

Parent Q & A Presentation

St. John the Baptist School
August 2020



Before viewing this presentation it is recommended that you view the Virtual Parent Presentation Slides and our school ReOpening Plan.

Thank you...

The following questions were submitted by parents after our Virtual Parent Presentations. This presentation will address specific questions that were asked, as well as, expand on some areas from the Virtual Parent Presentation. If you have additional questions after viewing both presentations, please contact Mrs. Jonna Johnson at jonna.johnson@stjohnsalden.org or 716-937-9483

Sick Children

There were several questions related to symptoms and the duration of symptoms:

“ If we decide to keep our child home for a day, would they be able to do virtual learning?”

“ If my child has a persistent cough, can they get tested and return. Sometimes the cough lasts for 3-4 weeks?”

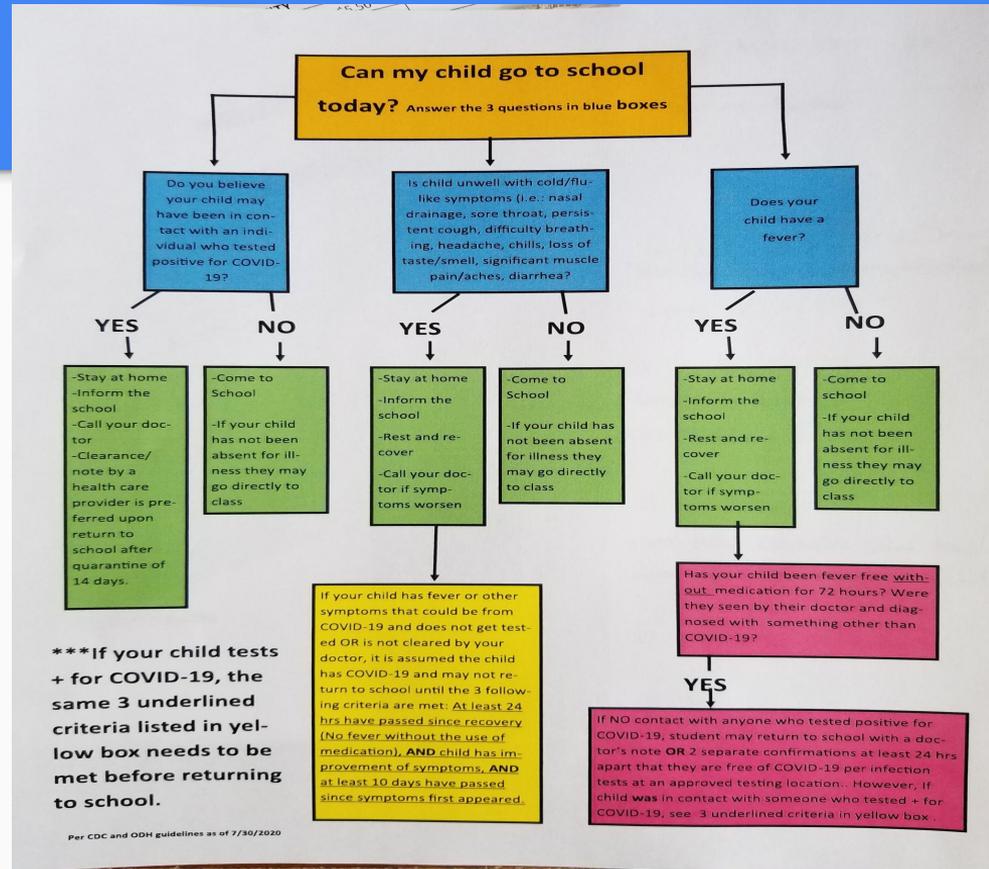
“ Can my child come to school if it is allergy related symptoms?”

Sick Children

For most of these questions, please refer to the flow chart of symptoms:

Even though the symptoms may be related to other illnesses, we want sick kids to stay home. If your child is symptomatic, they should not be in school.

“When in doubt, keep kids out (of school)”



Sick children cont..

If an absence is for two or more days, then we can have that child participate in Virtual Learning (1st - 8th Grade). That is a mix of live instruction and continued use of Google Classroom. We will provide learning activities for use at home for PreK and Kindergarten.

This year we are being very conservative, and we want to prevent the spread of disease as best we can. Screening your child at home, keeping symptomatic kids home, and engaging in other healthy behaviors (good hygiene, good eating habits, and good sleeping habits) are all ways that we can do this together!

