



**ST. JAMES PARENT MEETING  
AUGUST 25th, 2020 - Q&A**

**How will children who have been taking Mandarin learn with children who have been taking Spanish for many years?**

This level of Spanish is still in the basic level. We are confident that students will be able to quickly adapt.

**Are both languages being taught in the same room at the same time?**

As of right now, we do not have a Mandarin teacher. The Spanish teacher will rotate from class to class.

**Will we have a preview of weekly learning plans each week (for parents helping with remote learning)?**

Yes. It is important to remember that we do not expect parents to teach the lesson. Teachers will be teaching both the children in the classroom and the remote learners at the same time.

**The teachers are encouraged to teach outdoor as much as possible - how will remote children be included in these activities?**

The wifi capabilities in our school can reach outside the school walls so it is possible if a class is being held outside the teacher's laptop, chromebook, or cellphone will be able to access the internet. If classes are taking a walk, we would encourage the student to do some sort of physical activity so they are not in front of a computer screen the entire day.

**What will lunches look like? Will they be staggered? In classroom only?**

Schedules are being developed. Pre-K through 3rd will be in the cafeteria and 4th-6th grade will be eating in the classrooms.



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### **If kids will be 6' apart, why must they also wear masks?**

The Broome County Health Department sees the greatest transmission with person-to-person contact via droplets of COVID-19. The Health Department strongly urges that every student and staff wear a mask or face covering at all times. Masks and face coverings help prevent transmission of droplets between individuals, and the main objective is to prevent the spread, but also give your students and staff members the best chance to minimize disease transmission.

### **Can you tell us what the mask breaks will look like? Is it one child at a time? A designated area? What is the amount of time for a face break?**

Students will have the opportunity to remove their masks during lunch, snack, and when socially distanced in the gym (12 feet) or when outdoors. Additionally, teachers are aware that students will need some additional mask breaks and will build short breaks (maintaining appropriate social distance) into the school day. If your child has a medical condition that prevents them from wearing a mask, a medical note should be provided from your pediatrician and other options will be considered.

### **Will all students be provided with a device?**

Yes, we currently have Chromebooks available for all children grades 3-12. We are in the process of purchasing as many as possible but if you need one, please contact your principal and we will make accommodations.

### **What is the procedure for children with regular illnesses?**

We will continue to keep the same policies that we have had in the past. If students are showing symptoms of an illness, the parent/guardian will be called to pick up the child. The child will then need to be evaluated by their provider.

**School supply lists requests we bring in Clorox wipes which are impossible to find. Can we donate money to contribute to getting more of these for the school? Are there any acceptable substitutes?**



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Yes, you can provide a monetary donation for the purchase of cleaning supplies.

**If a child is required to be quarantine (i.e. Person “A” or “B”), will a negative COVID-19 test be required to return to school?**

They will need to quarantine for the full 14 days. To return to the building, they do not need a negative test because they would have quarantine for the full 14 days.

**If we go full remote requiring all students to be at home, will technology be provided? Chromebook?**

Yes, we currently have Chromebooks available for all children grades 3-12. If you need or think you will need a device, please contact your principal and we will make accommodations.

**Will parents be allowed to accompany their kids into the building on the first day of school? Second, will we be able to drop off the school supplies ahead of the first day?**

Parents will not be able to accompany their children into the building. There will be staff there to assist students as we know this can be difficult for some children. We are setting up times during the week of September 8-11, for parents to come into the school and drop off items and get an idea of what the routine will be like.

**Masks at recess?**

Masks will need to be worn during recess when children are NOT at least 12' apart.

**Are there any teacher changes beyond what was communicated at the end of the school year?**

Our 1st grade teacher Ms. Dennison is taking a leave of absence, we will have her replacement by the end of next week. I believe it was already communicated that our Art teacher has moved on, we have a replacement: Ms. Ballman. Mrs. Corrigan & Mrs.



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Cronin have also moved on to other opportunities. We did not need replacements for those positions.

### **If my child has the sniffles from allergies will she need to be isolated if she coughs at school? And then need a doctor's note to come back?**

We will be utilizing a common sense approach to this. One sneeze or cough does not mean a student will be isolated. It is consistent coughing and sneezing mixed with a high temperature that will result in a student needing to go to the isolation room and requiring a doctor's note to come back. If a student has allergies it is a good idea to provide us a doctor's note stating that the student has allergies and will cough and sneeze during some months.

### **What is the earliest we can get there to drop off our children? I am concerned about the length of time it may take to get through the screening process and being late for work.**

Before school starts at 7am for a cost. The earliest you can drop your child off without a cost is 7:45 am. We understand the screening process will take time in the beginning, but we hope the process will speed up. We are also very proud of the fact that we are one of very few schools offering 5 days a week face-to-face education and how that helps families with childcare.

### **Are teachers getting tested prior to school starting?**

We have inquired about this with Lourdes Hospital and other testing sites. At this time, there is limited rapid testing available which would result in not getting results for up to 7 days. This would mean that teachers would be tested up to 7 days prior to classes starting or they would start classes prior to having test results. Neither of these options make sense for our purposes. Teachers do complete a COVID survey and will have temperature checks each day before entering the building.



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**Will the children continue to have lockers?**

Yes. We will stagger which students go to the lockers at one time so that social distancing can be maintained.

**Are there only 16 children per grade?**

There will only be 16 children in each classroom at a time with the exception of PreK which has a larger room. Some classes do have more than 16 students but those classes have remote learners who will not need seats.

**How will students maintain social distancing at recess?**

This is why we are enforcing face masks during recess.

**If our child is riding the bus, should we ask the City if they will have one child per seat or do you know about this? Will St. John's and St. James children be on the same bus?**

It is one child per seat, unless the children are related. The districts are still working on transportation notifications and contact tracing guidelines. Additional questions should be directed to your district.

**Is it possible for the students in grades 4-6 to have a rotation out of the classroom, say for lunch, to give them a break from that room?**

Grades 4-6 will be having recess and going to the gym to help them get a break from their rooms. Unfortunately in order to keep cohorting & everyone as safe as possible, keeping students in their room is the best option.

**If 16 is the number the classrooms can hold, was there a need to split up any of the classes?**

There was not a need to split any of the classes.



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**Ms. Dennison the first grade teacher, or Mrs Dennison?**

First grade teacher

**Will someone be helping the little ones find their way the first few days?**

Yes we will be having “all hands on deck” to help our students find their classroom. We will also be having individual meetings with families and teachers to practice the procedure of coming to school.