

St Michael Lutheran School

Return to School Plan

2021-2022 School Year

MASKS

As of August 18, 2021, the Kalamazoo County Health Department has issued a mask mandate requiring that students, staff, and visitors in grades K-6 wear masks while indoors. Masks are optional for students and staff in preschool and in grades 7 & 8, which is the extent of our program. Parents and students may choose to wear masks in these grades, but it is not required by the KCHD mandate. (See Attached Document from the KCHD).

ENTERING AND EXITING SCHOOL BUILDING

As was the practice last school year, we are asking that all parents and visitors enter the school through the main entrance and exit the school out the doors located at the south end of the main hallway (same traffic pattern as last school year). All visitors to the building must also wear a mask.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

St. Michael school staff will use their best judgement in implementing physical distancing within the classroom and school building.

CLASS SIZE

At the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, the Governing Board for St. Michael Lutheran School made an intentional decision to cut class size limits from our standard (24) students per classroom to (15) students per classroom during the height of the pandemic. With the easing of COVID mandates, the Board made the decision to raise the classroom maximum to (20) students for the 2021-2022 school year, a measured increase, but still not full classroom capacity.

VACCINATIONS

Vaccinations are a personal choice for individuals and families, and as such, are not required by St. Michael Lutheran School. We encourage you to educate yourselves about the COVID-19 vaccinations and seek out the best option for your family with the help of a trusted physician. COVID-19 vaccination remains widely available in Kalamazoo County. The health department offers walk-in vaccination with the choice of Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson and Johnson vaccines 9am-3pm Monday-Thursday.

QUARANTINES

Quarantines will be in use on a case-by-case basis and implemented as the Kalamazoo County Health Department deems prudent. Unvaccinated students or staff who have a known exposure (close and extended contact) to a person with COVID-19

should stay home for 10 days. Fully vaccinated individuals or people who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 3 months do not need to quarantine after an exposure occurs, but should isolate and get tested if COVID-19 symptoms emerge. Quarantines may be only for individuals, for more than one individual directly exposed, or for an entire classroom at the discretion of the Kalamazoo County Health Department.

CLEANING

At St. Michael Lutheran School, we are held to a higher standard of cleaning and sanitizing than most elementary schools due to the fact that we have a childcare center as part of our educational program. Because of this fact, classrooms, common areas, and restrooms are all sanitized several times per day and will continue to be whether we are dealing with a pandemic or not.

AIR PURIFICATION

Air purifying devices for the HVAC system have been installed and are now in operation in both the school and childcare center. These units are designed to remove bacteria, virus, dust and other impurities from the HVAC system, thus providing cleaner and safer air in the building.

GENERAL HYGIENE

We will continue to enforce and model appropriate hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, etc. as part of our general healthy practices throughout the school day.

KEEPING YOUR CHILD HOME

Students and staff with concerning symptoms for COVID-19 should not come to school or remain at school if symptoms develop. A healthcare evaluation is needed to determine if a clear alternative diagnosis besides COVID-19 exists. If a healthcare evaluation determines a clear alternative diagnosis exists, the individual may return to school according to the protocol found in the school Parent/Student Handbook and with a note from a healthcare provider. However, if signs and symptoms of COVID-19 are present and a healthcare provider determines no clear alternative diagnosis exists, COVID-19 testing is recommended. If a COVID-19 test is positive, the individual should isolate at home for at least (10) days and remain fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medications and symptoms are improving. Our normal practices regarding non-COVID-19 illness as outlined in the Parent/Student Handbook will be followed once again this school year. Your partnership is needed in order to have a healthy school year. ***Please do not send your child to school when they are not feeling well nor give them fever reducers in order to allow them to come to school when they are sick.***

Thank you for your continued support and partnership during these challenging times is much appreciated as we look forward to another exciting school year!