



ST. PETER'S

EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

A Responsive School Plan

2020-2021



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Rooted and Grounded in Love: A Responsive School Plan 2020-2021

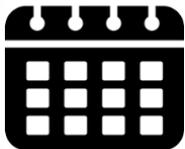


We are excited to welcome students back to campus this August. This school plan has been designed to provide guidance and helpful information for your family. I am so grateful for the hard work of our faculty, staff and volunteers. In partnership with experts from various fields, we have put collective energy into our **Responsive Plan**, strategically designed to be flexible and nimble allowing us to respond to new information and refine approaches.

Every decision and preparation we have made has focused on two essential priorities: supporting and protecting community health and fulfilling the promise of our mission as a school.



In-Person, On-Campus Learning



SCHEDULE

The 2020-2021 school year is set to begin on Wednesday, August 19 with an **all school phase-in period** August 19-21. Our plan allows all students to be on campus five days a week. We are working carefully across grade levels to follow a traditional school day, considering a staggered starting time and dismissal time.

K – 5th grades 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Preschool 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.



MORNING CARE FOR KINDERGARTEN - FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS

Morning Care (7:00 – 7:45 a.m.) is a valuable service provided for families who must drop-off children in order to make it to work by 8:00 a.m. In the shadow of COVID-19 concerns,



MORNING CARE FOR KINDERGARTEN - FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS

Morning Care will look very different. Here is what we are currently planning:

- This service is only available to those who commit to and sign up for the academic year. Spots will be reserved ahead of time by parents who have work commitments.
- Students who use Morning Care may arrive between 7:00 and 7:45 a.m. Students arriving on campus after 7:45 a.m. can be dropped off at carpool between 7:45 and 8:00am.
- Students in Morning Care will be seated six feet apart in the Library or Great Room.
- Students will be required to bring quiet reading or work with them.
- Families with siblings in preschool and grade school may use this earlier Morning Care service.



MORNING CARE FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Preschoolers may be dropped off as early as 7:30 am. Morning Care will be held in the Library with social distancing practices from 7:30-8:15.



DESTINATION DISCOVERY

Destination Discovery will be offered daily from 3:00-6:00. In order to ensure we have adequate space and staffing, we need to know approximately how many students will be attending DD on a regular basis. Registration for Destination Discovery is encouraged but drop ins will not be turned away. We are currently investigating the feasibility of continuing to offer our enrichment activities, while considering health and safety recommendations such as keeping students in their cohorts and maintaining small group sizes.

On-Campus Considerations



A Layered Defense Approach

St. Peter's is using a layered defense approach to lower the risks of transmitting COVID-19 on school grounds. The following preparations are being made:



PHYSICAL SPACE

We are redesigning our classroom layouts in order to create six feet of space between students during instructional time. In some cases, where six feet is not attainable, clear, shatterproof partitions will be used to protect and shield students. In other cases, social distancing guidelines reduce the number of students in classrooms, while in others; this increases the number of sections per grade level and may alter aspects of the daily schedule.

Because St. Peter's already has a low student-teacher ratio, many classes may resemble our pre-COVID-19 classes. Larger gatherings like Spirit Assemblies and chapel will require significant changes, most likely being offered virtually by live streaming into classrooms.

We will utilize our beautiful outdoor spaces in an effort to provide fresh air, alternative locations for classes to meet, and places for students to eat lunch on pleasant days.



COHORTS

Academic schedules and classroom use will be designed to keep students in smaller, consistent groups during the day. This will reduce the risk of viral transmission and allow for discrete cohorts to quarantine in the event of infection without requiring that the entire campus close and shift to distance learning. Each cohort at this time consists of 6-14 students with preschool classes not exceeding 9 students.



HEALTH & WELL-BEING

St. Peter's has a long history of recognizing the importance of student social emotional development. Preschool and kindergarten teachers are trained in using the PATHS curriculum for social emotional learning and all teachers will be trained this summer to support our students, families, and faculty as we navigate our return to campus. Mindfulness practices will be offered to students and faculty throughout the week.



FACE COVERINGS

As of today, face coverings are recommended for indoors when social distancing cannot be maintained. It is best to assume that face coverings will be necessary indoors, especially in hallways, for your own child's safety as well as that of the rest of the St. Peter's community. Adults on campus will wear face shields in the classrooms and face coverings when moving around campus. Students and staff will wear face coverings during arrival and dismissal.



