

August 27, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The past several months, we have experienced unprecedented challenges. Our new school year is quickly approaching; and at this time, I need to ask parents for their support as well as their trust. The St. Rose Teachers and Staff are fully committed to re-opening with in-school learning and keeping the school open during the entire academic year. The best way for us to do this is to partner together by making sure that when at home in our personal lives we adhere to protocols which have been put into place to minimize exposure and risk. We also ask that parents keep their children home when sick and are understanding when our teachers and staff are absent due to illness. Please discuss with your child the importance of handwashing, mask wearing, social distancing, and following in-school restrictions. If you as parents and guardians do this at home, when we have the same conversation with students at school, we all will be consistent and demonstrate to our children a strong partnership.

I know we will get through this year by working together. This is going to be a wonderful new school year, and I look forward to seeing each of our students next month!

Included below is FAQ Document 3. A slightly revised calendar and orientation schedule are attached to this email. Our intent is to begin school with a staggered start following the attached Orientation schedule. It is slightly revised so please examine the attachment. Confirmation was given this week that Catholic schools may reopen any time after the Governor's announcement on August 31st. The announcement will however indicate which reopening approach is allowable given the "school reopening readiness checklist". As I am waiting on information from the state on August 31st, you will receive another communication from me mid-next week.

Have a safe weekend and stay healthy!

In Partnership,
Mrs. Izzi

FAQ#3

Are Teachers participating In Professional Training?

The Catholic School Office has hosted a number of training sessions for pedagogical topics relevant to our current times. St.Rose Teachers participated in such virtual events this week as well as during the summer.

- Teacher PS/PK “In the Virtual Space-How do we add value?”
- Teacher Level Meetings to discuss instructional planning, strategies, resources and needs for Teachers Grades K-2, 3-5
- “Google Classroom for the Reluctant Learner” for Teachers Grades K-8
- Workshops Offered by the Audubon Society for Science and outdoor lessons
- National History Day Workshops

Have Teachers and Staff had an opportunity to meet as a group?

The St.Rose Task Team has been meeting regularly all summer. This week all teachers and staff attended professional development days where there was an opportunity to discuss the implementation of our in-school learning restrictions as well as the hybrid and distance-learning schedules that we have put together in the event we have to execute either of these programs.

Is the administration in communication with RIDE and other schools?

Yes. Mrs.Izzi has participated in bi-weekly Zoom meetings all summer with the Catholic School Office Superintendents and other Catholic School administrators. RIDE has also hosted meetings with both public, independent, and parochial administrators which Mrs. Izzi has attended. Last week Governor Raimondo attended a special session for independent and Catholic school leaders. At such events, discussion of state guidelines takes place and how to best implement them within schools.

If the weather is not conducive to allow for lunch outside and my child is in a large class size, where will they eat?

The *current* CDC and RIDOH best practices are to have stable pods stay 14 feet from one another, and that students need to be 6 feet apart while eating. If and when the weather is no longer appropriate for us to be outside, we will space students appropriately using the gym. Tables will be marked clearly for students to visually see where they are able to sit and not. Plus pods will be separated appropriately.

When will we receive our Yearbook from the 2019-2020 school year?

There was a delay in *Lifetouch's* plant due to COVID19. Initially, back in the Spring we thought we would have them by the end of July. The delay has caused the delivery to be further postponed. *Lifetouch* has informed us that several families have contacted them directly. We assure you we are in communication and will inform families once we receive the yearbooks. We will make sure current graduating students, and those students that are not enrolled for this upcoming school year are notified and have an opportunity to pick up their yearbook.

Is there an opportunity for remote learning while school is in session?

Yes. While we believe the best place for children to learn is in person at school we are offering a remote program during in-school learning. **Those that intend to participate in this must email their child's Homeroom Teacher and Principal by Thursday, September 3rd.** Participants that register for this will need to continue with remote learning through Trimester One. Families will be charged the same tuition rate as those that attend school in-person.

Do you wear your uniform to Orientation?

No. This is a casual event. Shorts are fine.

What kind of masks should my student(s) wear?

RIDOH recommends, children and adults wear a two-ply cloth washable mask or medical disposable mask to school and during school hours each day. Face coverings such as neck gaiters and bandana are not allowed during school hours. At Orientation, students will receive a black safety breakaway lanyard to hook their mask to.

How many masks will my student need to bring?

Each student is encouraged to wear one mask to school and carry 2 extra masks in their backpack each day. If a student forgets their mask or needs another, the teacher or office will have disposable masks available. Some students may find it more comfortable to change their mask after lunch, and still have an extra clean one just in case.

What is an Electronic Day?

Last year we implemented an E-Day on parent conference day. Teachers will post an assignment on their google classroom that will need to be completed by students on the same day by 9:00pm. E-day assignments can be completed without instruction from their teacher via Google Meet or Zoom. E-Days will begin for students the day after their

orientation day and will continue until our first full day of in-school learning on Tuesday, September 15th. All PD days with the exception of December 21st are E-Days.

