

Aug. 11, 2021

Dear Navigator Families,

We are sure many of you are excited to kick off the start of our school year and get your children back into our classrooms. We are still in the final stages of preparing our school for our Open House and Tailgate on Thursday, Aug. 12, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. and Friday, Aug. 13, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. We are excited to welcome you all back! However, because of recent information from the Medina County Health Department and Ohio Department of Health, we have learned our Medina County COVID numbers are higher today and continue to rise faster than they were last year at this time. As a result, Fr. Tony, members of the School Task Force Team and I have met to make necessary changes to our **SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION PLAN**.

For the past sixteen months, we all have been through unprecedented times. We want to commend our faculty, staff and students for responding and transitioning to the many challenges and changes we implemented in our 2020 - 2021 school year. Thank you, parents, for continuing our collaborative educational partnership. We appreciate the confidence and trust you have placed in St. Francis Xavier School and its many programs. Because of this, we successfully are leading our school through its first (and, God willing, last!) pandemic. By providing many layers of safety and health, we were able to teach our students in our classrooms all last year and, most importantly, keep our students and staff safe. Many of you showed your appreciation and gratitude throughout the year by sending emails, phone calls, and cards. It was definitely our Navigator way of taking on our new journey, being leaders throughout our county, and showing others we could do this with a caring and loving heart.

The health and safety of our students and staff has been, is now, and will continue to be our focus this school year. As we continue to navigate our way through many unknowns, we know it's likely impossible to craft a plan that makes everyone happy. However, it is our hope and prayer that we all strive to be more diligent than ever to demonstrate love, care and compassion toward each other. With this plan, we are able to open up more opportunities and freedoms to our students. This plan also includes our BACK-to-SCHOOL EVENTS and their new procedures. As always, this plan is subject to change, and we will be constantly re-evaluating procedures, as we follow the directives from the Medina County Health Department and the Ohio Department of Health.

The following is our **SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION PLAN** for the 2021 - 2022 school year:

### **1. MASKS**

- a. The wearing of facial coverings (masks) for students and staff is REQUIRED at this time. We will continue to offer masks breaks throughout the day.
- b. Masks will be REQUIRED on all school buses.
- c. When wearing a facial covering, cloth facial coverings should:
  - Fully cover the mouth, nose, and chin
  - Be held securely through either a tie, elastic, etc., to prevent slipping
- d. Masks will not be required to be worn outdoors on our school property.

### **2. PHYSICAL DISTANCING**

- a. We will offer 3 ft or more distance in our classrooms.
- b. We will offer LIVESTREAM Masses for our students and school families on Fridays.
- c. We will give all students the opportunity to be in the cafeteria on a rotating basis.

### 3. SANITIZING

- a. Students will sanitize when entering the school building. We will continue to encourage our students to sanitize their hands throughout the day.
- b. We will also sanitize our students' desks or any other surfaces with which our students/staff are in contact.

### 4. CONTACT TRACING (PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED CHART)

- a. We will continue to work with the Medina County Health Department, to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19.
- b. Students, teachers, and staff with positive test results will isolate as directed by health authorities, and quarantine if so instructed. We will report positive cases to the health department as soon as we are informed. We will continue to notify families of close contacts as soon as possible after we are notified that someone in the school has tested positive.

### 5. FACE-TO-FACE INSTRUCTION

- a. With many unknowns, we will still offer only short-term remote learning for those students who need to quarantine or isolate due to COVID-19. Please be in contact with our school office if this is your situation. Proof of isolation or quarantine will be required in order to receive a Zoom link from a classroom teacher in grades K - 8. If you need a Chromebook, please contact our school office.
- b. Our middle school will travel from class to class. Students may continue to use their book bags from class to class and will be provided a locker. Students will see their Math and Religion teachers for 40 minutes per day. The other academic classes will be taught in a block schedule. All middle school students will see **all** of their academic teachers for a shorter period on Fridays. More information will be coming from our middle school teachers, including a syllabus and a class schedule.
- c. Our students in grades 1 - 5 will also travel from classroom to classroom for specific academic and special classes.
- d. All students will be able to use their classroom lockers at the discretion of the distance of the classroom.

### 6. VOLUNTEERS

- a. We are able to allow our volunteers to help on a regular basis for outside recess only. Our recess times are 12:05 - 1:15 p.m. PLEASE contact Mrs. Kelly Klik at [kklik@sfxmedina.org](mailto:kklik@sfxmedina.org) to sign up to help.
- b. Teachers will communicate with our at-home volunteers to provide snacks and drinks for short holiday classroom breaks. The school and teachers will recognize student birthdays, but we will continue to suspend all birthday treats.
- c. We will welcome back our monthly PTA Teacher lunches for our school staff each month. We are grateful!

### 7. TRANSPORTATION | ARRIVALS AND DISMISSALS

- a. While we hope many of our students return to district school buses, we will open our doors to our **K-8 car riders at 8:30 a.m. and our morning preschool at 8:35 a.m.** Please continue to use both drop-off and pick-up lines in front of the school and in front of the gymnasium. If possible, we appreciate all children sitting on the same side of the car when they exit the vehicle. All parents/guardians are to stay in their cars at all times. For our younger students, our staff will take your child out of the car. Our older students

may get out on their own in the drop-off line. Please remember our school parking lot is a **CELL-PHONE-FREE ZONE!**

Dismissal will remain the same as last year. All car rider students will be dismissed by the large rock next to the sidewalk by our gymnasium. Afternoon preschool will dismiss at 3 p.m. Our kindergartners and first-grade car riders will dismiss at 3:05 p.m. Second- and third-grade car riders will dismiss at 3:10 p.m. All car riders in grades 4 and up will begin to dismiss at 3:15 p.m. We ask all parents to leave the campus promptly once they have their child(ren) to allow all other car riders to pull in and park.

