the virus in the United States with more than 75,000 confirmed cases in Georgia¹. However, children younger than 18 represent fewer than 4 percent of documented cases in our state². Children are more likely to have mild or asymptomatic illness and much lower rates of hospitalization, critical illness and death than adults^{3,4,5}. Additionally, a growing body of evidence suggests that children do not spread the virus to the same degree as adults, either to peers or their adult caregivers including parents and teachers^{6,7,8,9}.

It is reasonable to assume that the virus that causes COVID-19 will remain in circulation until a vaccine is developed and widely disseminated. A vaccine is not likely to be developed and/or widely used until sometime in 2021. Teaching prevention behaviors and reinforcing appropriated behaviors will be important strategies in slowing the spread of this disease.

St. Peter Claver is committed to providing a healthy and safe environment for all students, teachers, and staff. While it is impossible to eliminate all risks of COVID-19 infection, the benefits of in-person instruction outweigh the risks, provided the school consistently implements the appropriate risk mitigation strategies outlined in this plan. The American Academy of Pediatrics strongly advocates for students begin physically present in schools this Fall.

The following plan outlines the various layers of infection prevention to decrease the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus and other common infections. These protocols are based upon the best information available to the Task Force at this time, which is

“COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. Therefore, personal prevention practices (such as hand washing and staying home when sick) and environmental cleaning and disinfection are important principles ... Fortunately, there are a number of actions school administrators can take to help lower the risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread during school sessions and activities.” (CDC.gov website - May 19, 2020 guideline)

supported by research and advice from professionals. The layers include masking, disinfecting, hand hygiene, and physical distancing.

Our school day will have a slightly different look as we strive to limit contact and sustain physical distancing while still delivering the excellent instruction and nurturing faith formation. This plan includes the modifications we expect to follow as we open school in August. We thank our parent and grandparent and guardian partners for their patience, compliance, and support of our required protocols and practices.



SPC Task Force Members

A local Task Force was formed to accomplish the creation of a Safe and Healthy Reopening Plan for SPC. We are extremely grateful for the

time, expertise, and vision shared by these men and women. The SPC Task Force Team Members are:

Susanne Greenwood, Principal

Breanna Anderson, Teacher / Admin.

