



# ST. PAUL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



## REOPENING PLAN FALL 2020

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

School Board and Return to In-Person Instruction Team (RIIT) .....	2
Introduction .....	3
Vision, Mission, Statement of Philosophy, Core Values .....	6
Reopening Plan Guiding Principles .....	7
School Liaison, Communications Plan, Data Collection .....	9
Preparations for Reopening	
Opening Day Calendar .....	10
Technology Upgrades .....	10
Facilities .....	11
Ventilation .....	13
Health and Safety	
Health Practices, PPE and Safety Protocols .....	14
COVID-19 Education and Training .....	16
Health Monitoring, Reporting and Response Measures	
Immunizations and Health Assessments .....	17
Daily Health Check and Temperature Testing .....	17
Absences and Reporting Illnesses .....	17
Containment Planning, Confirmed Case or Exposure, School Closure .....	18
Quarantining and Isolation .....	18
In-Person Learning Phase .....	19
Temporary Remote/Distance Learning Alternative .....	21
Hybrid/Blended Learning Phase .....	22
Remote/Distance Learning Phase .....	23
Co-Curricular Activities	
Athletics, Performing Arts, Clubs, Field Trips, Retreats .....	26
Community Service .....	26
Transportation .....	27
Social Emotional Impact .....	28
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) .....	30
Appendix	
2020-2021 Revised School Calendar .....	36
July 2020 Parent/Student Survey Results .....	37
BBHD Health Information Sheets .....	41
Family Declaration for Reopening Form .....	43

### **2020-2021 School Board**

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Mabeline Silva

Cary Dupont '72 President/Chief Administrator  
Laura McCaffrey, OEEC Liaison

### **Return to In-Person Instruction Team (RIIT)**

James Cooper, Dean of Academic Life  
David Dennehy, Director of Athletics  
Cary Dupont '72, President/Chief Administrator  
Dr. Jonathan Gnoza, Faculty  
Noemi Jalbert, Faculty/Department Head  
Melissa Lindquist, Marketing & Communications/Parent  
Joseph Longmore, Faculty  
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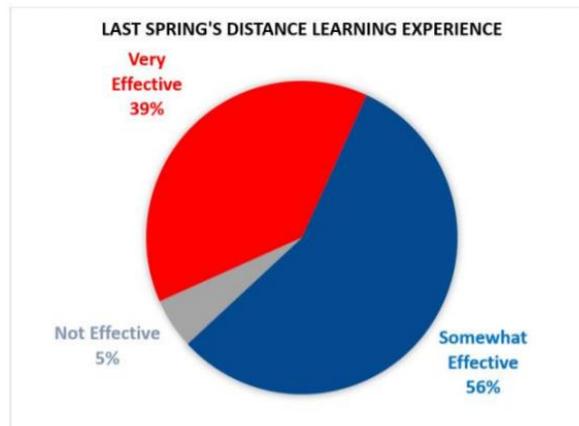
## INTRODUCTION

*“Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:5)*

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and the abrupt closing of schools across the nation and specifically in Connecticut on March 12, 2020, St. Paul Catholic High School has strived to continue to partner with our students and parents/guardians to deliver on our educational promise of educating young minds, hearts and spirits.

We were impressed and proud of the commitment and engagement of our students, parents/guardians, faculty and staff during the unplanned distance learning period last spring. Collectively, the St. Paul community exceeded our high expectations. That is not to say it was easy for anyone and may have been more difficult for some, but we certainly were a shining light in the midst of darkness thanks to all of you.

Our remote/distance learning initiative focused on transitioning and engaging St. Paul students and faculty members online utilizing the Zoom platform, thereby creating an educational experience that was as “normal” as possible given the unprecedented circumstances we faced. We recognize that it was not the same as in-person learning, but that it did provide the desired opportunity for valued classmate and teacher interaction in achieving our educational goals for the year. The chart below reflects our overall parent/guardian and student satisfaction, with 95% indicating “very effective or “somewhat effective,” based upon the July 2020 survey. That said, we realize that there is room for growth and we are committed to improving.



As you know, Gov. Lamont announced on June 25, 2020 plans and guidelines for Connecticut K-12 schools to reopen in the fall. We were pleased to hear this news and began the planning process to welcome students and faculty back onto the St. Paul campus for Fall 2020. **Be assured that our top priority or guiding principle will always be that all reopening decisions will be made with the best interest of the health and safety of our entire St. Paul community in mind.**

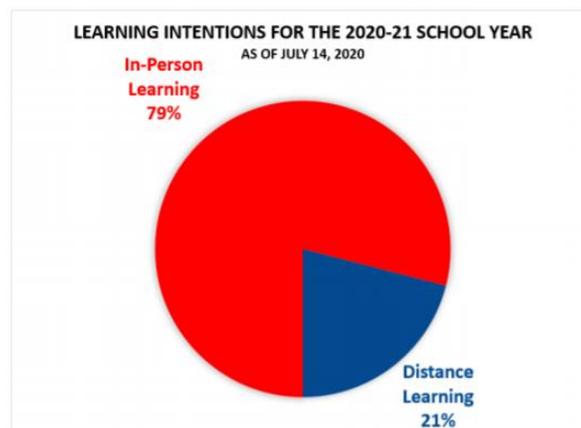
To this end, a newly created Return to In-Person Instruction Team (RIIT) consisting of administrators, faculty, school board members, parents, and local health district professionals, brought various expertise and perspectives to the strategic planning table. In addition, we conducted a brief online survey to collect valuable information from our students and parents. We received 300 responses as of July 17, 2020.

The RIIT was charged with defining the three models within our Reopening Plan – Fall 2020 depending on the local/regional external situation of the virus or changing internal circumstances within our school. As indicated previously, these three model/phases will be fluid, possibly moving from one to the other, as necessary:

- **In-Person Learning** model where instruction will be in-person on our campus adhering to strict social distancing and health and safety guidelines (i.e. temperature testing, hand sanitizing, wearing a mask, etc.).
- **Hybrid/Blended Learning** model where instruction will be a combination of in-person and remote learning (i.e. reduced number of students in the building at any one time) with any in-school instruction following recommended social distancing guidelines as outlined in the In-Person Learning Phase.
- **Remote/Distance Learning** model where all instruction will be provided via remote learning.

The specific details/logistics within each phase as well as the comprehensive health and safety measures being undertaken to reopen St. Paul Catholic High School are outlined herein.

We are cognizant that some members of the St. Paul community may have extenuating circumstances due to the coronavirus that require alternative learning options. In fact, based upon our July survey, approximately 20% of our school community responded that they preferred a distance learning model to start school this fall. Our plan respects these individual family's health concerns, needs or personal beliefs related to COVID-19. Our Reopening Plan – Fall 2020 attempts to provide an alternative, quality, online learning program to assure that every student's educational needs are met.



The St. Paul Catholic High School Reopening Plan - Fall 2020 is a living document that will require us to be flexible and adjust to the internal and external changes influenced by the continued presence of COVID-19 in our lives. We are making these plans in July 2020 while Connecticut is leading the country in our mitigation response while other states are not as fortunate. However, no one really knows what the future will bring. **While we are planning to welcome students back on our campus for a return to In-Person Learning (although some families may choose the Remote/Distance Learning alternative), a final decision at the end of the summer will be made depending on COVID-19 conditions in Connecticut and further guidance by state, archdiocesan and local health officials.** Thus, it will require continued trust, patience, flexibility, commitment and an open mind to the learning process as we begin and navigate through a new and uncharted school year.

Sincere thanks to James Cooper, Dean of Academic Life, Al Wallace, Dean of Student Life, members of the administrative team, staff and faculty and especially to members of the Return to In-Person Instruction Team (RIIT) who have engaged in countless meetings and discussions this summer to plan and prepare this document and ultimately our school reopening. We'd also like to acknowledge the professional guidance received from the State of Connecticut, Archdiocesan Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis (OEEC), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and our local Bristol-Burlington Health District (BBHD). While these efforts have been tireless, our work has only just begun.

St. Paul Catholic High School's Reopening Plan - Fall 2020 was presented and approved by our School Board on July 28, 2020 and submitted to OEEC. It is being released to our school community to provide direction and answer some of the questions you may have as we focus on the new school year. Be assured that we will continue to communicate and update you frequently regarding the progress of our Reopening Plan through the remainder of the summer.

There are many variables and factors to be considered and much uncertainty as we move forward. Nevertheless, we are confident that St. Paul Catholic High School will persevere and continue to soar as we have done many times, when faced with adversity, throughout our 50+ year history. Together, we will create an excellent educational and life experience that will surely be different but rewarding for our times.

Let your face and heart light up ... welcome back!

We are **#stpaulstrong**



Cary M. Dupont '72  
President/Chief Administrator



Reverend Monsignor Gary F. Simeone  
School Board Chair

## VISION

To be a truly great Catholic high school.

## MISSION

Christ is the reason for St. Paul Catholic High School. Upon this foundation, young men and women from diverse backgrounds are challenged to be their personal best in academics, athletics, fine arts, and service to others, as they prepare for the rigors of college and lifelong learning. The St. Paul community is distinguished by the respect, care and encouragement members give each other to achieve moments of greatness.

## STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

We believe that every individual is a unique creation of God and must be treated with the greatest respect. Adolescents learn best in an atmosphere of mutual respect where they feel safe, are nurtured, and have a sense of belonging. Therefore, the faculty and staff must serve as role models to students by living as committed Christians striving to teach as Jesus did. The Christian values learned both in the classroom and in co-curricular activities are critical to forming the whole person.