Will “Snow days” become E-Days?

No, due to the possibility of power outages in certain neighborhoods of students, teachers, and staff that reside throughout Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

How will a “hybrid limited” work?

In the event that the Governor mandates that we can only partially open “hybrid limited”, St. Rose would follow a hybrid limited model. Any class with over 14 pupils would be required to follow this plan. Classes over 14 students are split into Group A and Group B. Group A would meet in person at school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Group B would meet in person at school on Wednesdays and Fridays. In this model, Mondays would be distance learning for all students in classes containing more than 14 students. Special attention was given to siblings so that they are able to attend school on the same days.

Any class over 14 pupils would follow a hybrid model. The class is split into 2 groups; each group would attend in-school at St. Rose two days a week and participate in an E Day the other two days. All those classes that follow a hybrid, would participate in a full distance-learning day on Mondays. **We will only implement a hybrid limited if we are mandated to by RIDOH, and at this time we do not intend to execute a hybrid learning format. Information given on August 31st by the Governor to us could change our plans including our Orientation schedule and in-person plans. We will update our St. Rose families at that time with updated information.**

If we are mandated to Distance Learning what schedules will students follow?

Details will be explained at orientation but students in the middle-school will follow their normal in-school schedule. All pupils will participate in their “specials” during their normally scheduled time. We are asking that during remote classes students are dressed in clothing that is not their pajamas (does not have to be their uniform) and that the time is not used for eating breakfast and introducing pets to the class. If we are mandated to do distance-learning we intend to be flexible to different home environments but want to offer a more structured and engaging program from last Spring. All teachers will utilize Google Classroom and have a device that students can physically see them on each day. Further, pupils need to have their screen on as well. Parents should refer to our Family Handbook for details about Distance Learning. We will need parental support in order to implement a more advanced program than we had last Spring. Of course, our plan is to open and remain open with in-school learning but we are preparing for all measures in the event the RIDOH mandates us to close.

When will Kids' Haven and Morning Care begin?

Monday, September 21st. Until that day drop off is between 7:30am-7:45am and pick-up is at 2:00pm. Pre-K classes will dismiss around 1:50pm/1:55pm.

How do I register for Kids Haven?

To utilize Kids Haven families must pre-register. A form will be emailed to those families who completed the survey sent out earlier this summer. If you did not complete the survey, please contact Mrs. Nathanson and she will send the form to you.

We ask that you submit the form weekly.

Kids Haven will not open until September 21st. This is to allow us ample time to properly staff and plan space to keep pods as secure as possible during Kids Haven. Teams will be mixed at some points but distanced so we ask that you only utilize the program if you truly need it.

When can students use the restroom?

Grades are being assigned "bathroom times" and following each time slot the space will be professionally cleaned. If a child needs to use the restroom outside their class's assigned time, the office has five single-person bathrooms which can be utilized and will be professionally cleaned by our Porter following use.

Will children interact with students outside their pod?

Homerooms will be kept in their pod during the school day. With two playgrounds we have been able to create a schedule where pods will be sequestered during recess as well as in their classroom. However, parents that opt to utilize Morning Care or Kids' Haven should know that pods in those programs will be mixed by Team but will be distanced. Parents needing Kids' Haven must register in advance, so we can properly staff. It is recommended that Kids' Haven and Morning Care only be utilized if parents truly have a child-care conflict.

Will St Rose be monitoring student contact tracing outside of school?

No. We do ask, however, for parent support. During this time, partnering is needed more than ever. Please stay vigilant with the current recommendations/ guidelines from RIDOH pertaining to social and public gatherings and mask wearing. Per RIDOH guidance, parents should note and log close contacts outside of school that are fewer than 6 feet and for longer than 15 minutes.

Is St. Rose still accepting new students?

Yes, for certain grades it is not too late to register. Registration can be done on-line.

Will the playground be used?

PreK will use the small playground and it will be sanitized. The play cars will not be permitted for use.

The larger playground at the start of school will not be utilized at least for a few weeks during the school day. Once Kids Haven opens a “pod” schedule will be created for it to be used while that program is opened. It too will be sanitized following each use. This is why we ask that students dismissed to their parents/guardians do not use the playground equipment after school is out.

What time is dismissal?

2:00pm for K-Grade 8 and 1:50pm for RosebudsPre-K. We really need to make sure that students are picked up at dismissal time. Please do not allow students to use the playground after dismissal. We will be using the playground and blacktop area with students in Kids Haven.

Will there be after school extracurricular activities available (such as robotics, Girl Scouts, Crazy 8's Math Club, chess, etc.)?

To continue with our slow and steady reopening roll out, no. As guidance becomes more clear and available to us, we will reconsider and be able to safely reintroduce these activities into the St. Rose community. Some clubs may do a virtual component; however, that is being left up to the club advisor at this time.

Paul Effman is offering a remote program that you may register for on-line. Information was sent to students who participated in their program last school year.

Is music being offered?