Shannon Betts, School Counselor /Admin. Team

Patricia Campodonico, Director of Enrollment / Admin. Team

Alejandra Gordon, Business Manager /Admin. Team

Debra Hood-Booker, Admin. Assistant Teacher / Director of ESP

Rachael Morledge, Teaching Assistant Admin. Team

Kathy Schenck, Media Specialist /Curriculum Coordinator,
Admin. Team

Dr. Oge Okoli, SPC Parent/ Physica Therapist

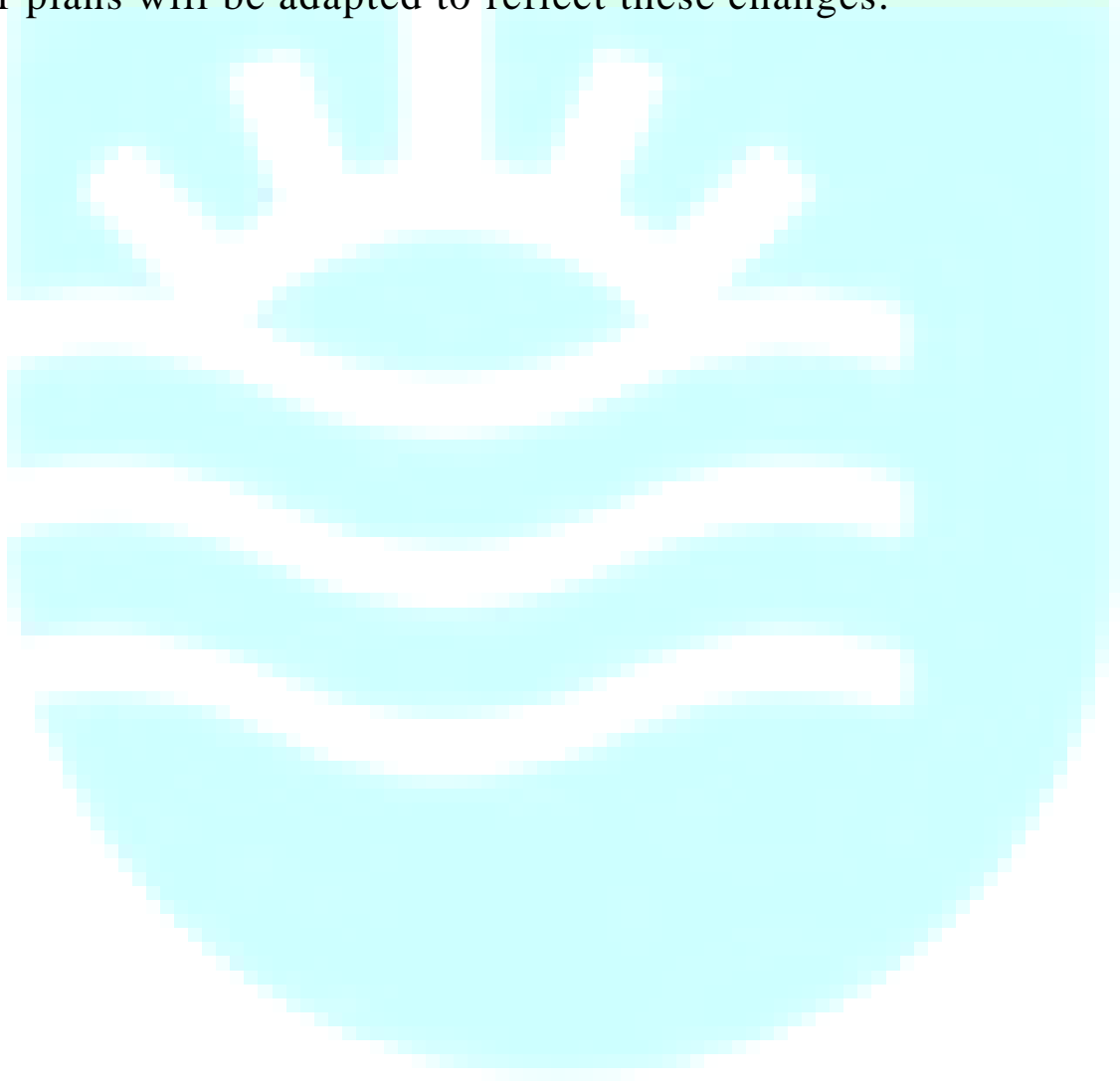
Dr. Sonya Okoli, SPC Parent /Professor,Georgia Military College

Mrs. Sylvia Battle, SPC Advisory Council

Mr. John Harper, SPC Parent

Mrs. Lizbeth Ortiz-Santiago, SPC Parent/Georgia Dept. of Health

The protocols we have established reflect current recommendations from health officials, the Archdiocesan Task Force, and our SJE Task Force, and are based on research from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Please note: Should recommendations or government directives change, our plans will be adapted to reflect these changes.



Arrival Procedures

Our daily screening procedures will include temperature checks and a digital symptom assessment for students and employees prior to entering our school building. Students must wear masks/face coverings during their symptom screening, upon exiting the car, upon entry to the school building, and in accordance with face mask procedures. Do not drive away until your child has been checked and approved to enter the school. The following self-monitoring questions will be answered before accessing the building:

1. Have you experienced any of the following symptoms in the last 48 hours without the use of medications?
 - Loss of Taste/Smell
 - Cough
 - Shortness of Breath
 - Sore throat
 - Diarrhea
 - Vomiting
 - Congestion
 - Muscle Aches
 - Fever (temperature > 100 degrees F)

If yes to any of the above, is this related to any known medical or chronic condition (i.e. allergies)? **For any known medical or chronic condition, a Doctor's note is required.**

2. *Within the past 10 days, have you received a positive nasal swab test result for an active COVID-19 infection?*

If yes to any of the above OR if a temperature reads \geq 100 degree F, the individual is not permitted to enter the school/building. Temperatures above 100 degrees will be logged and tracked by the school nurse.

Rather than gathering as a school family in our gym each morning, students will report directly to their classrooms upon arrival, where classroom teachers and/or teacher assistants will greet them. **At this time, for the safety of students and teacher, parents and visitors will not be allowed to access the school building.** Should a

necessary repair to the physical building be required, vendors must complete a self-monitoring assessment and submit to a temperature check upon arrival to the school.