We believe that adolescents strive to meet the expectations of those responsible for them. Therefore, faculty and parents must work together to establish high expectations for students. We believe that adolescents must learn to take responsibility for their own lives as they prepare to be adult Christians. Self-discipline is the most effective form of discipline, so students are guided to respect themselves, others, and the learning process.

We believe that students are best served by a curriculum that emphasizes traditional core content, while providing opportunities for enrichment and exposure to rapid globalization. We believe that all individuals learn differently, therefore, it is essential for teachers to employ a variety of teaching strategies aided by state-of-the-art technology to respond effectively to each individual's learning style. Students appreciate learning through the efforts of enthusiastic teachers who love their subjects and who challenge their students to think critically and creatively. We believe that adolescents need intellectual, creative, physical, and service experiences so that they develop a lifelong commitment to personal growth and service to God and others.

## CORE VALUES

**Faith** – Knowing, believing in, and living the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church.

**Character** – Living our Christian values with confidence and conviction.

**Community** – Fostering a sense of belonging by creating a safe and nurturing environment.

**Excellence** – Achieving one's personal best and contributing to the life of our community.

**Service** – Giving of one's self to help and support others.

## REOPENING PLAN GUIDING PRINCIPLES

“**Welcome Home**” takes on a new meaning after any period of separation, but especially after the unprecedented challenging times we have all unexpectedly experienced since March 12, 2020 due to COVID-19. While the global pandemic continues to strongly influence our daily lives, the general sentiment of our students, parents/guardians, faculty, and staff is one of anticipation and longing for a return to the normalcy of studying and teaching on our campus.

As we prepare to return to the St. Paul campus, the renewed, albeit cautious, excitement of the faculty, staff, students and their families must be met with reaffirmed diligence in caring for ourselves and each other in very practical ways. This Reopening Plan – Fall 2020 for St. Paul Catholic High School is a living and fluid document helping to guide our practices along this journey. No doubt, it will be a challenging path and will require all of us to understand and respond responsibly to this critical calling.

Our plan is grounded in the belief of the following four guiding principles:

### **Commitment to maintaining and growing our culture as a vibrant faith-community**

Although clearly outlined in our Mission and Statement of Philosophy, it’s the indescribable aspects of St. Paul that differentiates who we are. There is a special feeling experienced by those that walk in our front door and proudly call St. Paul home. Our core values are not five words but a way of life that contribute to the foundation of our faith community. Our sense of community is not an accident. On the contrary, our culture is intentional and inherent to our identity as a Catholic high school in the Archdiocese of Hartford.

### **Commitment to the health, safety and social emotional well-being of all members of our school community**

Providing a safe and nurturing environment is a central component to being a truly great Catholic high school. The health, safety and social emotional well-being of our students, faculty and staff has always been a top priority for St. Paul. This principle has been a driving force behind this Reopening Plan - Fall 2020 and will continue to influence everything we do moving forward.

We are committed to making sure that students and faculty have the supports that they might need to successfully reintegrate into a new school year.

We acknowledge the guidance received from the State of Connecticut, Archdiocesan Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis (OEEC), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and our local Bristol-Burlington Health District (BBHD) in preparing this plan. Decisions related to reopening, school closures, health and safety measures, and school programming will be made in concert with recommendations from these entities.

**Commitment to excellence in designing multiple instructional models giving families a choice between in-person or remote learning**

Careful thought and attention to various factors/details was given in creating the three instructional models: In-Person Learning, Hybrid/Blended Learning and Remote/Distance Learning. Depending on the influence of COVID-19 at any point in time, St. Paul may transition between each of these models in successfully meeting the educational needs of our students and families during the 2020-2021 school year.

Our plan respects individual family's health concerns, needs or personal beliefs related to COVID-19. St. Paul will be offering those students and families the opportunity to learn remotely while teachers and students are utilizing the in-person model. Classes will be live streamed over the Zoom platform to simultaneously engage both in-person learners as well as remote/distance learners.

**Commitment to frequent communication and a valued partnership with our school families**

We value our relationship with our St. Paul families and are committed to frequent communication given the ever-changing information in our world today. Our plan includes many delivery methods as a consistent way to keep students, parents/guardians, faculty and staff informed of our reopening plans, progress of our reopening learning models, information that educates important health and safety protocols as well as safe school measures.

## SCHOOL LIAISON, COMMUNICATIONS PLAN AND DATA COLLECTION

### SCHOOL LIAISON

Cary Dupont, President/Chief Administrator ([cdupont@spchs.com](mailto:cdupont@spchs.com)) will serve as the school liaison responsible for engaging with students, parents/guardians, faculty and staff to answer any questions or concerns about health and safety requirements regarding COVID-19.

Mr. Dupont and St. Paul school nurse, Mrs. Elizabeth McGuire, BSN, RN, CPN Public Health Nurse, ([elizabethmcguire@bristolct.gov](mailto:elizabethmcguire@bristolct.gov)) from the Bristol-Burlington Health District (BBHD) will serve as the school compliance liaisons.

### COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Communication between St. Paul Catholic High School and its families is important, given the ever-changing information in our world today. A plan was implemented in the spring of 2020 and will continue to be a consistent way to keep all students, parents/guardians, faculty and staff informed of our reopening plans, progress of our reopening learning models, information that educates important health and safety protocols as well as safe school measures.

The plan includes many different delivery methods of communication to families. Efforts and resources to communicate include but are not limited to: a prominent and dedicated reopening St. Paul webpage ([spchs.com](http://spchs.com)); email updates (Constant Contact emails); social media posts on the St. Paul parent Facebook page for in-school updates and news (St. Paul Falcons Parent Community); in-school announcements for students, faculty and staff; social media posts on Instagram ([@spchsfalcons](https://www.instagram.com/spchsfalcons)), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulcatholichighschool>) and Twitter ([@spchs\\_buzz](https://twitter.com/spchs_buzz)) for alumni and St. Paul friends; virtual or video school tours; and live broadcast videos, if necessary.

**It's imperative that parents/guardians have their current email addresses on file with the school and read the weekly updates once school is in session, as a reliable way to keep fully informed.**

**Exciting news: the St. Paul website is undergoing a remodel! This fall [spchs.com](http://spchs.com) will have a fresh, new look! Look for new navigation organization, up-to-date school news, search engine optimization reporting, better engagement for all our audiences, technology sign-in for students and much more.**

Thank you to our marketing committee for their ideas and to current parents Matt Walker - Walker Design and Lori Barton - Web Solutions, for being our collaborative partners during this project!

Contact Melissa Lindquist, Marketing & Communications, ([mlindquist@spchs.com](mailto:mlindquist@spchs.com)) with any communication questions or concerns.

## PREPARATIONS FOR REOPENING

### OPENING DAY CALENDAR

As previously announced, in light of the extended student orientation/training anticipated in reopening for the 2020-2021 Academic Year and to safely “phase in” our school community, we have adjusted our original opening day schedule. Students will attend in-person school the week of August 31st only on the day(s) indicated.

Class of 2024	Monday, August 31 and Tuesday, September 1, 2020
Class of 2021	Wednesday, September 2, 2020
Class of 2022	Thursday, September 3, 2020
Class of 2023	Friday, September 4, 2020

Virtual orientation/information sessions will be arranged and communicated at a later date for students opting for remote/distance learning to begin the school year.

We will continue the “phase in” process and introduce our Hybrid/Blended Learning model with all students attending either in-person instruction or remote/distance learning classes with their designated cohort on Tuesday, September 8 and Wednesday, September 9. The full In-Person Learning phase (with an online alternative) will begin on Thursday, September 10.

Labor Day – No School	Monday, September 7, 2020
White Cohort (L-Z)	Tuesday, September 8, 2020
Blue Cohort (A-K)	Wednesday, September 9, 2020
All Students	Thursday, September 10, 2020

### TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

In June 2020, St. Paul upgraded all of our network switches and wireless access points to the latest standard. We now have 802.11ac wireless throughout the school building.

In addition, we have contracted with Comcast to bring fiberoptic internet to the St. Paul campus by August 31, 2020. Previously, we were receiving download speeds of 100 Mbps and upload speeds of 15Mbps. With the new upgrade, we will be receiving 200 Mbps for both download and upload speeds. The improvements to our WiFi network and enhanced internet connection will ensure our students and faculty have the very best quality internet experience while in the school building or to simultaneously live stream multiple instructional classes from St. Paul for remote/distance learning, as needed.

Finally, improvements to our WiFi network also included expansion to the outside athletic press box. In August, St. Paul will install Pixellot cameras on McPhee Field and in the Rev. Brian Monnerat Gymnasium. This technology allows us to broadcast St. Paul Falcons sporting events in those venues and allow parents, grandparents, alumni and friends to view those broadcasts “live” through the NHFS network.

## FACILITIES

St. Paul Catholic High School will continue to work closely with the State of Connecticut, Archdiocesan Office of Education, Evangelization & Catechesis (OEEC) and the Bristol Burlington Health District (BBHD) in assessing and implementing plans and policies for the 2020-2021 school year recognizing the ever changing federal and state guidance.



### Classrooms

- Physical distancing between student desks achieving 6 feet where feasible.
- Student desks will face in the same direction.
- Extra classroom furniture will be removed to allow for maximum spacing.
- Layout will maximize space between teacher and students.
- Class sizes will not exceed 25 students in a traditional classroom and often will be less.
- Repurpose larger spaces (i.e. library, auditorium, etc.) for instruction.
- Use outdoor areas for certain instructional classes weather permitting.
- Hands free sanitizing dispensers installed in each classroom.
- Classroom windows and doors open for natural cross ventilation and to minimize contact with touchpoints.
- Door handles will remain locked for quick transition to internal lockdown, if necessary.
- Every classroom will have a designated entry and exit door with dismissal staggered from back to front.
- Plexiglass dividers installed between workstations in designated classrooms (i.e. CAD lab, piano lab, art room, computer lab).
- Classroom desks and seats will be sanitized throughout the day when rooms are not in use.

