



July 23, 2020

Dear La Salle Families,

As we work together in mitigating the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, I understand that there is anxiety relative to reopening school for the 2020–2021 school year. As such, I want to assure you that the health and safety of our students and staff is my number one priority. And, I therefore am careful in the decisions we make and will always ensure our decisions align with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), St. Louis Department of Health (STL-DOH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations and or guidelines.

How that will look throughout the 2020-21 school year may differ from day-to-day, week-to-week, and semester-to-semester. We will need to be flexible and will ask for your flexibility as educators who care deeply about transforming the lives of your children.

The school's C. A. R. E (COVID Action and Re-Entry Education) Planning Team has been meeting since March. This cross-functional team includes all members of the La Salle and De La Salle leadership teams, teachers, parents, and the La Salle Charter School Board of Directors. The team has been charged with assessing both short-term and long-term plans for academic and operational support functions while developing safe and comprehensive guidance for the administrative staff to manage day-to-day priorities. The team has also been working to establish plans for a safe return to school for the 2020-2021 school year. Highlights of the plan include:

- ★ development and implementation of an infectious disease plan that is approved by the STL-DOH and disseminated to all staff. Each staff person will be responsible for reviewing the plan and keeping a copy in their respective office and or classroom
- ★ development of a robust virtual learning plan to ensure the content remains high quality and engaging.
- ★ allowing families to choose in-person attendance or virtual learning for their child(ren). First and foremost, we want to offer families a choice that works best for them. Surveys and direct outreach has shown that we need to have options whether students are physically in the school building or at home. We will be asking families to commit to a choice for the entire first quarter to ensure every student has the opportunity to receive individualized learning from their teacher(s).



The 2020-21 school year will begin **August 24<sup>th</sup>** which is a change from earlier communications you may have received. Due to the recent rise in cases of COVID-19 and after careful consideration we made this change in order to ensure we could adequately address the needs of our entire school community. To that end, individual grade level orientation days are scheduled for August 19<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>st</sup>. Orientation will be offered both in-person and virtually.

Beyond the plan highlights outlined above, we have implemented many health and safety protocols in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to include:

- ★ All teachers and staff will be tested for COVID-19 and present a negative result prior to returning to school/work.
- ★ Face coverings will be required for all students, staff and essential visitors. Students and staff will be issued three (3) washable cloth face masks.
  - Students and staff with medical conditions that prohibit them from wearing face masks will be exempt as long as they have medical documentation on file. A face shield, however, will be offered to persons with a medical exemption.
  - It will be the responsibility of the parent to ensure students arrive at school each day with the necessary face covering.
- ★ Throughout the school building, we will socially distance and practice as much caution as possible. We will be utilizing all available classroom and learning spaces and making necessary modifications to help ensure at a minimum we maintain a 3ft radius around each student's work space in all classrooms and 6ft in the hallway and all common areas.
- ★ Daily health screenings and temperature checks will be required to be taken of all students and staff prior to the beginning of each school day. We advise all students and staff who are not feeling well to stay at home.
- ★ An isolation area or CARE room within the school has been established and will be used to remove any persons that are ill from the school's general population.
- ★ Hand sanitizer stations will be installed in every hallway and hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes will be accessible in all classrooms and offices.
- ★ Social distancing signage and floor decals will be displayed prominently throughout the school building.
- ★ Interactions and mixing of classes, group gatherings, as well as visitor volume will be limited.
- ★ Visitation of all non-essential visitors to include volunteers and tutors will be prohibited for the fall semester.



- ★ Accurate health records of all students enrolled for the 2020-21 school year will be kept and maintained in accordance with the Missouri immunization and exclusion requirements.
- ★ All students will be provided a digital device and provided with internet supports as needed. Also, as part of the 1:1 Digital Device Plan, we will begin distributing devices to students without access at home in August. Distribution will start with students who choose the fully virtual learning option first, then continue through September for our remaining student body.
- ★ Touchless options (i.e. door pulls, hand dryers, drinking fountains, etc.) will be installed where possible throughout the building.
- ★ Stagger lunch periods in order to minimize the number of students eating on any given lunch period ensure social distancing during every lunch period.
- ★ Schedule restroom breaks so that each grade level/class can go at a specific time and avoid mixing of classes.
- ★ Limit recess to activities that permit social distancing
- ★ All athletic competitions/sports, field trips, and large in-person gatherings to include assemblies, Star events, family meetings, etc. will be suspended for the fall semester.
- ★ All high touch surfaces (i.e. handrails, door knobs, handles, faucets, sinks, etc.) will be routinely cleaned throughout the day.
- ★ Implement a 3-step process for cleaning and sanitizing the building daily.
- ★ Implement a process to ensure the building is cleaned, disinfected and sanitized both throughout the day and nightly using EPA-registered cleaning products and disinfectant.

Please know that we will continue to closely monitor this rapidly evolving situation in an effort to keep everyone informed. I cannot stress enough how this school year will be different from any of the previous years. Thus, I, again, ask for your patience and flexibility. While additional communication will be sent out within the coming weeks, I encourage you to contact the school directly if you have any questions or concerns. All that we do is done in the best interest of our students and staff. We are indeed stronger together!

Be well and stay safe,

LaShanda R. Boone  
Head of School