In an effort to decrease the number of students entering the building simultaneously, students in PK – 4th grade will use the elementary steps for morning carpool drop-off at the **Elementary station**. Students in grades 5th – 8th grades and their younger siblings will be dropped off at the **Middle School station**.

Parents are asked to screen their children with the self-monitoring questions on the previous page as well as themselves. Once arrived to school, only SPC students are to exit the car for their temperature screening. Parents, grandparents, or guardians dropping children off must remain in the carpool line until all students in that particular car have successfully screened for temperatures.

For this first quarter, we will need to provide extra time for morning carpool to ensure screening protocols. Thus, we have temporarily adjusted our tardy arrival time. Any student dropped off after 8:00 am is considered tardy and will use the Middle School Station #1 for morning drop-off. Parents will park and walk their child(ren) to the front door of the school and ring the bell in order for their child to enter the building. Parents will not walk in with their child but will need to identify themselves to front office staff for safe procedures and record keeping.

Dismissal Procedures

Students will be dismissed directly from their classrooms each afternoon. **Each family will receive two carpool tags** with an identifying letter and number – the letter being the first letter of your last name and the number indicating alphabetical order. Please keep this tag in your car and memorize your carpool identification. Display the family tag so that is visible in the passenger side window or hang it from the rearview mirror. The designated faculty or staff member will call students/carpools by the identification code, not by family name.

In the event of early dismissal for a scheduled appointment, parents will email the child's teacher and Mrs. Hood at dhood@spc-school.org no later than 9:00 am on the day of the appointment. Parents will call the school office upon arrival for pickup. A staff member will escort the student to their car. No students will be dismissed between 2:30

and carline dismissal. There will be no parent walk-ups for carpool dismissal. All parents, grandparents, guardians are to remain in their cars throughout carpool drop-off and dismissal.

Extended School Program (ESP)

The Extended School Program (ESP) will be available before and after school. Before school care begins at 6:35 am and ends at 7:30 am. Students' temperatures will be taken in their cars outside under the front entrance rain canopy. ESP staff will escort the students to their classrooms at 7:30 am. **Arrivals after 7:30 am will use the regular morning carline procedure for Station #1 or Station #2.**

Student not picked up in afternoon carline by 3:30 pm will be checked into the afternoon ESP program. After school enrichment classes (karate, dance, piano) will not be offered during ESP until further notice. Students will have time for a snack, recess, homework, and silent reading until they are picked up by a parent. ESP staff will be stationed in the lobby and will call for students upon a parent's arrival. Parents will wait under the front door rain canopy until their child is released to them; parents will not enter the school building.

Reporting

Employees, students, and their families who obtain a positive COVID-19 test result, suspect/present symptoms of a COVID-19 infection, or experience exposure to someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days are required to report to the principal who serves as the COVID-19 Liaison, to allow for proper contact tracing. In compliance with local and state healthy requirements, positive COVID-19 testing results will be communicate to the appropriate health officials who will advise further action.

Parents and guardians of children attending SPC will be notified that their child has been exposed to a communicable or infectious disease in a manner that avoids identifying any community member who has been identified with the disease, to the maximum extent appropriate in each particular circumstance (Archdiocesan Infectious Disease Policy).

**Please note: If a household member test positive for COVID-19, all individuals living in the household will required to quarantine for at least 14 days even if asymptomatic. (CHOA and in alignment with CDC, California School Plan, modified with guidance from Infectious Disease Specialist at CHOA).

If a child becomes ill while at school, they will be sent to the school nurse or an SPC COVID-19 liaison. SPC is prepared with a Well-Clinic and a Sick-Clinic. Parents/Guardians will be called to pick up their child from school immediately. If a parent/guardian cannot be reached, an emergency contact will be called. Students with a fever of 100 degrees or higher or exhibiting other COVID-19 symptoms will wait in the isolated infirmary area until a parent arrives. Parents will call the school office upon arrival. The student will be escorted out the side door of the gym closest to the front carpark for parent pickup. The school nurse or the principal will follow up with the family to determine when the child is able to return to the class setting.

Return-to-School Guidelines with Other Illness (non-COVID-19)

An individual shall return to school only after:

At least 48 hours fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medications

AND...

At least 48 hours vomit and/or diarrhea free without the use of medication

AND...

Individual has experienced an improvement in symptoms (e.g. runny nose, sore throat, cough) (CHOA and in alignment with CDC, California School Plan, modified with guidance from Infectious Disease specialists at CHOA)

Return to School after Confirmed COVID-19 infection:

The individual will be required to **quarantine for 14 days**

AND...