## Dining Hall

This spring, the dining hall underwent a complete renovation thanks to the efforts of Duncan Sheedy, maintenance. The area is clean, bright and looks great! While not available for personal use during the pandemic, a beautiful smoothie/juice bar was installed across from the weight room thanks to a generous in-kind gift from Fairfield University.

- Capacity reduced by over 50%.
- Staggered seating with minimum of 6 feet between students all facing in the same direction.
- Lunch waves increased from 2 to 3 to reduce number of students eating at one time.
- Extend courtyard/tent area as a lunch seating option in good weather.
- Cleaning and sanitizing tables and seating throughout the day.
- Reduce meal choices and more “Grab & Go” options to reduce time spent waiting in line.
- Students required to wear face covering or mask until seated at table.

## Restrooms

- Hand hygiene signage will be posted.
- Frequent hand washing with soap and water will be encouraged.
- Hand dryers disabled, paper towels with no touch trashcans utilized.
- Rotating open bathrooms to allow for cleaning and disinfecting throughout the day.
- Limit access to two students at a time, observing a personal distance of 6 feet.

## Chapel

- Capacity in the chapel will be reduced.
- Larger groups attending the weekly Chapel Mass before school at 7:15 am will be held at St. Gregory the Great Church.

## Health Room

- Working with the Bristol-Burlington Health District (BBHD) to restructure the health area and adjacent space to meet COVID-19 requirements.
- Provide a designated isolation room and private bathroom for any student or faculty member who is suspected of possible infection.

### Corridors/Stairwells

- *Stop the Spread* signage will be visible.
- Floor markings to maintain physical distancing.
- One-way traffic patterns during passing times to limit face to face encounters.
- Stay to the right during non-passing times.
- Stagger and increase passing time from 4 to 8 minutes to reduce overcrowding.
- Reduce number of transitions or passing times throughout the day.
- **Lockers will not be assigned at the start of school to avoid hallway congestion and ease the transition to remote/distance learning, if it becomes necessary.**
- Hallway drinking fountains will be turned off; students should bring or buy bottled water.

### Locker Rooms

- Access limited for physical education classes only throughout the day.
- Will follow CIAC guidelines for after school locker room use for athletic teams.

### Ventilation

- Reviewed the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) *Guidance for School Systems for the Operation of Central and non-Central Ventilation Systems during the COVID-19 Pandemic*.
- Hired an experienced outside HVAC mechanical engineering firm to inspect and service our building HVAC system so increased ventilation rates and increased percentage of outdoor air that circulates into ventilation system will occur as feasible.
- HVAC system will be kept running during all advised hours.
- Classroom windows and doors will be opened to provide fresh air/ventilation when appropriate.
- Free standing fans that only serve to circulate existing air around the room will not be permitted.
- Will consider early dismissal or remote learning options on days of high temperatures.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

### Health Practices, PPE, and Safety Protocols

Several health practices are strongly recommended as tools for individuals to employ in the fight against contracting or spreading COVID-19. The following practices will be taught and reinforced:

- Physical distancing
- Hand hygiene
- Use of face coverings, masks & face shields
- Cough etiquette
- Enhanced cleaning/disinfecting of surfaces

### Physical Distancing

- Intentionally keep space of at least 6 feet (about two arms' length) between yourself and other people whenever possible.
- Do not gather in groups or crowded places.
- Observe maximum occupancy of rooms.
- Comply with partitions, physical barriers or visual cues that are utilized to maintain physical distancing.
- Maintain furniture configurations and space setups that maximize physical distancing.

### Hand Hygiene

- Wash your hands often throughout the day with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be installed at the main entrances to the school, common area spaces and entrance to all classrooms.
- Bringing personal hand sanitizers is encouraged, not to be shared with others.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth and face. Perform hand hygiene frequently, including after touching your face or face covering, entering common spaces, before/after eating and when using shared workspaces or electronic devices.
- Additional hand hygiene protocols, including wearing gloves, that will be provided by the school, may be required in various settings.



### Use of Face Coverings, Masks & Face Shields

- All faculty, staff, students and visitors will be expected to wear appropriate face coverings or masks **over their nose and mouth** at all times whether they are, or may be in the presence of other individuals while inside the building.
- Faculty and staff do not need to wear a face covering or mask while alone in their classroom or office.
- When outdoors, face coverings or masks are expected to be worn whenever physical distancing of at least 6 feet cannot be maintained.
- Face shields are **NOT** a replacement for wearing a face covering or mask although can be worn with a face covering or mask.
- Faculty who choose to teach with a face shield, for auditory purposes, must remain a minimum of 8 feet away from the nearest student in the classroom.
- Students will be provided with a cloth mask upon return to school.
- Appropriate homemade or commercially manufactured face coverings/masks will be allowed.
- Any face coverings/masks with inappropriate designs/messaging inconsistent with our uniform policy will not be allowed.
- Cloth face coverings or masks should be washed after daily use.
- Commercially manufactured disposable masks are allowed and should be thrown away after each use.
- Two mask breaks are being built into the daily academic schedule whereby students and faculty will be encouraged to utilize outside areas around the school and, if distanced appropriately, will be allowed to remove their masks.

Face coverings and masks are a vital component of our in-school health and safety plan. Although the risk of severe illness may be different for everyone, anyone can become infected and spread COVID-19. The purpose of face coverings and masks are to limit the wearer's potential to spread the virus as well as protect you from contacting the virus from asymptomatic carriers. St. Paul faculty, staff and students are expected to treat members of our school community with dignity and respect and not engage in any irresponsible behavior regarding this practice.

**If a parent does not want their child to wear a face covering or mask, for any reason, or does not believe that they should be required to wear one, they must choose remote/distance learning.**

### Cough Etiquette

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Throw tissue in trash and immediately wash/disinfect your hands.
- If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands.

### Enhanced Cleaning/Disinfecting of Surfaces

- In addition to our daily cleaning and sanitizing of building spaces, we will increase disinfecting all frequently touched surfaces multiple times each day.
- Frequently touched surfaces include items such as light switches, handles, handrails, restroom fixtures, etc.
- Will increase part-time maintenance staff dedicated to meet increased cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting needs.
- Everyone is encouraged to help reduce any potential spread of the virus by routinely sanitizing their individual school materials and devices.

### Material Sharing

- We will minimize the need to have students sharing high touch materials (i.e. books, art supplies, science equipment, calculators, etc.).
- In some cases, students will wear protective disposable gloves.
- We will clean and sanitize shared school materials (i.e. computer keyboards, etc.) throughout the day.

### COVID-19 Education and Training

- Faculty, including substitute teachers, will be trained on COVID-19 safety procedures and protocols by the BBHD during their pre-school professional development workshops and on-going monthly faculty meetings.
- Similarly, students will be trained during orientation addressing *What is COVID-19* and *How is it Spread*.
- All students and faculty will become familiar with the health and safety expectations at St. Paul.
- Our outsourced building maintenance company will assist in training our staff regarding safe COVID-19 cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting practices.

## HEALTH MONITORING, REPORTING AND RESPONSE MEASURES

### Immunizations and Health Assessments

- All students are required to be up to date on regular immunizations and health assessments.

### Daily Health Check and Temperature Testing

- All faculty, staff and students will be required to complete a mandatory daily online health check. This survey instrument will be designed by the Bristol-Burlington Health District (BBHD) with the confidential data sent to the school nurse.
- The online daily health check link will be emailed to you in mid-August.
- Frequent failure to comply with submitting this daily health check will prevent you from attending school in-person.
- While temperature screening for all is not required by the state or BBHD, St. Paul has decided to begin the school year thermal testing all students, faculty and staff upon arrival to school as a precautionary measure against any illness. If you have a temperature reading above 100 degrees you will be sent to the health room for further evaluation.
- If you have symptoms associated with COVID-19 including fever, shortness of breath, muscles aches, sore throat, unexplained loss of taste or smell, diarrhea or headache, or if you believe you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, please stay home and contact your healthcare provider.
- If your healthcare provider instructs you to be tested, you should remain quarantined at home until receiving your test result. If your test result is negative and your symptoms have improved, you may return to school with a doctor's note. If your test result is positive you should notify the school, stay isolated at home until your symptoms have improved, receive a subsequent negative test result and doctor's note clearing you to return to school.

**It is critically important for all members of our school community to remain home if you are sick and not feeling well. See BBHD memo in the Appendix providing health advice for stay at home.**

### Absences and Reporting Illnesses

- Absences are expected to increase this school year, as more caution is exercised.
- Parents are encouraged to notify the school office of any specific symptoms that prompt an absence.
- The BBHD has released correspondence related to *When to Keep Your Child Home From School* that can be found in the Appendix. Please keep that guidance in a handy place.

