

Dear SJP Community,

Thank you to those who attended our Virtual Town Hall on Thursday July 30. Below is a brief summary of the information covered at the Town Hall. As always, information around school reopenings remains fluid, so we will continue to update you as information becomes available. Please also see below under “Next Steps” to learn more about what is happening over the next month.

Expected Timelines and Reopening Plan Submissions

- SJP has submitted the Archdiocese of New York Reopening Plan to the New York State Department of Education and the Department of Health as instructed by The Archdiocese of New York. SJP was also instructed and submitted our Reopening Plan for our school to our District Superintendent for the Archdiocese of New York for approval.
- While exact dates are unclear, we expect that New York State and The Archdiocese will make decisions around school reopening early to mid August.

Reopening Plans - Guidance

SJP has reviewed the following documents/guidance to design our Reopening Plan

- New York State Department of Health Information
- New York State Education Department Guidance for Public Schools
- New York State Religious and Independent School Guidance
- The Archdiocese of New York Plan

SJP also reviews and monitors the local medical capacity in our area, CDC information about symptoms, Department of Health Guidance and Travel Advisories.

SJP Reopening Plan

Below is a summary of the Reopening Plan Submitted by SJP. *As noted in the Town Hall, these are the submitted plans and must be approved by New York State and the Archdiocese of New York.*

- **Option A:** We are happy to announce that SJP is able to accommodate all enrolled students, 5 days a week, while at the same time meeting all currently required guidelines and precautions. If this plan is approved by NYS and the Archdiocese, we can have everyone in school in the Fall.
- **Option B:** We are also happy to announce that we are equipped to simultaneously offer Option B, where a family can choose to have their child engage in complete remote learning.

Please note that Options A and B are SJP's preferred options, but are not guaranteed. New York State and The Archdiocese must approve all plans, and we all also know that circumstances can change quickly. What we are also prepared for, should New York State and/or Archdiocese guidelines require it:

- **Option C:** Hybrid model, with A and B cohorts. This Option would have children in the building 2-3 days per week.
- **Option D:** All students are fully remote.

Again, our goal is to have everyone who wants to be in person to be in school 5 days a week come the Fall, but are prepared with the hybrid and remote learning models.

Changes to the School Building

Below is a brief summary of changes we have made to the school to make our Reopening Plans possible:

- **Classrooms**
 - **Desks** in the classroom will maintain 6' apart in all directions
 - **Utilizing classroom space** in the gym as well as the auditorium for our larger classes.
 - Students will be maintained in "cohorts" which helps minimize contact
 - Grades Pre-K through 5th will be maintained in their cohorts. The ALPS program in 5th grade will be differentiated instruction due to limited space. Parents will be notified which students will be in our ALPS program and work will be differentiated for them during COVID-19. Once we are back to normal students will transition into their ALPS classes without issue.
 - Grades 6th - 8th grade each class will be a cohort:
 - Example entire 6th will be a cohort
 - Entire 7th grade will be a cohort
 - Entire 8th grade will be a cohort
 - **Hallways and staircases** - will be directional and signage around the building inside and out will help students maneuver in a safe manner
 - **Carpets have been removed** and area rugs to increase a easier to clean environment
- **Cleaning**
 - Building will be cleaned minimum twice a day in high traffic areas, including door handles and doorknobs, light switches, sink faucet handles, bathroom surfaces, countertops and tables

- A cleaning will occur each evening with an additional disinfecting process with a misting device EPA approved.
- **Nurse's area:** The nurse will have appropriate PPE gear to deal with possible infected students. We have outfitted the nurse's office to create "Nurse's Cubby" to accommodate and isolate potential COVID cases in a child-friendly way, and procedures are in place for dealing with this situation swiftly, safely, and kindly.

Medical and Wellness

It is critical for us all to work together to understand the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and to keep children home if they are ill or have any symptoms such as fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat or other symptoms. . [The Medical Committee Tab](#) on the SJP Task Force web site has important resources, relating to signs and symptoms and other important updates.

We will also need to work together if you and your family have:

- knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19;
- tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 14 days;
- has experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of greater than 100.0° F in the past 14 days; and /or
- has traveled internationally or from a state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 per the [New York State Travel Advisory](#) in the past 14 days.