HEALTH SCREENINGS

We will use a secure online system that parents/students and faculty and staff are required to use each morning to document health conditions. This online system asks health questions, including temperature, and helps people determine next steps if they are not well. All of the information in the system is kept secure and complies with the American Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Students, faculty and staff who are ill will be required to remain at home. Our school fever policy requires families to keep children at home for 48 hours after a fever subsides without using fever-reducing medication. A child should not be sent to school after taking fever-reducing medication. This is an important partnership with parents, and we will rely on families to help us all stay safe.



WATER FILLING STATIONS

The CDC reports that adequate hydration improves cognitive function in children and adolescents, which is important to learning. Drinking fountains in each hallway are being replaced with bottle filling stations, eliminating the use of bubbler heads and reducing the spreading of germs.



HAND WASHING

Students will wash hands in the morning upon entry, before and after eating, and at scheduled intervals during the day. Those visits to hand-washing areas will be coordinated to ensure that we have a staggered presence in the restrooms. Kindergarten through fifth grade classrooms are also equipped with hand sanitizing stations.



CLEANING OF BUILDINGS & CLASSROOM FACILITIES

Keeping our classrooms clean and sanitized is important for student and faculty health. Therefore, St. Peter's is taking the following steps to ensure a healthy environment:

- The number of custodians and the amount of time they spend cleaning will be increased, and there will be additional coverage during the school day.
- During the day, the custodial staff will rotate through the buildings to address high-touch areas – sinks, door handles, water bottle filling stations, light switches, restrooms, and handrails.
- Each evening a thorough cleaning and sanitizing of every classroom, restroom, and gathering space on campus will occur, using best practices and products for disinfection.
- Surfaces and often-touched areas will be disinfected with anti-bacterial and virus-killing products.
- There will be disinfecting wipes in each classroom for teacher use during the school day.



LUNCH

Current recommendations call for us to avoid large numbers of people utilizing shared spaces. For that reason, lunch service and our utilization of the Great Room will look different. Chef Sarah will still provide lunch; however, we are making plans to have individual lunches delivered to individual classrooms. There will be a hot lunch option as well as the various choices, and all food will be prepared under strict health and safety guidelines. We are planning to increase the amount of outdoor seating available for students to use during lunchtime.



RECESS

We understand that outside and unstructured recess time is essential to a child's growth and development. These important moments in the day will look different next year. They will be scheduled, limited to one cohort at a time, and regulated.



CHAPEL SERVICES & SPIRIT ASSEMBLY

Since current recommendations advise us to refrain from large group gatherings, we are working on ways to incorporate these important aspects of our program in new and different ways.

Chapel for grade school students will take place on Tuesdays each week, and on Wednesdays for preschool and kindergarten students. Chapel attire is required on designated chapel days.

Spirit Assemblies will take place on Thursday afternoons at 2:30 pm. Spirit attire will remain on Fridays.

In-person viewing of these services/events will be limited to one cohort/grade and active participants. Others will view via live-stream from their classrooms.



CLASSROOM UPGRADES & TEACHER TECHNOLOGY

We are updating classroom spaces to improve visibility of whiteboards and digital displays, and we are providing each faculty member with technology to support blended and distance learning. Lead teachers will have document cameras as well as web cameras that enable direct instruction to be live streamed into students' homes. The goal is a quality student experience, whatever the setting.



HOMEWORK CLUB

Homework Club will be offered free of charge to **fourth and fifth graders** from 3:00-3:45 daily Monday through Thursday. Students will practice social distancing by sitting at separate tables in the Library. Space is limited and students must pre-register for this club.



ATHLETICS

As a member of the ISC (Independent School Conference), we will review their protocol and policies for athletics and determine if appropriate for our school community. They have yet to commit to their management of a fall athletic season.



PARENT VISITORS, VOLUNTEERS & VENDORS

Visitors will check in at the main reception desk in the front lobby and undergo a brief health screening, including a temperature check. All visitors while in the building will wear face coverings. In elevated states of alert, visitors may be required to make an appointment prior to arrival.