### Containment Planning, Confirmed Case or Exposure, School Closure

- The purpose of a containment plan is to decrease the risks of spreading COVID-19.
- If there is a student, staff member, or visitor, that has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID19, the President/Chief Administrator will immediately coordinate with the Bristol-Burlington Health District (BBHD) to assist with their investigation (i.e. contact tracing, infected student's time of absence, etc.).
- Upon conferring with the BBHD and the Archdiocesan OEEC, St. Paul's appropriate response may include:
  - Notification and alert via contact tracing
  - Selective temporary closure of 2-5 days to allow for cleaning and disinfecting per CDC guidance
  - Expanded school closure to allow for cleaning and disinfecting per CDC guidance

### Quarantining and Isolation

- *Quarantining* is designed to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. Quarantine helps prevent the spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms.
- Anyone traveling out-of-state must be quarantined in accordance with state and Department of Public Health (DPH) guidelines. Currently, travel to a high-risk area for more than 24 hours requires a 14-day quarantine.
- **While COVID-19 testing is not currently required by the state or BBHD prior to coming to school in the fall, students must be careful/selective who they interact with outside their home in the weeks before school begins.**
- *Isolation* is used to separate people infected with the virus (those who are sick with COVID-19 and those with no symptoms) from people who are not infected.
- We are working with the Bristol-Burlington Health District (BBHD) to restructure the health area and adjacent space to provide a designated isolation room and private bathroom for any student or faculty member who exhibits symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

### School Visitors

- We will be limiting visitors into our building in order to minimize outside contacts and help protect our students, faculty and staff. All visitors will have their temperature checked, must wear a mask, hand sanitize, and report directly to the main office upon entering the building.

## IN-PERSON LEARNING

### Overview

- 6-periods a day; 2 periods drop each day.
- A and B periods are locked; C, D, E, F, G and H periods rotate over a three-day cycle.
- 54-minute classes for rotating periods, 36-minute classes for A & B periods.
- Homeroom attendance and announcements will occur during A period each morning.
- Staggered 8-minute passing time between periods.
- 3 lunch waves based on academic departments.
- 2 mask breaks; one morning, one afternoon.
- Staggered dismissal at the end of the school day.

### Daily Bell Schedule

HR/Period 1	7:45-8:26
Period 2	8:34-9:10
Mask Break	9:10-9:20
Period 3	9:28-10:22
Period 4	10:30-11:54  Group A (Social Studies, World Language, English) @ lunch 10:30-10:52 In class 10:57-11:54 (57-minute classes)  Group B (Religion, Study Hall) In class 10:30-10:57 (27-minute class) @ lunch 11:01-11:23 In class 11:27-11:54 (27-minute class)  Group C (Math, Science, Unified Arts) In class 10:30-11:27 (57-minute classes) @ lunch 11:32-11:54
Period 5	12:02-12:56
Mask Break	12:56-1:06
Period 6	1:14-2:08
Dismissal	2:08-2:12

### Rotation

	Day 1 Drop G & H	Day 2 Drop E & F	Day 3 Drop C & D
7:45-8:26	A	A	A
8:34-9:10	B	B	B
9:28-10:22	C	G	F
10:30-11:54	D	C	H
12:02-12:56	E	D	G
1:14-2:08	F	H	E

## **Rationale**

The In-Person Learning model remains similar to our traditional schedule while adapting to the demands created by the guidelines for physical distancing for COVID-19 established by the State of Connecticut, the Archdiocese of Hartford Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis (OEEC), the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and the Bristol-Burlington Health District (BBHD).

The In-Person Learning schedule retains two locked periods (A and B) to accommodate our part-time teachers, but has absorbed homeroom into first period (A) to decrease the number of transitions which are times when physical distancing is more challenging to maintain. The remaining 6 periods (C, D, E, F, G and H) rotate over a three-day cycle, with two periods dropping each day. The locked periods are shorter, but don't drop in the three-day cycle schedule so that the number of contact minutes for the locked periods is equal to the number of contact minutes for the rotating classes in each cycle (108). The locked periods decrease to 36 minutes and the rotating periods increase to 54 minutes from our traditional 40-minute classes.

To enable greater physical distancing during class transitions, the passing period has been extended from 4 minutes to 8 minutes. The increased passing time allows for staggered dismissal from classes and one-way traffic in the main corridors. Two outdoor mask breaks (weather permitting) are also built into the schedule, so that in addition to the lunch period, students have three times during the day when they may remove their face coverings or masks while appropriately being physically distant from others.

All of these changes to our traditional schedule accomplish several goals. The In-Person Learning schedule reduces the number of passing/transitions. Secondly, it allows for increased passing time between periods and two mask breaks during the day, as well as a staggered dismissal at the end of the school day. It also allows for a moderate increase in the amount of class time in each period without requiring the school to adopt a block schedule format, which would be another adjustment for our students and teachers. Finally, the lunch waves have moved from two to three waves to reduce the number of students in each lunch wave.

Early dismissal or distance learning will be considered for days with oppressive temperatures.

## **Temporary Remote/Distance Learning Alternative**

As previously indicated, we recognize that some members of the St. Paul community may have extenuating circumstances due to the virus that require alternative learning options. Our plan respects these individual family's health concerns, needs or personal beliefs related to COVID19. Our In-Person Learning plan will provide a temporary alternative safe online learning environment to assure that every student's educational needs are met.

St. Paul will be offering those students and families the opportunity to learn remotely while teachers and students are utilizing the in-person model. Classes will be live streamed over Zoom and activities and formative assessments will be utilized by teachers to simultaneously engage both in-person as well as remote/distance learners to ensure the equity of the learning experience.

In order for St. Paul to properly plan for reopening school this fall, it's critical that we know whether students will be studying in-person at school or remotely from home.

**IMPORTANT: Every family is required to complete the online Family Declaration for Reopening Form by Wednesday, August 12, 2020. You have received an email link along with this report to declare your intention. A copy of the declaration form is also in the Appendix.**

Due to planning class sizes, staffing and continuity of learning, students who choose remote/distance learning must remain in that model through the end of the marking period. In-person students will be allowed to transition to the remote/distance learning model at any time but will not be allowed to transition back during the marking period.

## HYBRID/BLENDED LEARNING

### Overview

- St. Paul is divided into two cohorts; 50% of the student population in school each day.
- Blue Cohort (student last names A-K) attend school in-person on Mondays and Thursdays.
- White Cohort (student last names L-Z) attend school in-person on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- Blue Cohort is distance learning on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- White Cohort is distance learning on Mondays and Thursdays.
- The academic schedule for both in-person and distance learners on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays will be the In-Person Learning schedule.
- The entire school community follows the Remote/Distance Learning schedule on Wednesdays.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Hybrid/Blended Learning Model</b>	<b>BLUE COHORT</b> In-person Learning	<b>BLUE COHORT</b> Remote/Distance Learning	<b>BLUE COHORT</b> Remote/Distance Learning	<b>BLUE COHORT</b> In-person Learning	<b>BLUE COHORT</b> Remote/Distance Learning
	<b>WHITE COHORT</b> Remote/Distance Learning	<b>WHITE COHORT</b> In-person Learning	<b>WHITE COHORT</b> Remote/Distance Learning	<b>WHITE COHORT</b> Remote/Distance Learning	<b>WHITE COHORT</b> In-person Learning
<b>Students/Families Selecting Remote/Distance Learning Model</b>	Remote/Distance Learning	Remote/Distance Learning	Remote/Distance Learning	Remote/Distance Learning	Remote/Distance Learning

### Rationale

Since government and health officials may require or recommend limiting the number of students attending school in-person on a daily basis, this Hybrid/Blended Learning model will give us the ability to split the school into two cohorts. The cohorts will meet two days a week for in-person learning and three days a week for remote/distance learning. To make scheduling for working parents consistent, last names A-K will be assigned to one cohort (Blue Cohort) and last names L-Z to the second cohort (White Cohort) in order to keep siblings together. Wednesdays will be a distance learning day for both cohorts allowing for a deep cleaning of our school facility.

Since the class drop rotation is based on an odd number and the in-school rotation is based on an even number, every student gets to attend every rotating class an equal number of times over a two-week period. Thus, the schedule provides equity for each student's learning experience in the Hybrid/Blended Learning model.

## REMOTE/DISTANCE LEARNING

### Overview

- All students and teachers are conducting school from home.
- All classes meet Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday for 30-minute periods with 15-minute breaks and a 30-minute lunch break.
- Homeroom attendance will occur during A period each morning.
- Wednesday is utilized as a project work day, assessment makeup day (if another day of the week is a holiday, students will have class on Wednesday to keep a 4-day school week).
- On Wednesdays, teachers will be available to meet individually with students or small groups for extra help and support from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm and in addition will have open Zoom meetings (office hours) during specified times based by academic departments for either conferencing or to schedule another time on Wednesday to meet by Zoom.

