



## Parent - Q and A - St. Francis Xavier School - 9 - 1 - 2020

### Simultaneous Learning and Remote Learning

#### **Our family is going on vacation, can we access simultaneous learning for that period of time?**

Although we don't recommend traveling during the school year, we can offer the simultaneous learning if you traveled to a "hot spot" and need to quarantine. It is the policy of St. Francis Xavier School for your child to be quarantined for 14 days before your child can return to school. If this is the case, you need to contact our school office and your child's academic teacher so we can prepare your child for simultaneous learning. After the 14 days, you may return to the school face to face. Contact our school office and your classroom teacher so we can prepare your students. We are aware of many families traveling before the start of the school year. Please follow the recommendations in helping us all stay safe.

#### **If a family member chooses online learning or we move to remote learning, can we offer computers to the family?**

Yes, we can offer devices to our students if they are needed. Please contact Mrs. Beal.

#### **Will simultaneous learning kick in for students with COVID -19 or prolonged health issues?**

Yes! In the case of students who are out for a short period of time, students will need to check in with their teachers to see what they have missed. For those out for a prolonged illness, please notify Mrs. Kellner and your child's teacher.

#### **Is the Tierney program only for those who choose to stay at home full time? Who will be teaching simultaneous learning?**

Tierney is a company in which we purchase our technology equipment. We also receive training on how to use the equipment from this company. All of our teachers will be involved with simultaneous learning and remote online learning. Our teachers will do their best to make this transition smooth for the students in class and those in the comfort of their own home.

#### **Our family has been considering other options for school this year. What would the protocol be for returning to St. Francis Xavier School?**

We understand that every family needs to do what is best for their own family. If a family leaves and wishes to return, please contact our school office. We will check the enrollment status of the grade level. If there is currently no room, you may be placed on a waiting list.

**If remote learning is used for all students, will the teachers be teaching lessons daily via zoom meetings or simply putting assignments on google classroom?**

Both, and more! Teachers will have access to their technology tools in their classroom. They will have office hours, live teaching videos, classroom assignments, zoom meetings, etc. We learned a lot from our first experience and will take remote learning a few steps further. Many of our teachers received many hours of professional development over the course of the summer.

**Can we participate in the simultaneous learning for the first semester and if the Covid levels drop still return the following semester? Is this option available for preschool?**

Yes, we will offer this for the second semester if it is still needed. Yes, we will offer simultaneous learning for our preschool program with the understanding that tuition payments will still be collected at all levels of learning.

**Will the students who chose the simultaneous learning option have access to the same classroom resources like textbooks and Simple Solution workbooks as the regular classroom students do?**

Yes, the curriculum will be the same presented by our St. Francis Xavier School teachers. We will make arrangements for all our simultaneous learners to pick up their textbooks. More information to come on how we will proceed. Also please note, students who are on simultaneous learning will follow the classroom schedule.

**Can virtual classes be accessed immediately, like the day they are sent home, or during the 72-hour stretch, or is there a threshold to wait before being able to access virtual?**

We will do our best to make sure there is no gap. If a child is to stay home for a prolonged period of time, parents need to report the child absent to Mrs. Kellner and the teacher before 8:15 a.m. so further arrangements can be made.

**What level would we move to virtual considering state reporting - i.e. Medina County moved to level 3 last week - does that mean we move to virtual, or is it when we hit level 4 only?**

According to the Medina Health Department, we would need to close if we hit the **purple** level. Since we can offer the proper social distancing with our students, we can remain open during red. We will continue to take the guidance of all local and state guidelines to make sure we are all safe.

**Given the ever-evolving nature of the situation, I feel making a decision as to whether to go face-to-face or simultaneous learning by July 30<sup>th</sup> is very difficult, especially since it is a semester commitment. Is there any way this deadline can be extended?**

Unfortunately, we need a deadline so we can finalize all class lists. As you can imagine, this takes time. If you are still considering simultaneous learning, please email [Mrs. Beal](#) with your situation.

**Is there any way that the in-person/simultaneous learning situation can be more flexible?**

We choose the semester commitment because of the dynamics of the family life. Our students will be placed in a cohort throughout the semester and we are doing our best not to introduce them to a new cohort during this time. We are more comfortable to start fresh at the start of the new semester, when everyone has time to be apart from one another.

**If we are forced to go to remote learning, will tuition be refunded or have partial compensation especially if it is for the entire second semester?**

Although the educational model will change to remote learning for all, instruction and education will continue by our teachers. We will continue to provide for our families, while also honoring the contractual responsibilities to our faculty and staff as best we can. While we are uncertain of how long this situation will last, we will continue with normal operating tuition schedules.

