



FALL 2020 "RETURN-TO-SCHOOL" PLAN

July 6, 2020

Dear SFXP and JP II Students and Families,

The 2020-2021 school year will begin in nine weeks, on September 1, 2020. This letter is written to communicate our 'Return-to-School' plans for Fall 2020. Our top priorities are to:

- Provide a safe environment for students, staff, and visitors where the risk of COVID-19 transmission is minimized, and
- Organize school time and space so that all students will attend school in person, with their teachers, as much as possible.

Here's the good news: All SFXP and JP II students can return to school every day. Based on the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance, we have developed plans whereby all currently enrolled and accepted students can be accommodated on campus every day. This is possible because, while most students will be in their classrooms with their teachers, a smaller number will attend class remotely from another part of the building. Faculty members and administrators have developed a hybrid, synchronous in-person/remote model that will enable remote students to attend the same presentations as their in-class peers. Also, this model will enable students to remain home, if necessary, based on family request. *Please read the FAQs for details.*

This model maximizes in-person instruction, allows coursework to move at an effective pace, and maintains the physical distancing necessary to keep students, staff members, and families safe. These restrictions are temporary and are expected to be in effect for the first twelve weeks of school.

Going forward, we will communicate regularly and in detail regarding student and family requirements under this plan. Of course, COVID-19 data may prompt DESE guidance, and therefore school plans, to change. Should that be the case, we will inform you as quickly as possible. For as challenging as 2020 has been for schools, I can say honestly that your commitment, resiliency, and cheerfulness have meant even more to us. I am proud of our faculty, staff, students, and families. WTG!

Your feedback is valuable, and our plans are still evolving. Mrs. Kelley, Ms. Valentino, and I invite you to "Town Hall" meetings when we can discuss these plans. *Zoom joining information is provided on the FAQ sheet.* I hope you can join us as we work together for a better 2020-2021.

Best regards,

Christopher W. Keavy
President



Fall 2020 “Return-to-School” Plan FAQ's

Will the SFXP/JPII campus reopen for Fall 2020?

Yes, SFXP/JPII will reopen campus. Based on June 20, 2020 DESE guidance, All SFXP and JPII students can return to school every day.

What are the school's most important objectives when reopening?

Our two top priorities are to provide a safe environment for students, staff, and visitors where the risk of COVID-19 transmission is minimized, and to organize school time and space so that the greatest number of students will be in-person with their teachers.

Which state guidelines govern school plans?

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance issued on June 25, 2020 are the foundation of our plan. [View here.](#)

Will Fall 2020 be the same as in previous years?

No. Students, faculty/staff members, and families must follow new requirements based on the state's health and safety guidelines. It will not be perfect, and we know there will be challenges for students, teachers, and families. However most importantly, we will orient students, teachers, and families to the new procedures this summer and count on your flexibility, cooperation, and goodwill.

Will students be required to wear masks while at school?

Yes. Based on DESE guidelines, all students (above Grade Two) and adults must wear masks. Mask breaks will be provided throughout the day when physical distancing and fresh air can be ensured.

What's the instructional plan?

Most students will be in-person with their teachers as they had pre-COVID. Once room capacity is reached, any “overflow” students will join class remotely via Zoom/Google Meet. “Overflow” students will alternate once room capacity is reached. Whether attending course sessions in-person in classrooms or remotely, the school is upgrading its technology so that this arrangement is effective.

Will the state's guidelines change between now and then?

Possibly. The model we are describing permits adaptability and optionality in our plans. JPII/SFXP faculty and staff will be ready for any of the August scenarios we need to reopen campus and launch the new school year. We believe that maximizing on-campus time is the best way to ensure all our students are learning at their best; therefore, we will adapt as quickly as possible to revised DESE guidelines.

Do you have other instructional models?

Yes. Of course, we look forward to 100% in-person instruction, as had been the case pre-COVID. Additionally, administrators and faculty members will reimagine and rebuild the school's remote instructional model, so that should stay-at-home requirements return, we can implement an improved fully-remote plan.

What about larger group assemblies, all-school meetings, Holy Mass, cultural enrichment, and other activities?

We know that the SFXP/JPII experience is much more than academic class meetings only. Currently, school activities are limited by physical distancing guidelines. However, we will develop alternate ways to provide non-instructional programming, such as live streaming events, smaller sessions, and the use of larger spaces such as the SFXP gymnasium and JPII auditorium.

