

Dear Parents and Guardians,

First let me begin by thanking you for your support and your flexibility. We are all in this together! The St. Rose Task Team has spent countless hours preparing for the reopening of school. I also continue to be in communication with the Catholic School Office, RIDE, RIDOH, and our faculty and staff. Our revised reopening plan is posted to our website but things are changing daily so expect that to be amended. We are opening gradually to ensure the safety of your children.

Last week I participated in a Zoom meeting with Catholic and independent school administrators from throughout the state. The event was hosted by the RI Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Angelica Infante-Green. It was made clear to me that RIDE is not going to mandate St. Rose to follow the new RIDE calendar. However, it is strongly recommended that we follow the RIDE calendar due to regulations from the RIDOH regarding having the COVID-19 test results consistently attainable within 48-72 hours. This information as well as Governor Raimondo's final decision on what phase we will start school in will not be made available to us until August 31st. For these reasons, as well as to allow teachers additional time to prepare, St. Rose of Lima will not have an all school orientation on August 31st and our "first day of school" will not be on September 1st. Instead, our new Back to School Orientation schedule is planned for September 8th-11th. This is of course if on August 31st RIDE and RIDOH allow us to begin on September 8th. Based on their recommendation, we will send a new schedule to families if necessary.

September 14th will be a PD day for Teachers and an Electronic Day for students. On September 15th we hope to open in-school learning for all, but the possibility of a Hybrid or continuing with Distance Learning exists. Once we have further information about this we will share it with you as soon as we have full-clarity. Again we won't have a clear picture of our situation until August 31st so please be patient until that time.

We are hoping our Pre-Ks can open for full in-school learning before September 14th, but at this time we are awaiting further guidance on this. Once we have this information I will share it with families. At this time, Rosebuds and Pre-K4 Back to School Orientation is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9th. (See attached flyer for further details.)

In any case the St. Rose Task Team is continuing to meet and all teachers and staff will be attending PD Day training sessions at the end of this month. Our revised reopening plan is being submitted to RIDOH for approval.

In the meantime remind your children to complete their summer work and purchase school supplies. Please bring finished summer work and completed signed Handbook forms to school on Back to School Orientation Day. Be safe and enjoy what is left of the summer!

In Partnership,  
Mrs. Kim D. Izzi

## **FAQ #2**

### **Does the state have control over private schools?**

Yes. The RIDOH could shut us down. In the event it were unsafe for us to be opened it would be the RIDOH and not RIDE that would mandate St.Rose to shut down. Re-opening plan is being submitted to RIDOH.

### **Is RIDE allowing us to reopen before September 14th?**

Yes. However certain protocols will need to be met with the RIDOH.

### **Do we need to follow the state calendar?**

No, but the Governor is recommending that Catholic schools do follow it.

### **Is our end date going to be June 25th?**

At this time, St.Rose will keep the end date as planned on June 16, 2021.

### **Will our orientation date change?**

Yes. Due to recent guidance we feel it best to not have all grades come into the building on one day. A revised flyer is attached with details. Orientation will be staggered for grades and in some cases there will be different sessions for larger classes to follow the State Phase guidelines.

### **How will orientation be revised?**

Starting on September 8th we'll stagger orientation throughout the week. Information given to us from the State on August 31st could however change this new format so please be flexible.

### **Will there be a Back to School Night for parents?**

Due to the guidelines we will not have a traditional back to school night for parents, our Back to School Orientation will provide information that is normally given to parents at that night. Middle-School Back to School Orientation will be attended by all middle-school team teachers.

### **When will students receive their planners, communication folders, textbooks, and Chromebooks?**

Materials have been ordered and they will be distributed to students at Orientation. The cost for these materials is included in the tuition.

Students in Grades 4-8 will also receive a chromebook. A signed page of the Chromebook Agreement (pg 56 of handbook) will be required for a student to be given a chromebook. Students who did not return the charger with their chromebook in June will not be issued a charger. If the charger has been lost, the cost of a replacement charger will be required.

**Will we open with full in-school learning?**

Due to current restrictions and guidance, St. Rose's goal is to open in-person learning as soon as given clearance by RIDE and RIDOH. We have planned on September 8th-11th to open with Orientation and E-days. More information will be provided after the Governor's school announcement on August 31st.

**As a school what do we feel is the best pedagogical approach?**

In-school learning allows for much needed socialization and limited screen time. It also allows teachers to administer their best pedagogy.

**Can Pre-K open in-school learning if the rest of the school is utilizing a Distance Learning program?**

At this time we are waiting for clarification from the state on this answer. The RIDOH needs to give us approval to do this.

**Since Warwick Public Schools are executing a Distance Learning program do Warwick Catholic Schools have to have distance learning as well?**

No. As long as RIDE and the RIDOH allows us to open for in-school learning St. Rose does not have to implement a Distance Learning program.

**Will we have busses?**

Any day we meet before September 14th parents will need to drive their children. We were told during the summer Catholic schools would have bussing but this could change. Recently we were also informed that Warwick Public Schools approved an updated walking distance for the 20/21 school year.

K-5 1mi

6-8 1.75 mi

9-12 2.25mi

**If St. Rose opens as in-school learning can my child participate in a Distance Learning program?**

At St. Rose we strongly feel the best place for children to learn is in-person allowing for socialization with their peers. From time to time there may be families that prefer their child to not attend school in-person. Those families should email Mrs. Izzi as well as the Homeroom Teacher to establish a plan. Since teachers will be teaching all day, a remote program during in-school learning will be different from that experienced in the spring. Those who choose to start the school year remotely will need to continue with the remote learning program through the end of Trimester 1.