## HEALTH

**We will continue to update you on further health questions as we continue to work with Medina County Health Department. Many of the guidelines continue to change.**

**What is the plan if a student or faculty member tests positive for COVID-19?**

If a student or teacher tests positive for COVID-19, they are to contact the Medina Health Department and follow their guidance. The Health Department will make determinations on who in the school or classroom needs to be quarantined and for how long. Those students needing to stay home would be able to keep up with their schoolwork by accessing the simultaneous learning.

**Who goes into the Isolation room? What will the nurse's office be used for?**

A student or staff member who is at school and says they do not feel well, would be sent to the isolation room if their symptoms are COVID or contagious-related. Students who come down with a fever of over 100 degrees or any students developing new symptoms will go into the isolation room. Students with an injury, who get medication from our nurse and have other medical needs will still use the clinic. Our nurse's office will be used to administer medication and care for those who are injured.

**Symptom Check – with a lot of the COVID-19 symptoms being typical for many other illnesses ( common cold, headaches, and allergies, etc) will students need to remain at home until cleared by a doctor or a negative COVID-19 test? How many symptoms are needed during the symptom check for a student to have to remain home from school?**

When conducting a symptom check with your child, you are looking for **one or more symptoms** that are “**new**” to them. As a parent at that point, you will need to reach out to a medical expert if the student needs a test or when they should be allowed to return to school. If one of their symptoms is a

fever they need to remain home fever-free for **72** hours and be fever-free with **NO MEDICATION** before they can return to school. These students can join simultaneous learning when they feel well enough during those 72 hours.

**If one child in a family has the listed symptoms, do all siblings also stay home?**

If you suspect that someone in your house has COVID -19 we ask you to keep your child at home and use the simultaneous learning until you know if that person does have COVID - 19. You should contact a medical expert to help guide you on that illness and if it is safe for the students to return to school or needs to be tested.

**If a child needs to miss school due to a positive test of his/her self or a family member, does that child enter the simultaneous learning model? If so, is that child then committed to that model for the rest of the semester or the 10 day/72 hour quarantine period whichever comes later?**

Yes, they enter simultaneous learning until they can return to school after they have been cleared.

**If one of my children comes home with a fever, should I plan to pick up my other child automatically to minimize potential exposure?**

If you are asked to pick up your child, we will also ask you to pick up siblings. As a parent at that point you will need to reach out to a medical expert on if the student needs a test or when they should be allowed to return to school. If your medical expert indicates that siblings may return to school, you may send them back the next day.

**Fever can be attributed to many things, so if a student is sent home, are we required to get a COVID test before returning or is it based solely on their temperature, do we need to wait 72 hours now, instead of 24 hours fever-free before returning regardless of reason for fever?**

A fever should be addressed with a medical expert. That expert should be able to tell you if they need to see a doctor, get a test or do something else. If their symptom is a fever they need to remain home fever-free for **72** hours and be fever-free with **NO MEDICATION** before they can return to school. These students can join simultaneous learning when they feel well enough during those 72 hours.

**If a classmate or staff member in my child's classroom is diagnosed with COVID, does this mean the whole class is self quarantined for 14 days?**

If a student or teacher tests positive for COVID-19, they will be contacted by the Medina Health Department and follow their guidance. The Health Department will make determinations on who in the school or classroom needs to be quarantined and for how long. Those students needing to stay home would be able to keep up with their school work by accessing the classes online.

**MASKS**

**What if your child just cannot wear a mask all day long or you don't feel comfortable with them going? Are we allowed to choose simultaneous learning for the first semester?**

We understand that every family has a story. We will NOT deny this option to our school families.

**What makes a mask school appropriate? How can I purchase the masks?**

Although gaiter masks are highly recommended, we do understand that not all students will like them. Each student will receive two washable gaiter masks, hand sanitizer, and a daily health check magnet in their health kit. If your child does not care for the gaiter mask, each student will be responsible for bringing their own cloth covered mask to school. The mask needs to reflect the Christian values of modesty, respect for the individual, and respect for our Catholic tradition, cleanliness, and neatness that is appropriate for school. Students who do not have a mask will be provided one at the entrance to school. Each family will have an opportunity to pick up their health kit before school starts. This date is to be determined and will be communicated to you very soon.

**With the Governor's new state-wide mask mandate for all people 10 years and older, will masks be required for the younger grades now as well?**

Yes, as long as we are mandated by the Governor all students in grades 3 and up will be required to wear masks until the mandate is lifted. It is highly recommended for our younger students to wear them as well. If you encourage your child to wear their mask, we will too!