Parents are encouraged to walk their child(ren) to class during the phase-in period, however, thereafter children should be dropped off in the carpool line. Parents of preschoolers will walk their child in if attending Morning Care only. Sign-in will be in the Library.

Educational Models

Blended Learning vs. Distance Learning

Blended Learning is designed to provide support for students and families who must be out temporarily due to COVID-19 related concerns. It will align as much as possible with on-campus teaching and learning.

This educational model is designed to help maintain connection and community between classmates on campus and those at home. Teachers provide two separate modes of education simultaneously- one in-person, the other online.

Distance Learning is designed to provide an educational alternative to in-person instruction when it is not safe to open all or part of our campus. When Distance Learning is deployed, an entire class, cohort, or school as a whole is involved. During a mandated Distance Learning period, teachers are devoted to providing instruction virtually.



Blended Learning

St. Peter's is proud to be able to fulfill our mission and continue to provide our high-quality education to all students, even during these exceptional circumstances.

The Blended Learning model designates the experience students will have when school remains in session but individual students are unable to physically attend due to COVID-19 related situations.

Families may switch from in-person to Blended Learning at any time throughout the school year, given their need is COVID-related, as defined by the school (see Navigator). The Blended Learning option will remain in place as long as COVID-19 continues to be a concern, as determined by St. Peter's School leadership team and Board of Trustees.

Families intending to begin the 2020-2021 school year remotely via the Blended Learning option are advised to alert their Curriculum Coordinators in writing by August 1. Tuition does not differ from the in-person on-campus model.



PRESCHOOL
BLENDED LEARNING

St. Peter's will provide a meaningful and rich learning experience, regardless of student location. For students who choose to stay home, a live stream of direct instruction will take place so that those students receive meaningful instruction from their teachers and feel connected to the St. Peter's community and their grade level cohort. Additionally, students will have access to participate in specialty classes.



CONTENT DELIVERY

1. **Direct Instruction:**

Using a live platform to stream direct instruction lessons will allow students to interact with their classroom community in “real-time”. Students who are participating in Blended Learning are able to ask questions and participate in whole class discussions.

2. **Independent Work:**

Students will receive a materials kit and ideas for possible playful learning and exploration. They will also receive access to resources on SeeSaw.

3. **One on One and/or Small Group:**



Students Enrolled in the Five Full Day Program:

- Access to the class lessons 5 times a week.
- Whole group live instruction two times a week
- Small group instruction twice a week
- One on one instruction twice a week



Students enrolled in the Five Half Day Program:

- Access to the class lessons 5 times a week
- Whole group live instruction two times a week
- Small group instruction twice a week
- One on one instruction once a week



Students Enrolled in the Three Full Day Program:

- Access to the class lessons 3 times a week
- Whole group live instruction two times a week
- Small group instruction once a week
- One on one instruction once a week



Students Enrolled in the Three Half Day Program:

- Access to the class lessons 3 times a week
- Whole group live instruction two times a week
- One on one instruction once a week

*** Times with the teachers in a whole group setting are approximately 30-minutes. Small groups are approximately 15-minutes. One on one sessions with students are approximately 15-minute.*



KINDERGARTEN-GRADE 5 BLENDED LEARNING

St. Peter's will provide a meaningful and rich learning experience, regardless of student location. For students who choose or need to stay home, a live stream of direct instruction will take place so that those students receive meaningful instruction from their teachers and feel connected to the St. Peter's community and their grade level cohort. Additionally, students will have access to participate in specialty classes.



CONTENT DELIVERY

1. **Direct Instruction:**

Students will be live streamed into the on-campus classrooms for various lessons using Google Meets/Zoom. Students will have the opportunity to be engaged in asking questions and participating in whole class discussions.

2. **Small Group:**

Students will participate in small group reading, writing, and math groups through live "break out" rooms in Google Meets/Zoom.

3. **Independent Work:**

Students access daily independent work assignments from Seesaw and Google Classroom. These assignments are to be completed that day and uploaded to Seesaw in the student's folder.

4. **One on One Reading, Writing, and Math Conferences:**

Teachers will continue to reach our individual readers, writers, and mathematicians through one on one conferences. Students participating in Blended Learning will receive one reading conference, one writing conference, and one math conference each week with the teacher via Google Meets. The teacher will provide a specific day/time for these conferences with the student.