COVID Cases

“ Is there a planned 24 hour shutdown for a confirmed case?” - If a case occurs with one of our staff or students it will be reported to the Erie County Department of Health. They will issue guidance for shutdowns and quarantines. We will communicate the presence of a COVID-19 case to our families, and we will communicate the steps that we are taking. If we do need to shut down the school it will be communicated via a School Reach message, similar to how you receive notice for snow days or other cancelled days of school.

Uniforms:

We have lots of new students joining us, and we realize that all uniforms may not arrive by the start of school. No child will be penalized for this issue. Please notify your child's teacher of the situation, and dress your child in an outfit that is close to the uniform as possible until the regular uniform arrives.

“ Should students dress in gym uniforms on both days?” - **No, students will only wear their gym uniform on their actual gym day. You will be notified of the gym day on the first day of school**

Before and After School Care

“ Will before school care be a possibility for this year?” - **We will continue to evaluate this possibility, and if there is a significant change in guidelines, it could mean that we are able to offer this option.**

“ Will there be after school clubs?” - **For the first quarter, we will not have after school clubs. We will evaluate this, and if there is a significant change in guidelines, we may be able to have clubs. This is the same response to sports. For the time there are no sports.**

Busing Questions

“ Our school district has a different start date, will they provide busing?”

“ We put our request for transportation after the deadline, can we still get busing?”

For any and all busing questions, you have to contact your district. Every district is different and has its own policy on when they will transport. Some districts are being very flexible, and others are not. Mrs. Johnson will help advocate for your family, but ultimately the decision to busing questions rest with the district.

Lunch

“ Who do we make the check out to for a lunch or snack account?” - **You can make the check to St. John School and put lunch in the memo.**

“ Can my child bring lunch or do they have to buy lunch?” - **Students can purchase a lunch or you can send a lunch with your child. A daily lunch menu will be sent home each month and is posted on our school webpage.**

Specific lunch questions can be directed to Mrs. Barb Trybuskiewicz and her email is barb.trybuskiewicz@stjohnsalden.org

Masks

“ Are gator masks permitted?” - No. Masks should cover the nose, mouth, and chin AND be secured to the back of the head and ears. Gator masks have been found, by multiple sources, to be ineffective. Also, keep in mind that if you chose to send your child with a face shield, that they will also be required to wear a mask.

Supply Drop off

Supply Drop off can be done the week of August 31st to September 4th. Please note that the school office will be closed on Wednesday, September 2nd for cleaning. You may call the main office to set up a date and time for drop off. Please remember to practice social distancing and to wear a mask while in the building.

“ Will my child be able to meet their teacher before the First Day of School?” -
Unfortunately we will not be able to schedule in person meetings with teachers. We are working on a way for our teachers to touch base with their students before the first day of school. Please know that our teachers love supply drop off as much as parents did, and we are all sad that we cannot do that event.

Snack, Birthdays, and Celebrations

We had several questions related to this topic and it was not one that was specifically addressed in the Virtual Parent Presentations.

If a teacher has planned for snack time, the parents are responsible for sending in individual healthy snacks. We will not have shared snacks for the class.

At this time we are not allowing shared food treats for birthdays. Each teacher will send home a policy outlining birthdays and celebrations for the classroom. While this policy may sound strict, we are trying to reduce the sharing of materials between students. We will still find ways to have fun and celebrate!

Community Question

“Will there be a policy requiring families to follow NYS guidelines?” - No. We are unable to create a policy for activities that do not take place at school or during the school day. It is important to remember that we are a small community and what we do at home can impact what happens at school. We need to keep our focus on being safe so that our overall infection rate remains low for the county and allows us to remain open for In Person Instruction.

This is a link to some informative talks related to children returning to school. While there are lots of resources on the topic of returning to school, masks, and the status of the virus, it is important to use fact and science based sites. I found this one to be informative.

<https://coronavirus.ucsf.edu/cares>

Tuition Question

“ Are we required to pay tuition if there is a shutdown?” - Yes. We are relying on our families to keep their financial commitment, so that we can keep our commitment to the overall education students. The majority of tuition payments go to support the salary of our teachers. Our teachers work hard, whether they are In Person or Remote.

Although you have have a differing opinion regarding some of our new policies, please keep in mind that these policies were put in place to ensure that we are compliant with the New York State Department of Education, Erie County Department of Health, and the CDC. We want to remain open for In Person Instruction.

By signing that you received our Parent Handbook (it is posted on our school website), signing the COVID-19 waiver, and signing your tuition agreement you are AGREEING to be in full compliance with our policies and procedures.