**Is there a tuition discount if St. Rose implements a Distance Learning program mandated by the State or if a family opts for the remote learning option at any time?**

No. Please refer to the tuition section of the Handbook. Our operational budget depends on tuition which we need to collect to operate. Further our teachers and staff continue to work during distance-learning and our building and grounds still needs to be maintained.

**Is the previous FAQ and revised reopen plan posted to the website?**

Yes. Go to the Parent Information drop down menu. If you have not yet read it, please do.

**Has routine emergency testing that takes place every summer been conducted as usual this summer?**

Yes. This includes the fire and building inspector.

**Will teachers eat lunch together?**

No. To minimize exposure and to follow guidance from RIDOH the faculty lounge will be closed. Teachers and staff will still get a lunch break but have to eat independently or with their stable pod.

**When will Kids' Haven and Morning Care begin?**

Due to recent information delaying our official start of school we will not be able to offer Kids Haven or Morning Care until Monday, September 21st. Please refer to the revised flyers. We are opening gradually to ensure the safety of your children.

**Will there be music this year?**

Presently we are still searching for a music teacher. Due to regulations we will likely not have a Chorus for at least trimester one.

**Will Paul Effman be offered this year?**

Yes! Go to <https://pemusic.com/join>

The Paul Effman Company has created a curriculum that allows them to provide live weekly classes through Zoom. Please refer to the online Demonstration/Recruitment page with videos regarding the importance of music, information about the online classes, and links to online registration. The classes will take place after school at home via Zoom.

Those families who registered for lessons should receive an email directly from the company, but above is the link again and for anyone interested in enrolling in the program as a new student to Paul Effman.

**Will the fans in the classrooms be used?**

No. Regulations do not allow for their use. They were serviced by them so they cannot be used; they are currently disabled. Classroom doors and windows will be open to introduce new air flow into the building.

**Will AC Window units be allowed?**

Yes. AC units have been serviced, disinfected and sanitized. All filters have been cleaned. Filters will be cleaned and sanitized more frequently. AC units will not be directly blowing air on students, the air flow will be diverted. We have also purchased some new AC units. Please see the message from Fr. Andrew at the end of this FAQ.

**Will Fall sports run?**

A survey was sent out last week and again this week to all registered middle-school families. Currently, there is a lack of interest for cross country and tennis this Fall. Also, there is still a need for a coach in

each of these sports. Unless interest peaks in either cross country or tennis including acquiring a coach, we will not enter teams. Basketball will be offered to all at a later date.

If a family chooses for their child to participate in a remote learning program while school is in session in-person that student is unable to participate in the athletic program.

**Did the basketball camp run this summer?**

Yes. This past July and earlier this week St. Rose hosted the Tim Welsh basketball camp in-person.

**Why hasn't the playground been mulched yet?**

We usually have this service done right before school starts. We are waiting for the fence to be completed.

**Will the fence be done for the start of school?**

Maybe. COVID-19 has created a back order so there is a chance it will not be completed. The fence company will however provide a safe temporary fencing for the area.

**Has the new fence been donated?**

Yes. Ahlberg Construction has generously donated most of the fence. There is a small balance and we are fundraising for it. Go to our website and click on the opening slider to make a contribution.

[Click here to make a donation](#)

**Will there be a new lunch menu?**

Yes because we are delaying the start of school. It will be posted to the website soon and will be attached to your email.

**When will catered begin by Cozy Caterers?**

Because we are opening gradually, our catered lunch service will begin on Wednesday, September 16th. Students will need to bring a nut/peanut free bag lunch on Tuesday, September 15th.

**Can a child or adult wear a shield?**

Yes, but a mask must be worn with it. Shields do protect eyes.

**May parents use our restrooms?**

No. We need to limit exposure by limiting access to our building.

**Will School Mass be celebrated on September 11th?**

No. We will be sending families a revised School Mass schedule. The September First Friday Mass will be celebrated at school on Friday, September 18th at 9:30am.

**Will there be an 8 Month Club?**

Yes! There will be a 2020-2021 8th Month Club. Tickets will be sold through the school and church. Memberships will include monthly drawing.

**Will there be an 8th Month Club Gala?**

As of right now, there is no planned gala. A potential gathering will be considered based on the restrictions set out by the RIDOH. The gala at the Crowne Plaza which was previously re-scheduled for May 2021 has been cancelled.

**Will there be Trimester 1 STAR testing?**

Yes. STAR Testing will begin on Thursday, September 17th.

**Will there be a Scholastic Bookfair?**

Yes. It will open on Tuesday, September 15th. Classes will visit on assigned days. At Orientation you will know when your child's class will visit so you can have them bring spending money that day.

**A Message from Father Andrew**

Hi everyone!

I hope that you and your loved ones are well.

There has been much in the news and in medical and professional circles about air handling systems in buildings. We at St. Rose of Lima School take all safety matters very seriously.

We know that the second greatest commandment is love of neighbor, and that means we do all that we can to keep everyone safe.

With specific regard to air handling, please know that we have brought in a highly professional air handling/air conditioning/heating contractor to thoroughly clean the systems at the school. This includes the replacement of all air filters.

Please also know that everything stated above pertains to Saints Rose & Clement Church.

I am very grateful to you for being a part of our school and parish family. A special thank you goes to Mrs. Izzi and the faculty and staff for their many hours of hard work over the summer.

By the grace of God and with our efforts and prayers, we will overcome our present difficulties. All will be well.

Take good care, and God bless!

*Father Andrew*