#### **8. TEMPERATURE TAKING | REPORTING CHILD ILL**

- a. We will no longer be taking temperatures at the entrance of your child's classroom.
- b. If your child is not well, please keep them home and call our school attendance line at 330 - 725 - 3345, option #1, prior to school. PLEASE STATE THE REASON FOR KEEPING YOUR CHILD HOME.
- c. Prior to coming to school each day, parents shall conduct a health check of their child to assess whether the child is experiencing symptoms of COVID - 19.

**The daily health check shall consist of the following:**

- Take the child's temperature
- **Assess the child to determine if he or she is experiencing one or more of the following symptoms:**
- Fever of over 100° F
- Chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting

#### **9. MUSIC and BAND PROGRAMS | SPECIAL CLASSES and MORE**

- a. All our students in grades K - 8 will attend general music in Mrs. Hastings' new classroom - Room 126.
- b. Our band program will return under the direction of Mrs. Shannon Fehrenbach for students in grades 5 - 8. We will have two beginner bands in grades 5 and 6. More information will come from Mrs. Fehrenbach.
- c. Our students in grades K - 5 will visit our school library under the direction of Mrs. Erin Becker. Students will continue to take books out and return on the due date.
- d. The rotation special schedule of blue, white and gold days will continue for the school year. Your child's teacher will communicate with you how the program will work at their new grade level.
- e. Our XSTREAM launch lab program will continue under the direction of the classroom teacher and in the case of middle school their academic teacher. Our program will be used throughout the school year focusing on STREAM - Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Math.

- f. After school activities will resume. Stay tuned for more directions under the supervision of the teacher moderator.

## 10. SCHOOL UNIFORMS

- a. Our school uniforms will remain the same with the exception of allowing students to wear tennis shoes with their uniform. Low-rise tennis shoes are to be white, gray, navy or black. (Small stripes or logos are acceptable.) **NO HIGH TOPS or BRIGHT-COLORED SHOES or shoelaces are permitted.** Please remember all socks need to be above the ankle.
- b. Our students will continue to wear their gym uniforms on their gym days only. We adopted a new GOLD T-shirt with our new school logo for all students in grades K - 8. These shirts may be purchased at Schoolbelles and will be phased in throughout the next few years. Students may continue to wear the gym shirts from last year. We ask that during the months of November - March, our students wear solid navy or gray sweatpants. The same low-rise tennis shoes worn for school will be worn for gym (white, gray, navy or black; small stripes or logos will be acceptable. **NO HIGH TOPS or BRIGHT COLORED shoes or shoelaces are permitted.**) Please remember all socks need to be above the ankle.

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENTS (ALL CHANGES HAVE BEEN MARKED IN RED)

Thursday, Aug. 12

### Open House | Preschool-Grade 8

4:30 - 6 p.m.

Students are welcome to bring their school supplies

Masks are required

**Parents are encouraged to bring ONLY the child meeting his or her teacher and stay LESS THAN 15 minutes in the school building. Those parents with multiple children are encouraged to “divide and conquer,” if possible.**

### Curriculum Presentation for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and NEW middle school parent/student

5:30 p.m.

St. Francis Xavier Gymnasium

Masks are required

**We ask that our parents/students space out from each other in our bleachers.**

**If a current parent in grade 7 or 8 finds it necessary to attend, they are welcome to do so.**

### Tailgate Family Gathering sponsored by the 8th grade class

4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

School parking lot

Friday, Aug. 13

### Open House | Preschool-Grade 8

9 - 10:30 a.m.

Students are welcome to bring their school supplies

Masks are required

**Parents are encouraged to bring ONLY the child meeting his or her teacher and stay**

**LESS THAN 15 minutes in the school building. Those parents with multiple children are encouraged to “divide and conquer,” if possible.**

**Tuesday, Aug. 17**

**First Day of School for students in Grades 1 - 8**

Masks are required

**Wednesday, Aug. 18**

**First Day of School for Kindergarten and parent meeting**

with last names **A - L** from **9:15 a.m. - noon**

Students should be in school uniform.

Masks are required

**One Kindergarten parent or guardian is required to attend the session.**

**Thursday, Aug. 19**

**First Day of School for Kindergarten and parent meeting**

with last names **M - Z** from **9:15 a.m. - noon**

Students should be in school uniform.

Masks are required

**One Kindergarten parent or guardian is required to attend the session.**

**Wednesday, Aug. 25**

**Band Meeting**

5:30 p.m. in the **GYM**

For parents of students in grades 5 - 8

Masks are required

**Curriculum In-Person Question and Answer Session**

Presentation for Grades 1 - 5

Session I 6:30 p.m. or Session II 7 p.m.

Masks are required

**Teachers will send out a SIGN-UP GENIUS for parents to indicate which session they will attend.**

Thank you for your ongoing patience and partnership as we navigate the COVID pandemic. We pray that, as the situation improves, we may return to many of our PRE - COVID practices; please know we are continually studying the best ways to educate your children in this current environment. We look forward to providing our students and staff with a safe learning environment in the coming school year.

God bless,

Mrs. Danene Beal | Principal

Fr. Tony Sejba | Pastor