At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recover, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications

AND...

If the individual has experienced improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath)

AND...

At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared or since test date (if asymptomatic)

AND...

The individual has not experienced ANY symptoms for 48 hours

AND...

The individual has received written guidance from a medical provider, or you are subject to local public health recommendations that supersede this guidance. **A doctor's note is required.**

Promoting Healthy Hygiene

Employees and students will receive rigorous and routing refresher training as well as visible reminders (via signage) on proper hygiene regarding washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes.

Handwashing:

Employees and students will be instructed in proper handwashing techniques with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (1 Hail Mary or the Happy Birthday song twice). If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol may be used. Signage regarding proper handwashing techniques will be posted as reminders.

Students will be prompted to wash hands or use hand sanitizer:

- When entering the school form outside the building (arrival, recess, etc.) and before leaving the classroom (dismissal).
- Before and after eating food
- After using the restroom
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching garbage

Respiratory Etiquette:

Remind employees and students to always cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing or use the inside of the elbow. Used tissues should be discarded and hands washed immediately per handwashing guidelines above. (CDC website, May 2020)

Hallways / Restrooms:

Masks are always required. Hallway routes will be marked as "one way" with tape on the floors and signs on the walls to reduce directional contact. Signage indicates the maximum number of people allowed in the restroom at one time.

Adequate Supplies:

The school supports healthy hygiene behaviors by providing adequate supplies including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, and no-touch trash cans. (CDC website, May, 2020)

Cleaning and Disinfecting:

Frequently touched surfaces (e.g. light switches and plates, door handles, sink handles) within the school will be cleaned and disinfected, using approved disinfectants, at least between uses as much as possible. SPC has developed enhanced cleaning schedules for routine cleaning and disinfection of classrooms and common areas, to include an electrostatic mist/fog (EPA approved) to be used nightly after cleaning.

Ventilation:

SPC will be installing iWAVE iconic air purification units on all 41 HVAC roof top units. In addition, each classroom is equipped with a portable air purifier and fan for improved air quality and air circulation.

Shared Objects:

The 1:1 technology program will eliminate the need for shared devices. Other toys, books, games, and learning aids will be use by one group of children at a time to allow for cleaning and disinfection between uses.

Face Coverings/Masks

"Teaching children challenge and having to do things differently makes us stronger. When we wash our hands, we protect ourselves. When we wear masks, we protect other people." Dr. Avril Beckford, Chief of Pediatrics for Wellstar Health System.

"Love one another." Jesus

"Love is willing the good of the other."

Wearing cloth face coverings reduces the chance of transmitting the virus through spray of respiratory droplets (AAP, 2020). While masks may be uncomfortable, they are not dangerous to wear for long periods of time. Developmentally appropriate communication to students regarding wearing masks will be prioritized to provide reassurance and reduce anxiety among students. It is recommended that parents help their children become accustomed to wearing a face mask prior to the start of the school year.

All students, faculty, and staff are required to wear a face mask in common areas (hallways, restrooms, etc.) and in classrooms (to the extent that it does not interfere with instruction).

Masks may be removed when physical distance of 6 feet or greater is able to be consistently maintained, when outdoors for recess or PE, and when eating or drinking.

The following information should be considered regarding masks:

- SPC has purchased five (5) masks (with the SPC logo) for each student. These masks are made of two-ply 100 % micro-poly fabric.
- SPC will provide each student with a mask lanyard to ensure the mask does not drop or get lost.
- With a supply of 5 masks per student, students should come to school each day with a clean mask.
- Please machine wash masks in cold water and hang to dry.
- Individuals should wash or sanitize hands before putting on face coverings/masks.

Physical Distancing:

There is strong evidence of the effectiveness of distancing measures in reducing virus transmission. SPC's classrooms have been rearranged to allow for four to six feet between student desks. Desks all face in one direction to limit face-to-face student interactions.

- PK through 6th grade classes have been separated into grade level cohorts
- SPC has ten (10) student cohorts: PK, K 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th.

Students will remain in cohorts to allow for appropriate contact tracing. The classroom teacher and teacher assistant will move between the previously combined grade levels (e.g. PK/K, 1/2, 3/4, 5/6) to insure equitable access to instruction.