You must not send your child to school if they are ill or have symptoms. We know we are entering allergy season, so please be proactive and be seen by your medical doctor. We do not want to send your child home but parents need to realize that many children present with very mild symptoms.

Technology

SJP has purchased the following equipment to support any necessary or desired remote learning:

- Chromebooks for Grades K to 4, with continuation of 1-to-1 program in middle school
- Laptops for all teachers
- Cameras for each classroom for live streaming classes to those students working from home (while maintaining privacy of our students)
- Headsets for students and teachers
- Software updates that will be included in the computers:

- Castle Learning (Grades 3-8): interactive website for class activities, homework, and assessment. Regents based for our 8th grade students
- IXL (Grades K-8): Math based program that tracks student progress and offers practice on individual student level
- Kami (Grades 3-8): PDF editor program for students to write and markup teacher scans. This means there is no need for printing and submitting back to the teacher, as writing can be done directly on app. Investigating this program for grades Pre-K - 2)
- SJP is also assessing the need for additional bandwidth and access points in the building.
- Parents and students will have tutorials and videos to start practice of G-Suite for school year; a letter has been mailed out with students google account for students to begin practice.

Changes to the School Day

Here's a look at scheduling and flow changes that are underway to make our Reopening Plans possible:

- **Face Masks/Coverings:** Children will be required to come in wearing face coverings; there will be breaks allowed age appropriate throughout the day, please be prepared to send your children in with gaiters or masks and an extra face covering. Face shields cannot replace masks, but you may choose to use them as a supplement.
- **Designated entrances:** Each family will be given a designated entrance for drop off and pick up that will minimize density in the school. Before the first day of school parents will be sent a survey that must be filled out and submitted before the first day of school.
- **Wellness Checks:** Before leaving home, everyone must do a self-check at home to assess symptoms, and your child(ren) must remain at home if they are ill. Symptoms include:
 - Fever or chills greater than 100 degrees
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Any of the situational concerns listed above, such as travel.

- **Temperature checks at dropoff:** Each child's temperature will be checked via a touchless thermometer before entering the school. Children who have a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, or who are exhibiting symptoms will not be allowed into the school. Teachers will monitor any changes in the children as they always do for regular illness.
- **Bused Students:** We are in contact with the local school districts bus company many of them do not have information to give us therefore we will be asking parents to self-screen at home. We will be taking temperature checks when your child arrives at school. If they have a temperature of 100 degrees fahrenheit or higher they will be quarantined and parents will need to pick them up from school.
- **Minimizing density and flow:** Lunch will be in the classroom with a staggered schedule for recess and lunch.

What's Next/What Can You Do to Prepare for the School

- **If you haven't already, please complete the following:**
 - School Reopening Form: please [click here](#) to submit your response by Friday, August 7th.
 - SJP will now be accepting any questions that you may have. Please [click here](#) to submit any questions or concerns for the upcoming school year. The link will be open until Friday, August 7th, for all submissions.
- **Prepare your Children to Wear Face Coverings:** As mentioned, children will be required to come in wearing face coverings (masks, gaiters). As you likely have already been doing, it is a very good idea to keep working with your children to ensure they know the importance and how to correctly wear face coverings. There is helpful information on the [SJP Task Force Medical Tab](#) to check out (See Face Covering Policy).
- **Screening:** Please be prepared to take children's temperature at home daily. Children exhibiting COVID symptoms or fevers of 100 degrees or higher should stay home. Our Medical Committee will put together a comprehensive list of symptoms to look for, as children may present differently than adults.
- **Technology Training:** We will post tutorials for parents and children to use the Google Chrome books and platforms that we will be using to make any necessary or desired virtual learning possible in August.
- **School Day Prep:** In late August, we will post videos introducing the new flow of the school day that you and your children can view together to familiarize yourself with protocols and expectations.
- **Class assignments and supplies:** We will be in touch with information on which teacher and classroom your children have been assigned to. We are currently reviewing the supply lists for your children and will let you know when that has been made available.

Wrap Up

Again, we repeat that nothing is set in stone, but we wanted to share as much information as we could as we enter this critical time for Reopening Plans. We hope this helps as you fill out your surveys above, and we will plan another forum to provide updated information in mid-August. Thank you for your support of the SJP Community.