

*July 16th, 2020*

*Letter to Our Families from Tina Voors and Staff*

We learn better together. Our plan is to return to school in the building, as we always do. The first day of class will be August 13, 2020. Our mission to ensure that your child flourishes compels us to take all necessary precautions to minimize the spread of COVID-19 within our community. Our living plan is below - living, because it will change as we adapt ourselves to changing conditions. Because we learn better together, we are confident that we can provide an excellent education in Faith and academics while safeguarding each member of our community.

We are made for each other. This belief, and the latest scientific understanding of how the virus travels and infects individuals, will guide our decisions about which precautions to adopt. While children may not generally be sickened by the virus, they can carry and transmit it without symptoms. A student may carry it to school and transmit it to a classmate, who can take it home and infect family members. While neither of these students may ever experience the illness, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other family members who live with our students who are susceptible to the disease may become seriously ill.

Our children and our community cannot flourish if the virus does. Our goal is to protect every member of our community by minimizing virus transmission from student to student at school. We will continually adopt precautions that are known to reduce the potential for virus transmission in our school community.

We believe that we are made for each other. We love each one of you and each one of your children, and we are confident that we can provide an excellent education in the Faith in each of these scenarios while safeguarding each member of our community. Just as Christ calls us to stop everything to protect one lost lamb from harm, we will do what it takes to take care of each other and we will be stronger for it.

We are always learning. In humility, we recognize that the public health situation may change rapidly between now and the start of school, just as it has since we last gathered in person in early March. We also recognize that scientists are learning more about the virus and its spread, and the precautions we take will reflect both our learning and the current public health situation. Updates will continue as part of our Gator Goings-On weekly newsletter, and via email as necessary. We are always learning – about the virus, its transmission, and our community's vulnerability—and we will adjust our plans as needed to ensure each teacher, staff member and student flourishes. While we cannot prevent the spread 100%, we are working to mitigate the effect.

Our Faith calls us to care for one another. Let us take on that responsibility and, with intention, integrity and fervor, care for self and others.

Peace and health to you all!

*Mrs. Voors*

**Tax Documentation, 2019:** If you have not yet supplied me with your documentation for School Choice Scholarship eligibility, please do so at your earliest convenience: I will need the page that shows your names, address, etc., proof of Household Size (usually an additional schedule), and your Adjusted Gross Income (maybe on the first or second page with demographic information). Thank you!! Contact me if you have any questions.

**One-hour Early Dismissals:** In light of our current health situation, we will still have the One Hour Early Dismissals EVERY WEDNESDAY, but will use some of that time for deeper cleaning throughout the building. Teachers will still focus discussions on student learning, but some time will be used to clean classrooms and common areas.

**Volunteerism:** While we are blessed by volunteers for many things in our school, we are suspending this until further notice. Our teachers, staff and I will work through all aspects of what students need during the day ourselves. Please stay ready to jump onboard when the time is right again!

**Fall Sports:** Volleyball will be offered this fall, but we have made some changes - until we are told differently by CYO and/or the Diocese. It will be treated like a skills camp or open gym that is run by our regular coaches. We will not be competing with other schools during the season.

Football - I have not heard yet whether there will even be a season for them through CYO.

Winter sports and on: We will revisit options as we get closer to that time of the school year.

**Prepare for E-Learning with Devices and Internet Access:** We will work every day to mitigate infection, but there may be occasions during which a few students or a teacher may have to remain home for an extended period of time. Many of you purchased a student laptop from us in the spring, and you may, of course, have sufficient devices at home already. As we look to the fall, please make arrangements for online access in the event your child must be at home so that connection can be made with school. Please reach out if you have any questions or needs.

**In-Person School Plan Highlights:** Parents, listed below are procedures and actions that we all may be carrying out every day at St. Aloysius. While this is our starting point,

I'm sure many things will evolve as we move through the days. Remember, we need each other. Let's all do our best to be vigilant and gentle with ourselves and each other.

- **General Notes**

- Curricular focus will be initially on student performance levels and serving their more immediate needs in reading, math and Religion.
- Time will be allotted to allow for cleaning and movement throughout the school
- Students must come to school with ample bottled water to drink
- We will ask each student to supply a container of disinfecting wipes for their own desk areas, etc. Each teacher has special wipes for her classroom, but those are *teacher-controlled*
- NOTE: we ask that families take temperatures and check symptoms with EACH child EVERY morning before coming to school
  - Additionally, we will scan for temperature and conduct a symptom checker for each student upon arriving at school
    - IF the student exhibits symptoms, the student will remain with the parent/driver and not enter the building.
- We will be asking for a few more reliable contacts for each family in case the student needs to be picked up.

- **Social Distancing**

- Additional tables will be added in the basement to allow spacing
- Hallway travel - upstairs will be ONE way while downstairs will be single file along the walls
- Parents will remain in their car outside Door #1 while we walk the child out for appointments, etc. We will meet the child at the door upon individual arrival
- Morning gathering in the basement: students will sit with their class with space between them and the next group
- Afternoon gathering in the gym: students will sit with their family with space between them and the next group
- If we have a symptomatic student during the day, there will be a safe location in the library where the student can rest until pick up
- We are working on how to handle restroom visits
- Classrooms will be managed by the teachers

- **Individual habits**

- Masks will be worn by all persons when in common areas or when moving. These are supplied to us by the diocese and are washable up to 100 times
  - If a student is *seated* in the classroom, there will be space between them and the next student - the mask may come off - teachers will help students discern when they are needed.
  - Visitors/Delivery Persons will be required to wear a mask upon entering

- Handwashing - we will work with the students to say a Hail Mary during their washing...the hope is that it will take about 20 seconds to allow for thorough washing!

There are so many details that need vetted, but I wanted to give you an idea of what direction we are going in our school. We take very seriously our service to your children - we will work to create a calm, productive, happy environment each and every day for your family. Please pray that we can serve each other and Our Lord to our utmost!