**How will our students get masks breaks throughout the day?**

We realize this is not going to be an easy task for our students and staff members. We will take advantage of our campus and give our students mask breaks as much as possible. Many teachers are planning for outside class time as much as possible.

**Will masks be required of parents at the end of the day at pick up? .**

Our parents will be required to park their car and meet their students out by the large rock by the gymnasium. Since we have a number of parents who pick up their children and social distancing will be difficult, we ask **all parents** to wear masks. We ask all parents to leave immediately after picking up their students. Masks may be removed when all are in their vehicles.

**Could you please help clarify the arrival and dismissal procedures? In the plan it states students must wear masks when "entering and leaving school". It also states at arrival, the students should "come into the school, sanitize their hands and mask up before heading to their classrooms." Are students to have a mask on when exiting their vehicle or not until after they enter the building? Are they to use hand sanitizer before exiting the vehicle or is that something they will be given once entering?**

When students enter our school building, they are required to have their mask on. Upon entering, they will proceed to the closest hand sanitizer station to sanitize their hands. Finally, they will proceed to their classroom where their teacher will take their temperature. If it is easier for your child to have

their mask on when they exit your vehicle, we are fine with that decision. Students will wear masks in all common areas of the school. This includes all hallways. When our students exit for the day, they will all walk down the hallway and will be required to wear their mask. They may remove the mask when they are in your vehicle or in the case of the bus, when they get off.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR AND SCHOOL DAY

**St Francis Xavier has always followed the Medina City school calendar. Why are we not starting at the same time?**

We are *Catholic, ready, prepared and eager to lead* so we can begin school as scheduled. Medina City School is a very large district. They need a plan for the district first followed by a plan for each of their district buildings. We only have one building to plan for and we were able to start on time with a **soft opening** for our students whose last names begin with A - L on Aug. 19 and M- Z on Aug. 20 . We will be off on Friday so our teachers can reconvene and and continue to work through the plan.

**Was bringing the students back in phases a consideration? Maybe a chance for 1/3 to 1/2 of the students to ease into the new environment, make adjustments, and allow for a 2-4 week evaluation before having all students back full time?**

While implementing and evaluating the plan, many different scenarios were discussed. As the Back to School Task Force Team, we did what was best for our students, teachers and families. We also reflected on the parent survey that was given back in June. It was in the best interest of all to have a soft opening for our school families to have our students get used to the new us with only ½ of the school population on the campus at a time. We then offered to our teachers a day to reflect on the plan and make adjustments if needed.

**What are the middle school classroom changes? (See the end of this form for further detailed information on our middle school program)**

We have three different size rooms in middle school on each level of the school. We used the largest classroom to house the 8th grade, the smallest classroom to house the 6th grade, and the mid-size room to house the 7th grade students. Your son or daughter may start their day in a classroom, but it is not necessarily their homeroom. The following are a list of our middle school homeroom teachers:

Grade 6: Mrs. Bresnahan and Mr. Stewart

Grade 7: Mrs. Alfano and Mrs. McAllister

Grade 8 : Mr. Burns and Mr. Jakubcak

**We have heard rumors that the school will be shut down right after Thanksgiving break and not return until after the new year.**

Yes, this is a rumor. We are aware that many colleges and universities are using this plan. At this time, we have not heard of any other school participating in this plan. If Gov. DeWine asks us to shut down, we will move to remote learning for all of our students.

**As of the end of July, Medina is at the red level. Will our reopening plan be revised?**

According to the Medina County Health Department, since we are able to offer 6 ft distance in our classrooms, we will remain open. We will need to relocate our 8th grade classrooms temporarily. We will need to close if we are in the **purple** level.

**Has there been any discussion of pushing our start date back since cases have been increasing?**

COVID - 19 changes daily and we do our best to keep up with all of the changes. If the state or local health agency recommends us to push back our date, we will make accommodations to do so.

**For arrivals in the morning, my son is in a 5 point harness car seat. Can we get out of our vehicle to unbuckle our child?**

We are asking if at all possible to have your child unbuckled and be ready to exit the vehicle once you have pulled all the way up to the drop off point. If this is not possible, we ask for you to remain in your vehicle. We would ask for your child to have on a mask and we will assist them in unbuckling. We are doing our best to keep our traffic moving, but also keep everyone safe at all times.

**What are the chances of Medina City Schools or other school districts providing transportation for our students?**

We are still working with the districts to provide transportation. As soon as we know what each district is able to provide, we will communicate that with you.