Special area teachers (Music, Art, Spanish, Technology, and Media) will teach in the students' regular classroom areas rather than having students travel to their classrooms. Physical Education will occur outside, weather permitting, or in the gym with proper social distancing and appropriate and non-contact activities.

Food Service

Students will eat lunch in their classrooms/cohorts or outdoors to avoid the use of a common area by various cohorts. Prior to eating meals, desks/tables will be cleared and sanitized. Students are encouraged to bring their own lunches from home. Families will be notified of any active food allergies in their child's cohort to ensure the safety of all students.

Individually packed lunches will be available for purchase through our lunch provider, Chef Advantage. Parents are required to order lunch at least four days in advance.

Drinking fountains will be closed. Students are encouraged to bring at least one filled refillable water bottle from home each day. Water bottles should only contain plain water (not flavored/enhanced water or sports drinks). Water bottles should be plastic or stainless steel (no glass) and should have a sip top to avoid spills. Bottled water will be available.

Gatherings/Field Trips

Morning Prayer will be conducted daily by Mrs. Greenwood via our intercom system. Teachers will pursue virtual activities, virtual field trips, tours, and activities in lieu of in-person field trips.

Students will attend Mass virtually from their classrooms on Wednesday's at 9 am or in-person in church as a cohort depending on Father Bryan's availability. The church of Sts. Peter and Paul has in-pew designations for physical distancing. Other prayer services and spiritual celebrations will also occur virtually until further notice.

For some years now, our seventh and eighth grade students have volunteered every Friday in ***Gregg's Pantry***, a food ministry of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church. This vital ministry provides needed food staples every Saturday morning to many families. With required health and safety protocols in place, there will be no in-person volunteering in Gregg's Pantry until further notice. However, I would like to ask our families and our SPC students to commit this year to one of the most needed *Corporal Works of Mercy* – **To Feed the Hungry. We will have an ongoing food drive this year in an effort to provide canned vegetables to Gregg's Pantry – an important and nutritional food group that the pantry is in short supply of.**

Home Learning

All faculty are entering the 2020-2021 school year with the expectation that they may encounter higher levels of individual student absenteeism and thereby need a more streamlined home learning support system. Explicit instruction will be provided for students during the first few days of school regarding finding lessons in Google Classroom, how to join a class remotely if necessary, and how best to reach out for help. Parents will receive a training overview during our Virtual Parent Curriculum Nights on August 27th (PK – 6) and September 3rd (7th and 8th).