#### Daily Bell Schedule

Homeroom/Period A	7:55-8:30
Period B	8:45-9:15
Period C	9:30-10:00
Period D	10:15-10:45
Period E	11:00-11:30
Period F	11:45-12:15
Lunch	12:15-12:45
Period G	12:45-1:15
Period H	1:30-2:00

#### Office Hours per Academic Department

8:00-9:30	9:30-11:00	11:00-12:30	12:30-2:00
Unified Arts & Social Studies	Math & Science	World Language & Religion	English

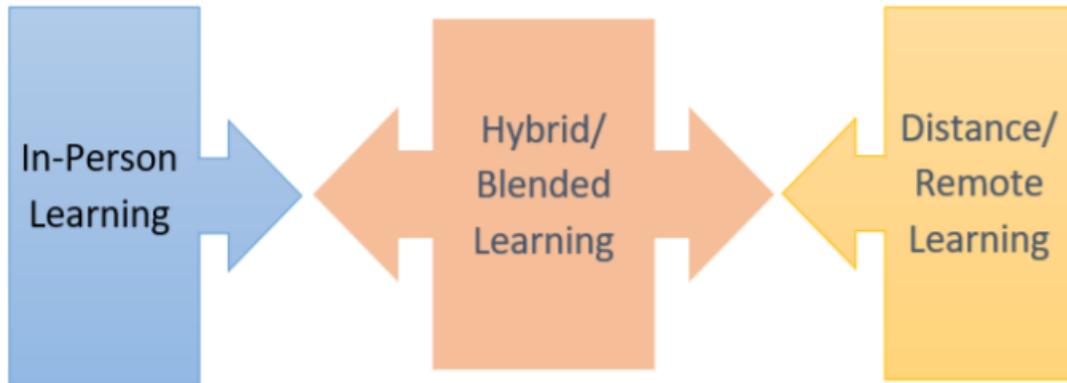
### Rationale

We recognize that remote/distance learning presents unique challenges for students and teachers. Therefore, this schedule uses shorter teaching periods and longer passing periods than the in-person schedule. Every class will meet virtually in Zoom four times a week for 30 minutes. Since traditional assessment is difficult in distance learning, performance assessments are assigned more frequently, so in a five-day week, Wednesday will be considered a project work day and provide students an opportunity to meet with teachers including specified office hours by department. In addition, for students who are not in class for a particular assessment, Wednesday will be a good opportunity to schedule a makeup assignment with that particular teacher. When there is a holiday in a week, the remaining days of the week will all be teaching days. Since students are home, there is a half hour lunch period.

If it should become necessary to move from the In-Person Learning or Hybrid/Blended Learning models to the Remote/Distance Learning model, the St. Paul faculty are being prepared to build upon the successes achieved during the Spring 2020 distance learning experience. Before school starts this year, multiple days will be dedicated to professional development for teachers to expand their knowledge and fluency with different learning platforms and applications that can then be utilized during in-person learning as well as remote/distance learning. The instructional goal this year is to take the best practices of both traditional in-person learning and assessment and remote/distance learning and assessment and blending them together so that each teacher's instructional approach can be adapted to both the in-person learning environment and the distance/remote learning environment. In addition, faculty will be augmenting their grading policies to better reflect the differences between in-person learning and remote/distance learning in order to be able to better adapt to changing circumstances that may arise during the school year.

While we understand that many of our students are familiar with distance learning from their experiences last spring, we also recognize that our new students will need to be brought onboard to the different learning platforms and apps that St. Paul teachers utilize. Our school's website is currently being redesigned for the 2020-2021 school year with one major goal of the redesign being the streamlining of student access to the different learning platforms and apps. With one click of a mouse, students and families will be able to land on a single web page that will guide them to the necessary platform/app they are looking to utilize for a specific class.

We offered two weeks in July dedicated to setting up our new students on the major accounts that students utilize at St. Paul. An introduction to online learning platforms is scheduled during the second week of August for new students to help continue to bring them onboard to the technological side of learning at St. Paul. St. Paul faculty will be spending the early days of the 2020-2021 school year orienting their classes to the specific technological expectations of each teacher. The goal in this process is to have all St. Paul students ready and capable of moving to the Remote/Distance Learning model if the need arises at any time during the school year. Regardless whether a student is new to St. Paul or not, all students will undoubtedly have teachers this year that are new to them, and so we believe this process will be critical to a successful remote/distance learning experience, if it becomes necessary.



While we are planning to welcome all students back for a return to In-Person Learning, recognizing some students and families may choose/declare to participate in online learning instead, it is expected that there will be times throughout the school year when either for internal or external reasons St. Paul as a community, will temporarily transition from one of the three learning models/phases to the other.

## CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

### Athletics Return to Play Plan

The St. Paul Catholic High School Athletic Department began summer conditioning in July 2020 for its student athletes following the guidelines and recommendations set forth by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC). Those guidelines include small groups/cohorts of our student athletes, permission forms, outside activity only, as well as temperature checks and health screening questions before every session. Other standard COVID-19 guidelines such as mask wearing, and physical distancing have been strictly enforced.

As we move closer to a potential return to in person instruction, the athletic department is preparing for the fall sports season. We will continue to take the lead and follow recommendations set for by the CIAC who is in ongoing conversation with the Governor's office and the State Department of Education (SDE).

See attached link <https://www.casciac.org/fallplan//> related to the CIAC's *2020-2021 Fall Sports Plan* announcement on July 31, 2020.

Based on this plan, the CIAC is planning for a high school fall sports season which will look different than normal. These changes include teams starting their pre-seasons in smaller cohorts and building up to full team practices, adjusted shorter season schedules, limiting or no fans at athletic contests, limited locker room access for visiting teams, and various other adjustments that will allow for best practices in managing the COVID-19 crisis and keeping our student athletes safe.

We will keep you informed as to St. Paul's implementation and conformance to these latest guidelines and requirements moving forward.

### Performing Arts, Clubs and Co-Curricular Activities

We will continue to do our best to safely provide a well-rounded education including art, drama, music, clubs and activities. However, after school activities will be limited with many clubs and activities continuing to meet online as a temporary alternative. Any events where people from outside the school would gather in large numbers will not occur for the foreseeable future.

Field trips will be suspended until further notice.

### Community Service

St. Paul's community service requirements will be temporarily suspended until a point in time when it would be safe and appropriate for students to actively volunteer either in school or the community. Students who have completed service hours this summer should enter their hours into Mobile Serve and have their hours counted at a later date.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Personal Transportation

- We will prepare for accommodating increased parent traffic in our school lots
- Plan to arrive to school earlier to avoid traffic congestion

### Bristol and Out-of-Town Buses

- Proactive strategies for bus transportation will align with the tiered system (i.e. Safe Status, Low Status, Moderate Status) established by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH).



#### Safe Status

Bus transportation can operate with no restrictions.



#### Low Status

Bus transportation can operate up to full status with mask requirements and loading and unloading restrictions.



#### Moderate Status

Bus transportation can operate with seating and spacing restrictions, mask requirements, and loading and unloading restrictions.

- Face covering or mask that covers nose and mouth must be in place before boarding the bus and must be kept in place until completely off the bus.
- We will provide the bus company masks if a student inadvertently forgets to bring one.
- Siblings will sit together.
- Students will load into the bus from the back row to the front and then unload the bus in a controlled manner upon arrival at the school from the front to the back of the bus by row.
- Windows will be open when weather permits.
- Bus companies are required to plan to increase cleaning and sanitizing all vehicles.

**IMPORTANT: As previously indicated, every family is required to complete the online Family Declaration for Reopening Form by Wednesday, August 12 which includes a question related to transportation. You have received an email link along with this report to indicate your mode of transportation. A copy of the form is also in the Appendix.**

## **SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL IMPACT**

### **Social Emotional Wellness**

St. Paul is committed to addressing the social and emotional well-being of our entire St. Paul community. As we begin a new school year, we recognize that core experiences of education have changed considerably for students since March 12, 2020. All members of the St. Paul community, both those returning and those joining us for the first time, have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. While the impacts have been different for different people, everyone can agree that education has been impacted considerably.

We realize that while we will make every attempt to normalize our students' and teachers' educational experience for the 2020-2021 school year, we also understand that modifications to the educational experience will be necessary and therefore capable of causing increased stress and anxiety for members of the St. Paul community. Issues such as concerns about catching or transmitting the virus, wearing masks during the school day, being physically distanced from one's peers, learning new educational platforms and potentially having to continue in a distance learning model are all valid concerns of students and teachers and need to be recognized and accommodated.

As a high school, we have the unique situation of 25% of our community being new to the school each year. This means that many in our St. Paul community may have had a very different experience with online learning last spring than the returning students at St. Paul had with their distance learning. We have spent two weeks in July and plan another week in August getting our new students onboard with their school technology and learning platform accounts to alleviate as much anxiety as possible.

Each student at St. Paul is assigned a school counselor that is available to them throughout the school day whether it be for an in-person conversation or virtually via Zoom. The counselors are responsible for academic guidance for the student, preparing and supporting students through the college search and application process, and perhaps most critically during this time, be a safe and nurturing person that the student can confidentially reach out to for emotional support.

Our school chaplain is regularly on campus to provide sacraments for our students including Mass, Reconciliation and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. In addition, he is regularly available for students who would like to have conversations of a more spiritual nature.

In past years, St. Paul has offered opportunities to bring outside professional speakers to campus on a variety of topics. We are currently exploring speakers/presentations for the 2020-2021 school year around such topics as readjusting to in-person learning, managing stress and anxiety, and how to interact with peers and maintain relationships in a socially distanced environment.

During the 2018-2019 school year, St. Paul implemented a House/Advisory system that divided the school into six distinct communities (70-75 students each) named after six of the Biblical letters of the apostle, St. Paul. Each house is further divided into smaller advisory groups (12-15 students).

The House/Advisory system has provided St. Paul a unique opportunity to build community and develop student leadership/mentoring skills over the past two years. It will continue to serve a unique purpose in making it possible for students and faculty to interact with other members of the St. Paul community that they might not otherwise come in contact with during the day. This House/Advisory system will provide students with another opportunity to feel reconnected to their peers and teachers.

We believe maintaining community, even in the face of crisis, is critically important. Last spring, St. Paul offered students such experiences on Zoom as trivia night, movie night, bring your pet to school, and cooking with Stella, just to name a few. St. Paul remains committed to building and growing our school community both in-person and virtually because we believe community helps bind us together, particularly at a time when we need it most.