Students in grades 2-5 will create a writing journal in a Google Classroom format so that teachers are able to easily access student writing for real-time conferences.

Students in Kindergarten and grade 1 will have a paper journal where the parents scan writing with Notes each day and upload it to their child's Seesaw folder.



Distance Learning

In the event that students are required to move into distance learning, St. Peter's will transition into our full online learning approach using Seesaw, Renweb, Google Classroom and our other online resources for math and literacy.



Students Enrolled in the Five Full Day Program:

- Access to the class lessons 5 times a week.
- Whole group live instruction two times a week
- Small group instruction twice a week
- One on one instruction twice a week



Students Enrolled in the Five Half Day Program:

- Access to the class lessons 5 times a week
- Whole group live instruction two times a week
- Small group instruction twice a week
- One on one instruction once a week



Students Enrolled in the Three Full Day Program:

- Access to the class lessons 3 times a week
- Whole group live instruction two times a week
- Small group instruction once a week
- One on one instruction once a week



Students Enrolled in the Three Half Day Program:

- Access to the class lessons 3 times a week
- Whole group live instruction two times a week
- One on one instruction once a week

*** Times with the teachers in a whole group setting are approximately 30-minutes. Small groups are approximately 15-minutes. One on one sessions with students are approximately 15-minute.*



KINDERGARTEN-GRADE 5 DISTANCE LEARNING & CONTENT DELIVERY

1. **Direct Instruction:**

Students will participate in live Google Meets for direct instruction time so that students can interact with the teacher and peers in a “real-time” setting. Students thrive with having the opportunity to continue learning as a community, and we strive to offer a large amount of Google Meets/Zoom sessions to teach new concepts in a setting where our students can ask questions and support one another in a variety of learning opportunities.

2. **Small Group:**

Students will meet in live “break out” rooms in Google Meets or Zoom. Students will be able to continue participating in small group reading, writing, and math instruction with their peers in our distance learning program.

3. **Independent Work:**

Students will access daily independent work assignments on Seesaw and Google Classroom.

4. **One on One Meeting and Small Group Contact via Google Meets/Zoom:**

Grades K-5:

Teachers will meet with students throughout the week for one on one conferences in reading, writing, and math.



THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF FAMILIES

Families play a vital role in maintaining safety on campus. The number one safety measure is to keep a child home if they are sick.

We also understand that there are families with higher risk members in their households. As a community that prioritizes health and safety, we must all do our part to adhere to state health recommendations and regulations to control transmission and potential future outbreaks. Moreover, there may be times when we ask families to comply with broader safety measures and we greatly appreciate your cooperation in this regard.

We expect you will have questions and welcome your feedback and suggestions. Please feel free to contact us.



HOW TO NOTIFY THE SCHOOL

Main School Office

Tiffany Godbehere

Call: (423) 870-1794 email: tgodbehere@stpeters.org

Head of School

Meredith Ruffner

Call: (423) 362-4336 email: mruffner@stpeters.org

Director of School Operations

Margarita Renegar

Call: (423) 362-4338 email: mrenegar@stpeters.org

Director of Admissions

Becky Sharp

Call: (423) 362-4337 email: bsharp@stpeters.org

Director of Finance

Sonia Harris

Call: (423) 362-4339 email: sharris@stpeters.org

Director of Advancement

Sarah Steffner

Email: ssteffner@stpeters.org

Curriculum Coordinator

Randi Schlosser

Email: rschlosser@stpeters.org

Spanish Immersion Coordinator

Monica Griffin

Email: mgriffin@stpeters.org



ABSENCES

Short-term vs. COVID-related

Short-term absences occur when a student remains home from school for a day or more due to mild, common childhood illnesses.

Students will receive class content and assignments from teachers. Any missed assessments may be made up upon the student's return to school.

COVID-related Absences occur when:

- Student is observing a 14-day quarantine per CDC guidelines due to a possible exposure or household member's exposure.
- Student is observing strict social distancing due to personal or a household member's high-risk status.
- Student is observing a 14-day quarantine due to a COVID-19 positive diagnosis.
- The timeline is 14 days or more.