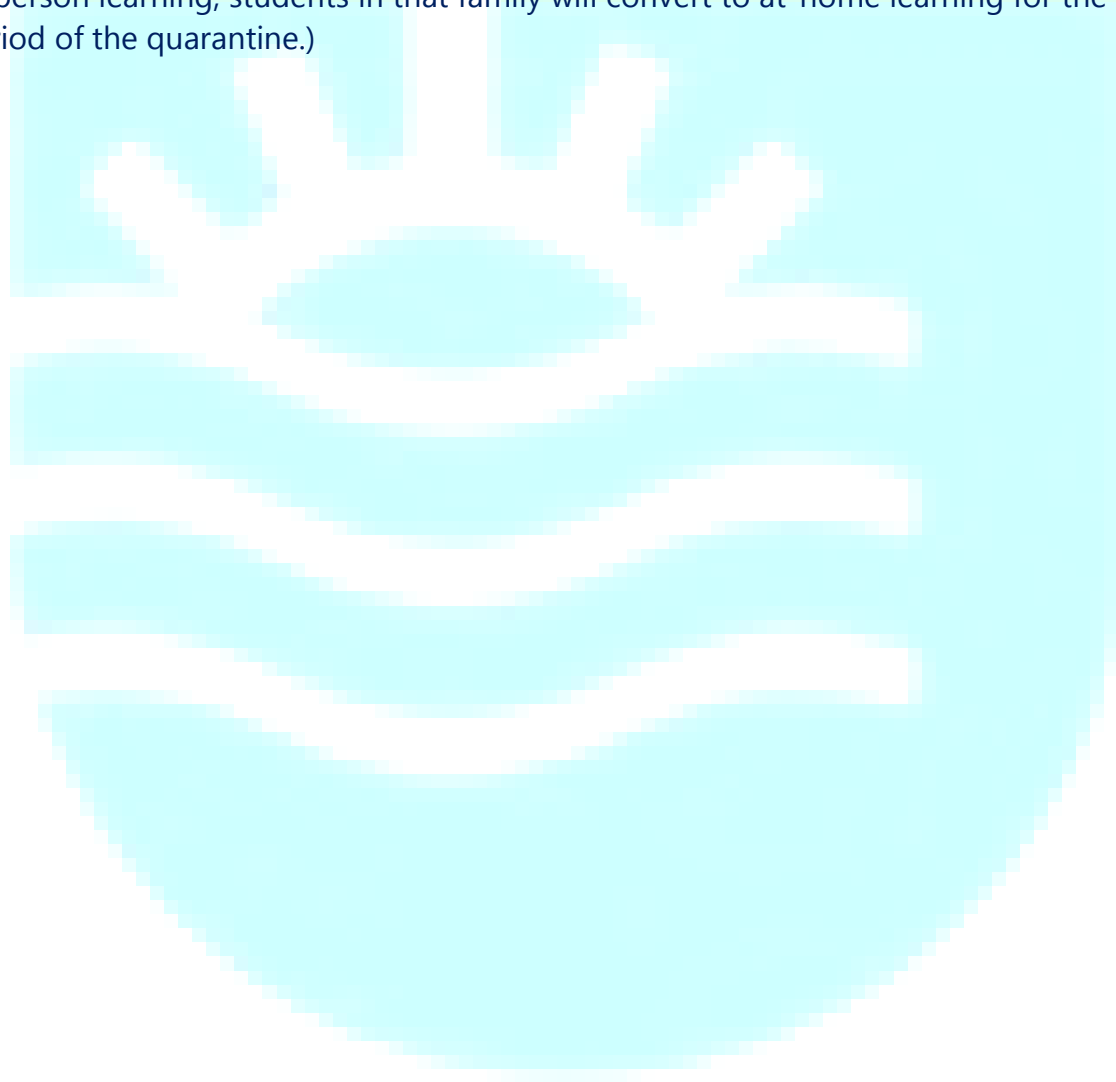
All students will be issued a 1:1 school device (Chromebooks for students in 3rd – 8th grades) and iPads for students in Pre-K through 2nd grade). In the event active home learning becomes necessary due to illness/quarantine or a temporary school closure, a school-issued device will support a smooth transition to active and engaged home learning. Regular live/synchronous instruction can occur on the traditional schedule when all students have a school issued device. A school-wide 1:1 program also reduces the spread of germs by eliminating the sharing of devices throughout the school day.

Parents have been provided the option of choosing active home learning for their child(ren). Families who choose remote learning must make a commitment to partner with the school in the delivery of instruction and course requirements to ensure a high-quality educational experience consistent with in-person learning. Students are expected to wear school uniforms at home to demonstrate their full presence in the virtual classroom. Expectations for work quality and submission, as well as grading policies, will align to and be consistent with in-person expectations.

Students participating in home learning will have electronic access to the classroom and will participate in the in-person instruction with the teacher and the class via live-streaming with Google Meet and camera equipment. Students learning from home will be able to hear, interact and participate in the classroom learning. Attendance via the

school issued Chromebook or iPad is instructing will be required to earn credit for attendance in the class.

Families who request home learning for their students must commit to this as a delivery method of instruction for the entire quarter – August 17th – October 21st. Parents who elected to participate in active home learning who wish to resume in-person attendance for their child at the start of the new quarter will make an appointment with the principal to discuss the transition plan. Should a student require a change from in-person to at-home learning during the quarter due to medical concerns, parents should contact the principal immediately. (If a quarantine is necessary for a family who chooses in-person learning, students in that family will convert to at-home learning for the period of the quarantine.)



Helpful Links

Face Mask Guidance

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Cloth-Face-Coverings-for-Children-During-COVID-19.aspx>

Considerations about the Return to School

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Return-to-School-During-COVID-19.aspx>

Resources

"The COVID Tracking Project" <https://covidtracking.com/>

"COVID-19 Status Report" Georgia Department of Public Health
<https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

Souza, Tiago H. et al. "Clinical Manifestations of Children with COVID-19: a Systematic Review." Pediatric Pulmonology, Mar. 2020,
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/341884357_Clinical_Manifestations_of_Children_with_COVID-19_a_Systematic_Review