### Final Word

We would be hard pressed, during these trying times, to be a truly great Catholic high school and not acknowledge the social unrest spreading across our country this summer. We are called to peacefully heal the racial discrimination and inequality that wounds our nation. We can respond by offering opportunities to reflect/act on one's unwillingly or unknowingly personal biases. As individuals and as a school community we are challenged to "*open wide our hearts*" to respect and love everyone as a unique child made in the image and likeness of God. [#lovethyneighbor](#)

As we begin a new school year, let us commit to being the light of Christ in the midst of this social darkness. We've been away from each other far too long. It's time for each of us to genuinely welcome ALL our brothers and sisters back home. It begins with me, with you ... with us. For we're either part of the light or part of the darkness. [#bethelight](#)

St Paul, pray for us!

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

### **Who is designated to serve as the liaison to answer any questions or inquiries about St. Paul's response to COVID-19?**

Cary Dupont, President/Chief Administrator will serve as the liaison to all students, parents/guardians, faculty and staff regarding COVID-19 concerns. All inquiries should be directed to him at [cdupont@spchs.com](mailto:cdupont@spchs.com).

### **Will school start with all students being welcomed back to in-person learning?**

Currently, the plan is to welcome back all students to in-person learning provided that COVID-19 conditions in Connecticut remain consistent in the next five weeks and that guidance from the state, the Archdiocese of Hartford and local health officials does not change. Students/families will have a remote/distance learning alternative if they choose not to participate in-person.

### **When will the school year begin?**

St. Paul has decided to stagger its opening to the 2020-2021 school year. Incoming Freshmen will be welcomed back for two days of orientation on August 31 and September 1. The Class of 2021 will have their orientation on September 2. The Class of 2022 will have their orientation on September 3 and the Class of 2023 will have their orientation on September 4.

### **Will face masks be required to be worn?**

All students, faculty, staff and visitors will be expected to wear appropriate face coverings or masks over their nose and mouth at all times whether they are, or may be, in the presence of other individuals while inside the building. Faculty and staff do not need to wear a face covering or mask while alone in their classroom or office. When outdoors, face coverings or masks are expected to be worn whenever physical distancing of at least six feet cannot be maintained.

### **Will members of the St. Paul community have their temperature checked?**

Every member of the St. Paul community will have their temperature checked before entering the school building each morning. Anyone with a temperature above 100 degrees will be sent to the health room to be evaluated.

### **What if a member of the St. Paul community begins to show symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day?**

As is always the case, if a student or faculty/staff member is not feeling well, they should immediately report to the school health office. If that person has any symptoms indicative of COVID-19, they will be brought to an isolation room until they can safely leave school. At that point, they will need to follow-up with their healthcare provider before they will be allowed to return to school.

### **What if there is a positive COVID-19 test in the St. Paul community?**

If a student or faculty/staff member tests positive for COVID-19, they will be quarantined from school until any symptoms they are experiencing resolve themselves and a new COVID-19 test reports negative. That student or faculty/staff member will then be required to present a letter from their healthcare provider to the school nurse indicating it is safe to return to school. The BBHD will decide if St. Paul needs to be closed for a period of time for a deep cleaning.

**What if my family is traveling to one of the states on the quarantine list before school starts or on a weekend during the school year?**

Anyone traveling out-of-state must be quarantined in accordance with state and Department of Public Health guidelines. Currently, travel to a high-risk area for more than 24 hours requires a 14-day quarantine.

**Why aren't you testing every student and faculty/staff member before they return to school or on a regular basis?**

COVID-19 test results are generally considered valid for two weeks. With testing in Connecticut in its current capacity, it is not feasible or practical to require 450 members of our community to be tested on a regular basis for those not displaying any symptoms.

**How will you keep students safe on school buses?**

We do not anticipate buses operating at full capacity. All students on the bus will be required to wear masks. Siblings will be required to sit together.

**How will the school maintain its Catholic identity during the COVID-19 crisis?**

Even during remote/distance learning last spring, St. Paul provided multiple opportunities for school-wide Masses online as well as a Thursday morning prayer service/rosary each week before Zoom classes started. With the anticipated return to in-person learning, we will continue to provide students with Mass at least once a week before school at St. Gregory the Great Church, visits to St. Gregory the Great Church for religion classes, and scheduled retreats later in the spring. The school chaplain will regularly be on campus to respond to students' spiritual and sacramental needs.

**What will be the process for students deciding to voluntarily switch between in-person and remote/distance learning?**

**Every family is required to complete an online Family Declaration for the Reopening of the 2020-2021 School Year form by Wednesday, August 12.** Families will need to decide whether their child will be attending in-person learning or remain home as a remote learner. Anyone who is remote learning, will be allowed to choose to return to in-person learning at the start of each new academic quarter. A family may elect at any time to move their child from in-person learning to distance/remote learning, but once that move is made, it remains in place until the end of that academic quarter.

**Will remote/distance learning be similar to 2019-2020 school year?**

All teachers and students will continue to utilize the Zoom platform in the event that remote/distance learning becomes necessary. Teachers will be participating in multiple days of professional development in late August in order to improve and enhance student engagement during remote/distance learning. Grading policies and practices will be evaluated by each teacher to allow for greater flexibility and utility in the remote/distance learning model.

**What is the purpose of the Hybrid/Blended Learning model?**

The Hybrid/Blended Learning model gives St. Paul the opportunity to maintain in-person learning while attempting to cohort our student body to reduce both the total number of students in the building and the total number of students interacting with each other. We will utilize September 8 and September 9 to introduce this model to our students and faculty should it be implemented during the school year.

**How will students remotely participate in class discussions?**

Students who are learning remotely will be logging into Zoom to participate in each class. Teachers will be utilizing activities and online learning platforms that will seek to simultaneously engage all students, both in-person and remote learners.

**If students don't have assigned lockers, where will they keep their coats, hoodies or boots during inclement weather?**

St. Paul has decided to not assign lockers for the start of the school year in order to minimize students congregating in the hallways and to make a transition to remote/distance learning as seamless as possible, if it should become necessary. This decision will be reevaluated as seasonal colder weather begins. For the time being, any articles of clothing that a student wears to school, above and beyond their school uniform, will need to be carried throughout the school day.

**What will the schedule be for in-person learning?**

School will still start at 7:45 am and end at 2:12 pm. St. Paul will move from an eight-period day to a six-period day and from 4 to 8 minutes of passing time. Classes are 54 minutes long, except for the first two periods which are 36 minutes long. The first two periods (A and B) will meet every day and stay at the same time. The last six periods (C, D, E, F, G, H) will rotate and two of those periods will not meet each day. There will be two mask breaks during the school day where students will be allowed to go outside, physically distance themselves and remove their masks. There will be three lunch waves instead of two to allow for reduced numbers of students in the dining hall. Finally, a staggered dismissal will allow for better control of corridors and exits at the end of the school day.

**Will students still have a laboratory experience in science class?**

As long as we are able to maintain In-Person Learning, laboratory experiences will be provided to students. The teacher will direct the lab and students may, in some circumstances, be observing the teacher conduct the experiment to reduce student contact with equipment and allow for social distancing.

**How will after school activities/clubs work?**

For the start of the school year, after school activities/clubs will be limited for in-person meetings. For the benefit of both in-person and remote learners, activities and clubs will be encouraged to meet virtually over Zoom.

**Will there be a fall athletic season?**

St. Paul is a member of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC). As of July 31, the CIAC is planning for a fall sports season, albeit different than normal. All decisions about games, practices, and locker rooms will be decided by the CIAC and be uniformly enforced across all CIAC schools. See attached link <https://www.casciac.org/fallplan/> related to the CIAC's 2020-2021 Fall Sports Plan.

**Will spectators be allowed at athletic events?**

The CIAC recently indicated that decisions regarding spectators at athletic events will be decided by individual schools depending on their facilities, etc. If St. Paul decides spectators are allowed on campus, we will require attendees to conform to all physical distancing guidelines. As announced, we will be installing in August a Pixellot camera on McPhee Field and the Rev. Brian Monnerat gymnasium so that athletic events can be live streamed for families and friends.

**Will music concerts and drama productions still be held?**

Events where large numbers of people from outside the school would gather for performances are not being scheduled at this time.

**How will you ensure the safety of students waiting for a ride later in the afternoon after school ends at 2:12 pm?**

There will be faculty/staff supervision in the dining hall after school until 4:00 pm. Any students not participating on an athletic team or meeting with a teacher after school, should report immediately to the dining hall. Students will be required to follow all physical distancing guidelines including the wearing of face masks after school.

**Will students be required to complete service hours this school year?**

Under normal circumstances, students are required to complete 15 hours of community service each year. For the start of the 2020-2021 school year, the service hour requirement is being suspended. This decision will be reevaluated as the school year progresses and COVID-19 conditions continue to be monitored. If the school determines that community service is feasible at some point, a prorated amount of service will be required of students.

**Will St. Paul conduct fire drills during in-person learning?**

The decision and policies regarding fire drills is established by the State of Connecticut and the Bristol Fire Department. St. Paul will follow the guidance of both the Bristol/Burlington Health District as well as the Bristol Fire Department as to when and how to safely conduct fire drills.

**How will St. Paul continue to keep students safe from outside intruders during the COVID-19 outbreak?**

St. Paul will continue to have all outside doors locked from 7:45 am - 2:12 pm. All visitors will continue to be screened by the Main Office and required to enter through the front door of the school. All classroom door handles will remain locked even though the doors will be open. This will allow for a quick transition to "locking down" the school if necessary. The outside perimeter of the building is monitored 24 hours a day by video cameras.