Parents should contact the school immediately through a call or email to Margarita Renegar @ mrenegar@stpeters.org or (423) 362-4338.

Once the school is notified, the student will be enrolled in the Blended Learning Plan. Content delivery methods will vary by age/grade.

If materials are not with the student, the family may arrange for a contact-free pick up at school.



COVID-19 MONITORING

We will monitor health indicators reported by local and state agencies as well as our school community. We will track the number of COVID-19 cases in the state; the number of students and employees on campus who report illnesses; the number of people with recorded fevers through our health screening protocols; attendance and a host of other data points that will factor into our community's daily health status.



GENERAL HEALTH STATUS AND COMMUNICATIONS



St. Peter's will issue a four-tiered **Color Code System** –



The Color Code will be shared in the weekly Epistle and any changes in status (e.g. Green to Yellow or Yellow to Orange) will be communicated to families. At all times, we will strive to provide families with as much preparation time as possible for any potential changes to our risk status.

Depending on health conditions at the time, St. Peter's may open the school year at an elevated level of alert. We may also choose to begin school with more stringent safety protocols in an effort to orient our community to the new safety standards.



COLOR CODES

The four-tiered color-coded system used to define the health status of our campus environment will provide general guidelines for activities on and off campus. Families that are not comfortable with their child(ren) returning to campus at this time may choose a blended learning model.

Level of Alert	General Conditions (key metrics suggested by Harvard Global Health Institute)	Metric: Case Incidence (threshold of 2 or more would constitute a move to next tiered level)	Learning Environment
Green-Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -infections remain low in Chattanooga -no known cases currently at school -families, faculty and staff closely adhering -confidence in government epidemic control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <1 daily new case per 100K people in Hamilton County -No cases in St. Peter's Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -campus is open -all students on campus -open all days -limited cohort mixing -masks required for all students prek-5th, faculty, staff and guests
Yellow-Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -infections low but starting to increase in Chattanooga -possible cases in school community -families, faculty and staff not adhering as closely to safety protocols -uncertainty in government epidemic control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1<10 daily new cases per 100K people in Hamilton County -(1-3) cases in St. Peter's Community as well as <5 being tested 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -campus is open -all students on campus -open all days -elevated safety measures and PPE -further reductions in cohort mixing -masks required for all students prek-5th, faculty, staff and guests
Orange-Heightened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -new infections increasing in Chattanooga -several possible cases in school community -families, faculty and staff struggling to adhere to safety protocols -waning epidemic control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10<25 daily new cases per 100K people in Hamilton County -(4-6) cases in St. Peter's Community with up to 10 pending 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -blended educational model of on-campus and at-home teaching and learning -masks required for all students prek-5th, faculty, staff and guests
Red-High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -poorly controlled community transmission in Chattanooga -multiple new infections in the school community -Health Department, Mayor or Governor has issued stay-at-home orders or otherwise closed all schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - >25 daily new cases per 100K people in Hamilton County -(>7) cases in St. Peter's Community with >11 pending 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -campus is closed except for essential faculty and staff -distance learning for all students -practice CDC Health & Safety Guidelines while at home



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



ST. PETER'S
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Frequently Asked Questions

2020/21 School Year

The answers in this FAQ refer to the Navigator for some details. The Navigator is the school handbook that will be handed out at the beginning of the school year. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to a member of the administration team. Communication, empathy, and compassion are our most valued resources during this time.

Q: What if I am uncomfortable with my child coming to school?

A: You may choose the Blended Learning Model, which is designed to provide support for students and families who must be out due to COVID-19 related concerns. Your child will be able to participate in each class following his or her normal schedule in live time until your family feels it is safe to return to school.

If a family intends to begin the 2020-21 school year remotely via the Blended Learning model, they must inform their curriculum coordinator **in writing by August 1st**. When you decide to have your child join on-campus activities, you must inform us in writing at least two school days prior to your child's return.

To provide consistency for your child and his or her classmates and teachers, students will not be permitted to repeatedly switch from Blended Learning to on-campus instruction, unless quarantine is necessary to prevent the spread of illness.

Q: What is the mask policy? Does everyone have to wear one all day?

A: Probably the most polarizing topic we have received revolves around the topic of masks or face coverings. Our policy is: Approved face coverings will be required in some scenarios for all faculty, staff, and students.