**How are 1st Day of School Supply orders handled? Will they be at the student's desk on the first day and be labeled in class or do we need to pick those up before the first day of school?**

We are working on a plan to set up a date for our families to pick them up. More information will be coming.

**Before I purchase school supplies, I was checking to see if the list will be the same since they will not be sharing supplies or if there will be anything additional. Also, what exactly am I sending to school with my student on the first day?**

The school supply list has remained the same. The only addition we have added for all our students is a clipboard for outdoor instruction and a health kit. You may find the school supply list on our school website [here](#). Since space will be limited, your child's teacher will communicate with you as to what they need to bring the first day of school. We will do our best to keep things simple. We ask that you keep all extra school supplies at home until the teacher or student is in need.

**If we are not having a visit before school starts, how will my child know which room to go to?**

We will offer a *virtual school open house* for all of our school families. We know this is not the easiest way to welcome our students back, but it is the safest. We will have many hands on deck to help our students who are uncertain of where to go. It is recommended for our younger students to have a name tag on their shirt and the classroom where they are to go or possibly have the older sibling take them to their new classroom.

**Will the students be using lockers? Where will their coats and bookbags be located?**

Most of our students will not be able to use their lockers. Many of our classroom desks rest right up to the lockers. Many of our lockers are shared with other students and we need to suspend using them. While some classrooms may be able to use their lockers, they will have a class management system in place for students to keep their distance when going to their locker. All middle school students will not have access to their lockers. All coats will sit on the back of the chairs and bookbags will lay underneath their chairs.

**What is the difference between water filling stations and water fountains? We just replaced all the water fountains last year and thought they were also filling stations?**

Yes, we did replace all of our older water fountains with filling stations. Our filling stations are a combined unit with drinking fountains. Our drinking fountains will be covered so students will not have access to use. All students will be able to fill their water bottles with our touchless filling stations.

## LUNCH , RECESS, AND GYM

**Are the brown paper bags mandatory for lunches or can he have an insulated lunch box?**

We highly recommend a disposable bag or a disposable brown paper bag for lunch so students can toss all their trash after lunch. It will be the child's responsibility to care for their insulated lunch box. We can no longer put all the lunch boxes together and bring them up to their room. In the case the student eats in their classroom, they would be able to leave it in their space.

**How will they have rotating lunchtime? When they are not in the lunchroom they will be in their classroom? Will they be able to socialize? Can they pick who they sit next to in the lunchroom? How will other social breaks work?**

We originally planned to have a rotating lunch for all our students. Since sharing the plan, we have changed directions. Our 8th graders will all be able to have lunch together in the cafeteria while the rest of our classes will have lunch in their classrooms. We know we can not please everyone. We know the social and emotion part of returning to school is so important. We will do our best to keep our students engaged with one another as much as we can. It is important that we keep our students in cohorts so they are exposed to a small group of students. The students will stay in their homerooms groupings while outside at recess.

### **Can all students wear their gym clothes to school on gym days?**

Yes, all students may wear their gym clothes to school on gym days. Students in grades K - 5 will wear the SFX gold t-shirt and middle school will wear the SFX gray gym shirt. All students may wear navy regulation shorts. Shorts are not to be shorter than two inches above the knee. No shorts are permitted between November 1 and April 1. We are encouraging our students to wear navy or gray sweatpants on gym days during that time. For the first quarter, all students may wear their CLEAN, non-marking gym shoes to school. We will discuss how we will move forward after the first quarter. Mrs. Montana and homeroom teachers will explain when the students have gym. We have implemented a new rotation schedule for all special classes. The gymnasium lockers room will be off limits to our students during this time.

### **What is the plan for the gym?**

Physical Education will take place both outdoors and indoors. If students are in the gym, students will be designated to an area that follows social distance guidelines. Curriculum will focus mainly on fitness components, nutrition, bones/muscles, mindfulness, and introducing personal fitness goals. Students will not be required to wear a mask. Limited to no equipment will be used (especially for the first quarter).

We know with COVID -19 and the start of the school year you may be wondering how we will protect our middle school children while still providing a great education for your students. We have put in many hours researching best practices and plans for this particular age group of students. Here are some of the changes your child will see in an effort to protect them as much as possible yet educate them in person.