**Will there be a tuition adjustment if the school is forced to go to a Remote/Distance Learning model?**

There is not expected to be any change in the 2020-2021 tuition at St. Paul regardless of the fluid instructional model (i.e. In-Person, Hybrid/Blended or Remote/Distance Learning) operating during this school year due to the influence of COVID-19. We plan to continue to deliver a quality Catholic high school education, both in-person and online, second to none.

A reminder that tuition alone does not cover the cost of an education at St. Paul. We also rely on Archdiocesan/parish support and the philanthropic generosity of our benefactors/donors. We operate on thin margins with the majority of our fixed expenses related to faculty/staff salaries and benefits and facility costs given the size of our building/campus. The unforeseen COVID-19 expenses have and will continue to put a significant strain on the 2020-2021 budget in providing the staffing, technology upgrades, health and safety precautions necessary to implement in-person instruction and simultaneously remote live stream instruction this fall.

We are aware of the financial sacrifice involved in a private Catholic school education and do our best to assist families in meeting their obligations. We value our relationship with your family and look forward to being your educational partner during these challenging times.

**APPENDIX**

**2020-2021 Revised Academic Calendar** (as of July 31, 2020)

**AUGUST**

31 First Day of Orientation for Class of 2024

**SEPTEMBER**

1 Second Day of Orientation for Class of 2024  
2 Orientation for Class of 2021  
3 Orientation for Class of 2022  
4 Orientation for Class of 2023  
7 No School – Labor Day  
8-9 First Day of Classes for all Students (Hybrid/Blended Learning)  
10 First Day of In-Person Learning (remote option) for all Grades

**OCTOBER**

12 No School – Columbus Day  
14 Noon Dismissal – PSAT

**NOVEMBER**

11 No School – Veteran’s Day  
25 Noon Dismissal – Thanksgiving Holiday  
26, 27 No School – Thanksgiving Holiday

**DECEMBER**

23 Noon Dismissal – Christmas Holiday  
24-31 No School – Christmas Holiday

**JANUARY**

1 No School – New Year’s Day  
18 No School – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**FEBRUARY**

15, 16 No School – Presidents’ Day/Winter Vacation

**MARCH**

5 No School – Faculty Professional Development

**APRIL**

1 Noon Dismissal – Holy Thursday  
2 No School – Good Friday  
5-9 No School – Spring Vacation

**MAY**

31 No School – Memorial Day

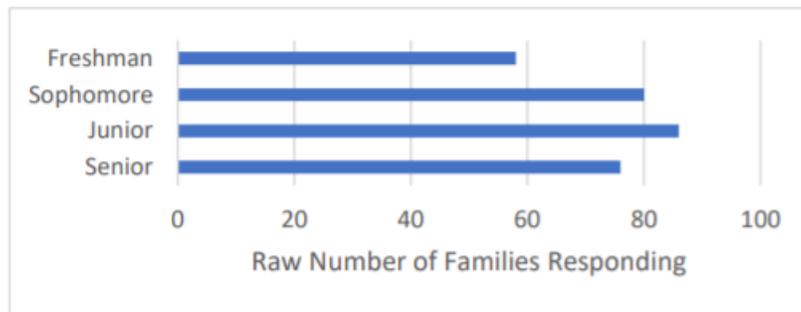
**JUNE**

8 Class of 2021 Graduation  
11 Last Day of School

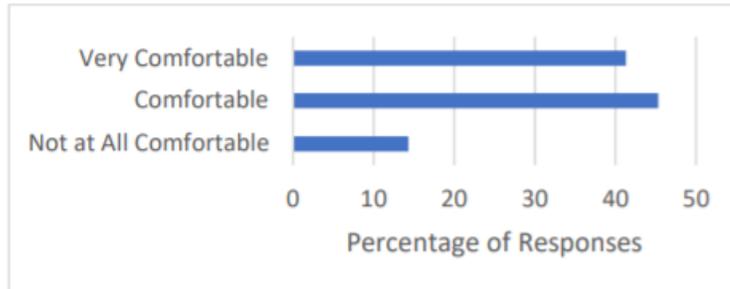
### Fall 2020 Return of Students to St. Paul Catholic High School Survey Results

The following graphs reflect the 300 parent/student responses for our Reopening Plan Survey conducted between July 10–17, 2020.

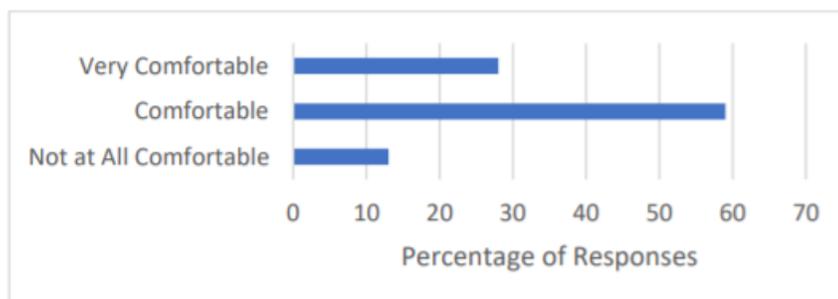
Question 1: Grade your child will be going into at St. Paul.



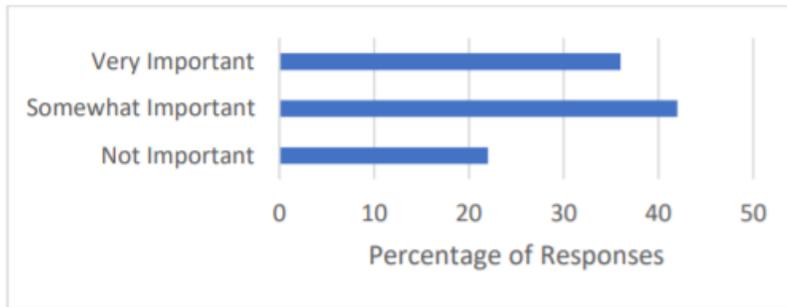
Question 2: St. Paul will meet/exceed all safety guidelines provided by the CDC, the State of CT and the local Bristol-Burlington Health District; on a scale from 1-3, how comfortable would you be sending your child to school in-person?



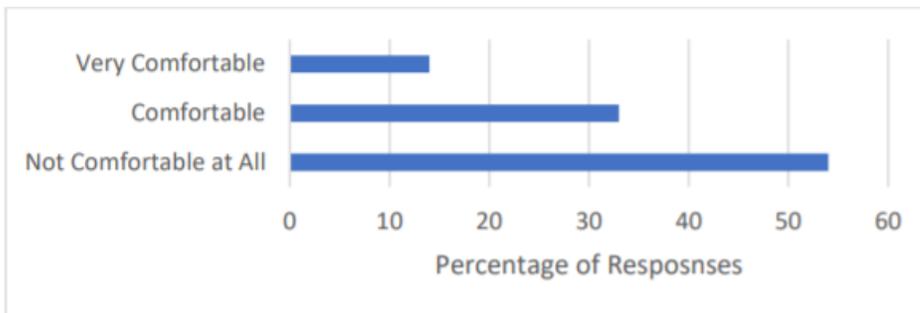
Question 3: St. Paul will meet/exceed all safety guidelines provided by the CDC, the State of CT and the local Bristol-Burlington Health District; on a scale from 1-3, how comfortable would you be using a hybrid/blended model of in-person AND distance learning?



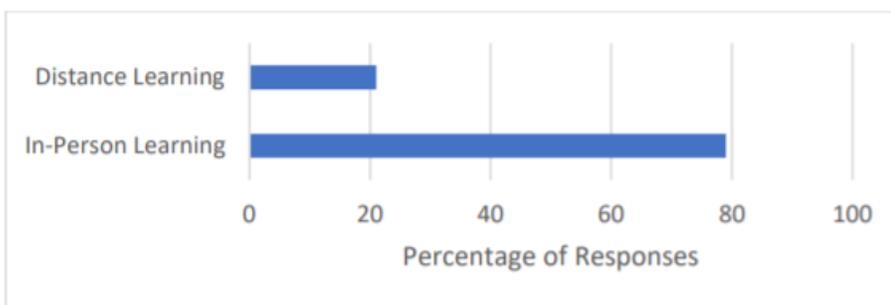
Question 4: If your child was given a schedule SCENARIO A, where the days of the week your child is on campus may vary from week to week (e.g., Monday and Thursday one week, Tuesday and Friday the next, Wednesday and Friday the week after that), and a schedule SCENARIO B, where your child is set to be on campus the same days of the week every week (e.g., Monday and Thursday), how important is it to you to have SCENARIO B over SCENARIO A in order to help with family obligations/work responsibilities?



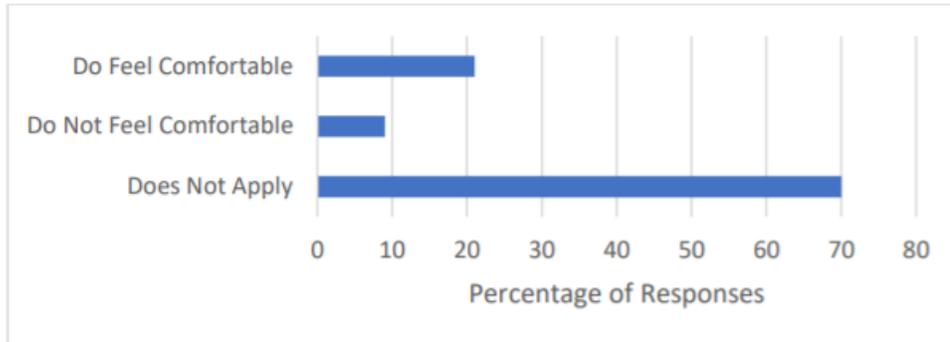
Question 5: On a scale of 1-3, how comfortable would you be if St. Paul continued with distance learning exclusively?