Where and how will students take lunch?

It is highly likely that classrooms will be utilized for lunch and that on-site delivery may be curtailed. We will communicate these requirements to you during the summer.

What's the plan for clubs and activities?

Similar to academic classes, clubs and activities will go forward as expected under the safety guidelines.

Will there be interscholastic athletics?

The MIAA (Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletics Association) has convened a COVID-19 Taskforce that will issue guidance on Fall athletics. As a member school, middle and high school sports are governed by MIAA guidelines. We will communicate adjustments and determinations regarding athletics as soon as they are announced.



Fall 2020 “Return-to-School” Plan FAQ's

Where will remote students be located?

Remote students will be supervised and attend class in non-classroom locations (gymnasium, cafeteria, auditorium) and vacant classrooms.

Will all courses be offered under this plan?

Yes.

Does SFXP/JPII have enough space?

Yes. To provide maximum physical space for this plan, it is necessary to move Grade 8 students into the JPII building for a majority of their classes. We intend to return Grade 8 students to the SFXP building when public health guidelines permit.

How will teachers execute this new model?

Significant preparations are being made so that teachers can present synchronous lessons to students in-person and remotely. We are acquiring new technology (e.g., new laptops, wireless lapel mics, enhanced cameras, document cameras, etc.) and dedicating one full week of teacher training in August to prepare for the new model.

Can we opt not to return to campus in-person and attend 100% remotely from home?

Yes. Should parents have particular concerns and request that their child not attend school in person, this hybrid plan allows for 100% remote participation in daily classes. Please contact Mrs. Kelley or Ms. Valentino to request this arrangement.

When is the first day of school?

Classes begin on September 1, 2020. Before this first day of classes, all students will be invited back to campus for orientation events.

Will SFXP after-school study hall and after-care still be an option?

After-care will be available but will be held in Monsignor Thomson Hall instead of the art room to allow for physical distancing. Although we plan to offer study hall as soon as possible, this service may not be available during the first several weeks of the new academic year.

Beyond a new instructional plan, what other preparations are being made for Fall 2020?

The Diocese of Fall River Catholic Schools Office has led regular and frequent COVID-19 response meetings since March. Based on these deliberations, the following measures are being implemented:

- Installations of additional no-touch hand sanitizing stations.
- Provision of all required PPE.
- Revised Health Clinic protocols and staff training.
- Clear campus foot-traffic guidelines to optimize flow, prevent people-clogs, and provide clarity in physical distancing for students.
- Heightened disinfecting procedures, frequency, and detail, based on the best available guidelines.
- Protocols for bathroom usage.
- Limiting the number of adults on campus, at least to start, based on guidelines.

Will the Buzzard Bay Bus still offer free transportation?

Yes. The Buzzards Bay Bus will operate every day we are in session. State guidelines regarding transportation are expected in mid-July, and we will determine ridership and any necessary adjustments as soon as possible.

How will I learn more and/or give my feedback?



Fall 2020 “Return-to-School” Plan FAQ's

You can always email or call Mrs. Kelley, Mr. Keavy, or Ms. Valentino with your questions or concerns. Also, We invite you to “Town Hall” meetings when we can discuss these plans. Joining information:

Grades 9 & 10 Meeting: Wednesday, July 8, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75967953557?pwd=RERnSm1lc1FmRlpNS2tOUVFyQUFCQT09>

Meeting ID: 759 6795 3557

Password: 2mcAYXO3yk

Grades 11 & 12 Meeting: Wednesday, July 8, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76803694942?pwd=NzV1QXhTeHV0YWY0NjFycmRHVThvQT09>

Meeting ID: 768 0369 4942

Password: 1EfJ154M3U

Grades 5 & 6 Meeting: Thursday, July 9, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72721753446?pwd=VXluQ3ducDZOYk1oamdTSXUvUk11QT09>

Meeting ID: 727 2175 3446

Password: QZq4sf2Llx

Grades 7 & 8 Meeting: Thursday, July 9, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77209726620?pwd=R2c1bW02WnpqYUdHeExxUUJoUERXdz09>

Meeting ID: 772 0972 6620

Password: PoG3X3Y9jN