### **Schedule**

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- We have changed all our six academic classes to a block schedule.
- Students will see three academic classes one day, the next three the next day. These classes are now 80 minutes long. So they might have Math, Science, and English on Monday and on Tuesday they would have Social Studies, Religion and Reading. This allows us to have less movement in the hallways, it also allows kids to bring less materials to school each day as they will not be using lockers, instead using their book bags at their seats.
- The teachers will be doing most of the moving. Students upstairs will always have Science, Social Studies and Math, and downstairs they will have Religion, Reading and English.
- The grade levels are each staying in only two classrooms- 8th grade will always have their classes in 209 and 108, 7th will always have their classes in 207 and 109, and 6th will have all their classes in 208 and 108. This eliminates many students sharing the same spaces during the day.

- This year students were put into only two groupings, homeroom and math ability. They typically have 2 blocks in one group and 2 blocks in the other group. For example - in a normal day they might have Math and Social Studies as a math group, then have Science and their specials (the 4th block) as a homeroom group. This allows us to still meet their educational needs but keep contact with other students lower than we might normally have. It also means kids will only move a minimal amount in the hallway. Most switches to groupings will be done at lunch time.

**Here is an example - Dylan is an 8th grader in Algebra and Mr. Burns homeroom**

**Monday**

- He starts his day in Algebra and reports to that class in room 209 as he enters school. He spends homeroom time and the first 80 minutes of the day in that room.
- After that, he has Social studies - he is still in room 209 and still has the same classmates with him. The difference is Mrs. Alfano comes in and teaches and Mr. Burns moves to teach another class. Dylan spends 80 minutes in Social Studies.
- When that class is over it is lunch. Since he is an 8th grader he will gather his lunch and go to the cafeteria to eat (6th and 7th will stay in the room they are in to eat).
- After lunch and recess the students are now switching. Desks will be cleaned and ready for new students to enter.
- When he comes back he is actually staying in 209 because now he is with his homeroom group of kids. All students have a study hall - like our past focus after lunch each day in the room they will be in after lunch so he will be in 209 today for that study hall.
- Then the class will have Science in room 209. Mrs. Bresnahan comes in and teaches Science for 80 minutes. Although he stayed in room 209 some students who were downstairs all morning have now joined his class.
- Dylan is staying in the same seat while in this room so he has not had to move his stuff all day.
- After Science his homeroom group now has specials. On this particular day they have gym so they move to the gym for that class which is 30 minutes.
- After gym they have music, Mrs. Hastings is traveling now so the class returns to room 209, sits in the same seats they were in for Science and has music. The day ends, they gather any belongings they have out, and head for home.

**Tuesday**

- Dylan starts his day with a clean desk in room 107 for Homeroom time and Religion class. He has 80 minutes of Religion.
- Then Mr. Stewart comes into that space for 80 minutes of Reading.
- Lunch is the same as the day before, after lunch he returns to room 107 but is now with his homeroom group for study hall after lunch and 80 minutes of English.
- Again kids moving rooms will have desks cleaned after lunch as the new students are entering.
- He finishes his day in specials so he will move back to room 209 with all of his classmates, and the desk will be wiped clean prior to them sitting at them - he has a computer class and launch lab/art.

- At the start of the year both computer class, launch lab and art will be taught in the classroom.
- Dylan again ends his day in this space and goes home.

During any switching, staff will be present in the hallway assuring kids follow hallway rules - and all students will have masks on at all times when moving throughout the hallways.

**Lockers** - We will not be able to use lockers at this time. Students will be using bookbags that they will keep at their desks. We ask that they only bring materials they need for the day. You will see it is way less than a normal school day with the blocks to reduce what they must carry.

**Homework** - With block scheduling we will expect homework to be turned in the next day the class meets. If you meet on a Monday and work is assigned, it is due on Wednesday, the day you have that class again.

If we all go to remote learning due to full school closures, we will continue to see three classes a day for remote learning.

**Assigned seats**- Students will receive two assigned seats - one for the upstairs room they are in and one for the downstairs room. They will use these seats anytime they are in that room. Students have been placed in cohort groups based on their groupings - homeroom, math, and their bussing. They will be seated with these cohorts in both spaces to reduce the amount of contact they have daily with the student body.

**Mask and Brain Breaks** - Using block scheduling, we will be able during each block to give the students some safe masks and brain breaks during each block - we know they are used to moving every 40 minutes. Brain breaks might be a quick game, a funny video, or a stand and move activity - (at their seating space)..... Mask breaks will be at a time when they are seated and not talking - so silent reading, working on Simple Solutions or other silent individual work.

The Medina County Health Department has informed us this is safe even in the 5 foot space of 8th grade as long as students are all seated, quiet and not moving and can be done in short periods- like 5 -7 minutes. We are hoping to take students outside or in larger spaces to give students extended periods of time without the mask at a safer distance - but this will depend on weather and what is being taught that day.