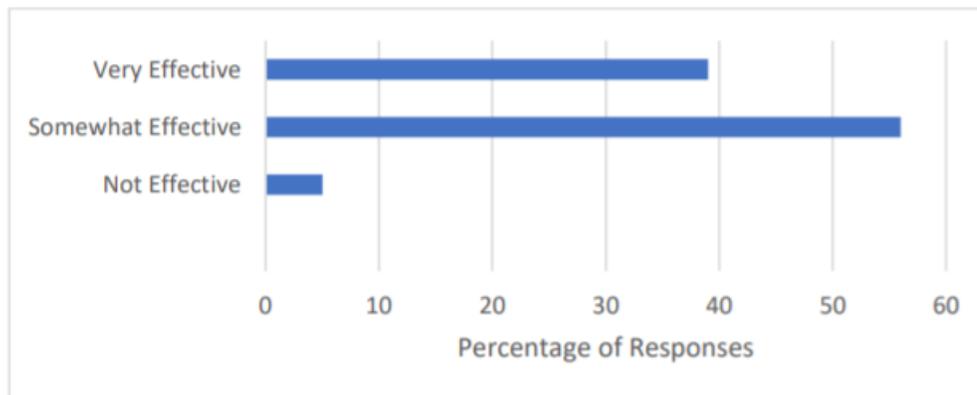
Question 6: This Fall if you had the option of in-person learning only or distance learning only, which option would you choose for your child?



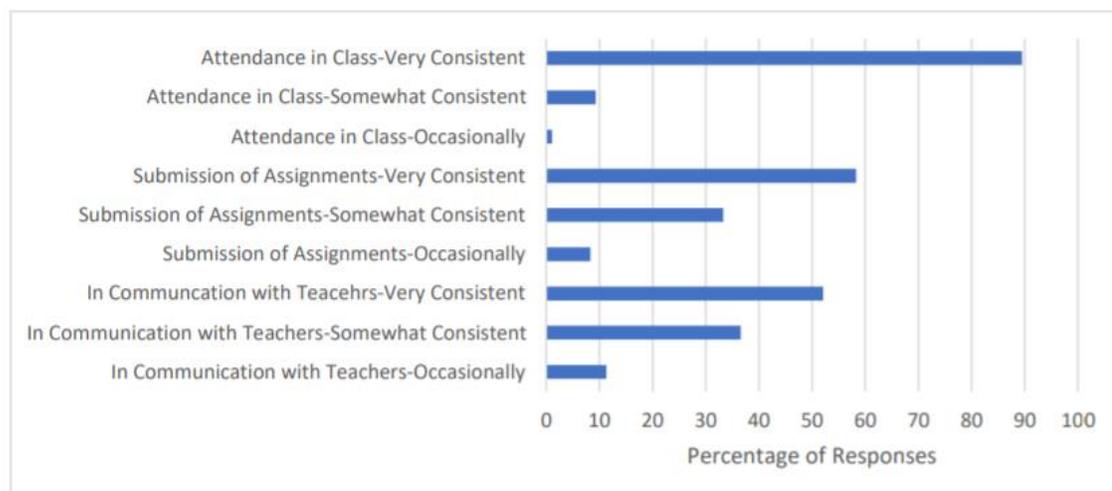
Question 7: How comfortable would you be with your child riding the school bus to St. Paul?



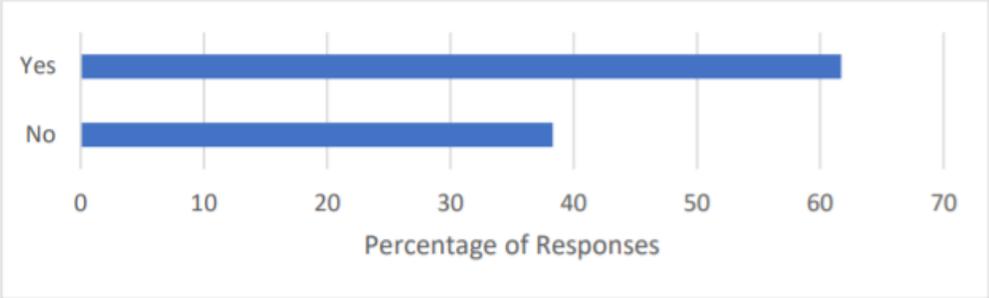
Question 8: How would you rate your child's distance learning experience at St. Paul this past Spring?



Question 9: How would you rate your child's distance learning engagement? Check all that apply.



Question 10: In the future, can St. Paul Catholic High School make improvements to distance learning?





## WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL

To safeguard the health of all students, school staff and the entire community, we ask all parents/legal guardians to monitor their children for symptoms, conditions or criteria that are associated with communicable diseases, including COVID-19. Please notify the school nurse immediately if any of the following exist.

Students must “Stay Home” from school if they:

- Are diagnosed with COVID-19 and have not been cleared to return to school by a physician or the Public Health Authority
- Are/were a close contact of a COVID-19 positive individual within the last 14 days and have not been cleared to return to school by a physician or the Public Health Authority
- Traveled to and spent at least 24 hours, within the last 14 days, in any state listed on CT's COVID-19 Travel Advisory. The state must be on the Advisory list during the time spent in the specific state
- Have an elevated body temperature of 100 degrees F. or above
- Have any sign/symptom of respiratory distress or severe asthmatic episode
- Have chest pain or pressure
- Have a persistent cough
- Have a loss of taste and/or smell
- Have recurrent vomiting in the past 24 hours
- Have more than one episode of diarrhea
- Have a severe sore throat
- Have an undiagnosed rash or skin condition
- Have conjunctivitis (pink eye) with discharge
- Have large amounts of yellow/green mucus discharge from nose
- Have seizure, head injury, severe headache, blurred vision or dizziness
- Have generalized allergic reaction
- Have an active infestation of head lice or scabies
- Have a communicable disease or condition
- Have any other symptom, condition or criteria identified by a healthcare professional, school nurse or other Public Health Authority as necessary

Students experiencing any of the above symptoms or criteria will need to be assessed by a medical doctor and cleared (in writing) prior to returning to school, unless approved by the school nurse.

School staff and volunteers must follow the same precautions.



### WHEN STUDENTS ARE IN SCHOOL (or participating in a school related activity)

The school nurse or school staff will contact the parents/guardians or designee to pick up the student who has any of the previously listed “Stay Home” symptoms, criteria, or if the student becomes injured. If it is an emergency, 911 will be called.

Parents/Guardians or designees are expected to pick up their student within 1 hour of notification for any health-related reason. Depending on the illness, criteria or injury, the school nurse may require the student to be assessed by a medical doctor and cleared (in writing) prior to returning to school.

To protect students, school staff and the entire community from COVID-19, all schools must have a room designated for the placement of students who need to be separated from the rest of the school population until such time as their parent/guardian or designee picks up the student from school. Parents/Guardians are expected to pick up their student within 1 hour of notification for any health-related reason.

The following are examples of criteria that may require the student to be separated:

- A confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 within the last 14 days and/or without clearance to return to school by a physician or the Public Health Authority.
- A close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 positive individual within the last 14 days and/or without clearance to return to school by a physician or the Public Health Authority.
- Traveled to and spent at least 24 hours, within the last 14 days, in any state listed on CT’s COVID-19 Travel Advisory. The state must be on the Advisory list during the time spent in the specific state.
- An elevated body temperature of 100.00 degrees F. confirmed by the school nurse.
- A persistent cough confirmed by the school nurse.
- Any sign/symptom of respiratory distress confirmed by the school nurse (unless 911 is called).
- A loss of taste and/or smell.
- Any other symptom, condition or criteria identified by the school nurse or Public Health Authority.

If a school employee, visitor or adult volunteer, while in school or during a school related activity, has any of the above COVID-19 related symptoms or criteria and cannot leave the premises immediately, separation may also be required. This is determined by the school nurse or Public Health Authority.

## Family Declaration for Reopening Form

**IMPORTANT: Every family is required to complete this online Family Declaration for Reopening Form by Wednesday, August 12, 2020. An email link is being sent to you today to declare your intention.**

### Family Declaration for the Reopening of the 2020-2021 School Year

\* Required

Email address \*

Your email



St. Paul plans to reopen the school building for the 2020-2021 school year if health data and guidance from the State of Connecticut and the Bristol/Burlington Health District continue to support in-person learning. St. Paul families will have two options for their family when school resumes at the end of August: 1. Students learning in-person 2. Students learning in a remote/distance model over Zoom. Students may transition to distance/remote learning at any time during the school year, but will only be allowed to transition to in-person learning from distance/remote learning at the beginning of each academic quarter. Please take a moment to complete the short questionnaire below so that you and St. Paul can continue the process of planning for the 2020-2021 school year.

Student First Name \*

Your answer

Student Last Name \*

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

What model of learning are you planning for your child for the start of the 2020-2021 school year at St. Paul?

- In-Person Learning
- Distance/Remote Learning

What mode of transportation will your child be using for the start of the 2020-2021 school year?

- Student dropped off/picked up at school
- Student driving to school
- Student riding a Bristol Public Schools school bus (Bristol residents only)
- Student riding an out of town of bus.

Please indicate what your child will be doing at the end of the school day.

- My child will ride the bus or be picked up at 2:12.
- My child will need after school supervision after 2:12.
- My child plans on playing a fall sport and will be staying at school for practice/game.