So, what does this mean?

We are requiring each student and staff member to bring an approved face covering each day. (The mask should be cleaned nightly. If your child forgets his or her mask, we do have disposable masks available for emergency use.) Students are required to wear face coverings during arrival and dismissal.

Due to the ever evolving and changing guidelines, there may be times when we ask our community members to wear masks.

The CDC and our local health experts have data that shows how COVID-19 spreads mostly from person to person through respiratory droplets. Studies show that sometimes people with COVID-19 have no symptoms, so even with our diligent health screenings, social distancing measures, and cleaning protocols, the use of cloth face coverings will give us an extra level of protection.

To reduce the spread of COVID-19, our school community will wear face coverings when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. Examples may be

group work situations for older children, severe weather drills, arrival/dismissal and one-on-one work with a teacher.

There are also instances in which the wearing of a mask does not make sense, such as playing on the playground, eating lunch, working alone or independently, or working outside where social distancing requirements are met.

Q: What if my child has sensory issues or breathing concerns? Will he or she be required to wear a mask?

A: We understand that every child is different and has different needs. If you have specific concerns regarding mask use, please reach out to Margarita Renegar at mrenegar@stpeters.org.

Q: How can you teach kids, especially young kids, to occasionally wear masks?

A: We will provide a great deal of age appropriate lessons on hygiene and why masks are needed in certain situations to protect our friends. If a child chooses to take his/her mask off during a "mask required" time, we will work with the child to explain the "why" rather than being punitive. We will do our best to make sure if the situation requires a mask, it is for as short a period of time as possible, especially for our younger learners.

Q: What is an "appropriate face covering?"

A: The most recent studies show that if you choose a cloth face covering, the cloth masks with several layers are the most effective in preventing spread. Keeping the mask clean is vital. We kindly ask that all students remember we have young children on campus; logoed and patterned masks are fine, but *anything that could be scary, inappropriate, or controversial* should not be worn on campus. If the teacher feels a mask is distracting, we may provide the student with a disposable mask for the day.

Teachers and administrators will wear face coverings in class. When the use of enhanced auditory and visual cues are an essential part of learning, teachers may choose to wear a face shield.

Q: How will the school monitor social distancing on campus?

A: Administrators are making sure appropriate social distancing strategies are in place at each time during the daily schedule, including arrival/dismissal, lunch, recess, restroom breaks, and hand washing. Teachers will receive a comprehensive training prior to the start of school regarding these strategies, including a "walk through" of the day to troubleshoot any areas of concern.

Q: What will happen if someone in the St. Peter's School community tests positive for COVID-19?

A: Step 1- We will notify our local health authorities and our school community. The space where the person spent a large amount of time will be unoccupied for 24 hours, then sanitized according to CDC guidelines.

Step 2 - We will follow contact tracing instructions from the CDC and Hamilton County Health Department.

Step 3 - The students and faculty who were in the person's cohort will be asked to isolate according to the plan in the Navigator.

Step 4 - The person who tested positive and that person's cohort will follow the plan laid out in the Navigator for a return to school.

Please note that CDC guidelines, testing protocols, and the availability of certain tests change often as more information about the virus becomes available. SPES will use the most up-to-date information from government agencies to guide families in how to respond to any COVID-19 related concern.

Q: What if my child has to miss school due to COVID-19?

A: It is imperative for your child to stay home if:

- you suspect your child has COVID-19
- your child has tested positive for COVID-19
- your child or a member of your household has recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19

It is vital that each family is transparent about any COVID-19 related situation so we can inform any other community members who may have been exposed. Margarita Renegar will help you determine the best course of action before your child can return to school. Your child's curriculum coordinator will work closely with you to develop the best academic plan for your child while he or she is out which may include the Blended Learning model depending on the child's level of illness and ability to participate.

Q: What if my child needs to be absent but it is not due to COVID-19?

A: If your child is not feeling well for any reason, please do not send him or her to school. Our absence policy remains the same as in previous years. If your child will be absent, please email the child's teacher and provide a detailed reason for the absence. School administration will call you if clarification is needed.

Q: What happens if a student or employee does not pass the health screening prior to or upon arrival to school?