Paul Effman is being offered virtually but families need to register with them directly. Lessons will take place at home and not at school. See instructions at the end of this FAQ.

Regular music classes will not be offered at the start of school because we have yet to find a qualified candidate. Until we do, middle-school will have enrichment during their music period and younger grades will continue their regular program with their Homeroom Teacher. When we do hire a Music Teacher, Chorus will not be offered for at least the first half due to the current guidelines.

What school supplies does my child need this year?

All teachers have posted on their class websites a list of school supplies needed for the upcoming year. The middle-school team sent home a hard copy in June and there have been some updates, please check your student's homeroom teacher's website. We are

also suggesting 3 masks, wear one, and bring two. Also, please remember that such purchases can be made using AMAZON SMILE. Amazon Smile gives proceeds from purchases back to the school.

If my child receives extra help from Mrs. Powers how will services be provided?

Mrs. Powers will continue to work with students during the 2020-2021 school year. Safety is our priority and we have spent significant time this summer planning for the best way to meet our students' needs while following recommendations from the CDC, DOH, and RIDE. Mrs. Powers will utilize outdoor work space when possible. She is also able to work with student's virtually while they remain in their stable pod. Students and Mrs. Powers will wear masks while socially distancing during resource time. Tables and chairs will be cleaned between each session as well as allowing extra time for students to wash/sanitize their hands prior to returning to class.

Will Santa be visiting St.Rose In December?

Santa has been contacted and tentatively scheduled to visit students in December for class Christmas parties as well as be present at the parish Santa breakfast. The format of the visit will likely be different.

May my child wear a shield?

Yes-shields are great to protect eyes. A mask must be worn with a shield.

What kind of face mask may my child wear?

Neck Gaiters are not permitted. The most important thing when choosing a mask is that it is comfortable. To avoid it being confused with another person's, be sure it can be identified easily. Masks should also be cleaned daily. Any color is fine as well as unique designs or pictures. This all helps to identify a personal mask. Please no political statements on masks. Refer to the Handbook for details on masks.

Are face masks required during recess?

This question was discussed last week at a Zoom meeting with RIDE. Clarification is forthcoming. Students will certainly be given mask breaks but will be distanced during their break.

When do I bring in my child's Epi-Pen or Auvi-Q?

A doctor's note must accompany it and it should be brought on the first day of in-school. In the meantime if your child will be bringing one please email Ms. Rupert as well as your child's Homeroom Teacher.

Will St. Rose have a more appropriate distance learning Science program?

Yes. For the 2020-2021 school year we are excited to announce that St. Rose will be using in conjunction with other grade and age appropriate materials Generation Genius. Generation Genius partnered with the National Science Teacher Associations in production of their videos, and all Next Generation and Rhode Island Science standards are aligned. This program is more easily adaptable for Distance Learning. Grade 3 however will continue utilizing Nancy Larson for this year to trial a new program that they have created for remote learning.

Will students have Computer Class?

Students enrolled in Grades 4-8 will have computer class as usual. Those enrolled in Rosebuds-Grade 3 will not have a formal computer class for the first trimester. Mrs. Nathanson will occasionally teach special lessons to these classes during trimester one. As we will be receiving materials paid for with our ESSER funds Mrs. Nathanson will better serve our school needs if her schedule allows her the ability to prepare our newly purchased materials and also ensure that Teachers and students are prepared for a possible hybrid and distance learning program.

What form does my child need to bring to school each day?

Each child needs to present to a St Rose faculty or staff member a signed copy of the Covid-19 Self-Attestation form upon arrival at school. The form must be signed by the student's parent or guardian. The form attests that the student is not displaying or has not displayed certain symptoms for the past 72 hours such as fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea. Children will not be allowed into the school building without a signed "Attestation" form.

Where can I find the Self-Attestation form?

The form may be found on the school's website, the portal, homeroom teacher's website and/or classroom page.

Is St. Rose following guidelines for air flow?

Yes. We are complying with the Back to School RI: COVID-19 bFacilities and Physical Plant Guidance to Reopen Rhode Island's Elementary and Secondary Schools. We have sought assistance with this from professional companies such as Automatic Temperature Control.

Will we have Fall sports?

We did have a parent volunteer to coach but not enough student interest to fill a team. If this changes (interest from the parish) we will inform you.



Dear Parents,

Register by 9/1/20 to receive these great discounts and features!

- Registration Fee = \$0 (normally \$35/student) no matter how many students you register!
- 20% discount off the rental fee for students that have a rental from last year and for new students
- 30-day (from first lesson date) money-back guarantee if you are not satisfied

- Live weekly Zoom Lessons in small groups

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES](https://pemusic.com/join)

You can click the link above or visit <https://pemusic.com/join> to learn about the program and join now!

Paul Effman Music wants to wish all of you the best of luck getting back to school. We are always here for you to do whatever we can to help. Please stay safe and healthy!!!

Sincerely,

Lou Varuzzo
Paul Effman Music
Director of Education

Hutch Effman
Paul Effman Music