A: Health screenings should take place prior to carpool each morning. If a child does not pass the health screening, he or she should stay at home. Any student arriving at school without completing the health screening must wait in the car for an administrator to perform a temperature check and ask the screening questions.

Q: What happens if a student or employee begins to have symptoms during the school day?

A: If a student or employee begins experiencing COVID-19 symptoms during the day, he or she will be isolated from others immediately. The school has a designated isolation area in the administration office. Any area the student or employee has visited that day will be cleaned thoroughly. Parents will be called to pick up their child immediately and administration will advise them on next steps.

Q: If one student has to be quarantined at home for an extended period because of illness or exposure, will they be able to join their classes virtually?

A: Yes, each student will be able to continue learning through the Blended Learning model as his or her health allows.

Q: If one student or teacher/staff tests positive for COVID-19, will the entire campus be shut down and go back to virtual learning?

A: No, we will require the cohort of that particular student/ teacher/ staff member to follow our protocols, including remaining at home and using the Blended Learning model. The other cohorts will be able to use campus.

Q: What should I do if I think my child or I have been in close contact with a positive COVID-19 case?

A: A "close contact" is someone who has been within 6 feet for 10 minutes or more with a positive case. If the Health Department determines you are a close contact, you should quarantine and stay home until you are called by an epidemiologist and given further guidance. In this case, you may only leave quarantine to go get tested. Call the COVID-19 Hotline at 423-209-8383 for questions or concerns.

Q: When we get into the flu season, what will be the protocol for how students/parents should handle the illness and the determination of whether it's the flu or COVID-19?

A: For both cases, the student will not be allowed to come back to school until they have a clearance note from the doctor. *This is a change from previous years.* For influenza, the student will have to be symptom-free for 48 hours prior to coming back to school without the help of fever reducing medication. Any student with a positive test for COVID-19 will need to follow the school's requirements for re-entry that will be accessible in the Navigator.

Q: If the School is forced to close in-person on-campus learning and shift to only distance learning, will you refund any tuition?

A: As a nonprofit organization, St. Peter's targets a breakeven budget each year, while providing the most value at the best possible price. Most of the annual budget is fixed because of our commitment to our teachers and staff. We also must maintain our buildings, grounds, insurance, security, and technology for a return to campus.

In addition to these fixed costs, we are absorbing additional costs related to COVID-19, like a full-time cleaning person for daytime deep cleaning, electrostatic sprayers, Pixem robots and Sony cameras, completely updated robust internet for streaming needs, shatterproof partitions, additional furniture, and more. We have also met the financial needs of families affected by the economic challenges of these times. These expenses were not considered when setting tuition levels in January.

A shutdown decreases other revenues from extended care, enrichment classes, athletic programs, lunches and fundraising. These auxiliary services were a way for the school to keep tuition low while providing a more personalized value to each family. If we are required to close campus and transition to virtual learning for long-term quarantine, the school will refund the non-academic school experiences that were not delivered in a remote environment such as lunches and athletics.

Q: Will students and employees be tested for COVID-19 regularly?

A: We do not plan to mandate mass testing at this time. COVID-19 testing should be performed at the direction of the health department or an individual's physician.

Q: If my child gets an antibody test and it is determined he or she had the virus, can we opt out of the daily health screenings?

A: No, you must still do the health screenings until the CDC does more research on the antibody test.

Q: If a child at school is diagnosed with COVID, will my family be able to know who the child is so I will know my child's risk?

A: HIPPA law does not permit disclosure of this information. We will notify you if your child has been exposed. Depending on the type of exposure your child may be required to quarantine at home for 14 days. In all instances, we will maintain the privacy of the COVID-19 positive individual.

Q: If a vaccine becomes available but I don't want my child to have it, what are my options?

A: When a vaccine is widely available, we will consult with health and safety experts to design a policy that is appropriate for our community.

Q: If the Hamilton County school system moves to a mandatory close, will we do the same?

A: As an independent school, we are not obligated to follow the Hamilton County decisions. We are responsible to our Board of Trustees and seek to make our decisions based on what is best for our school. Our small student population allows us to adapt to various scenarios quickly. We also collaborate and share ideas with other independent schools in our area, but our decisions will continue to be made based on what is best for the St. Peter's community.