



From the desk of

Mrs. Laura Bernauer



Covid Protocols for Start of School

July 21, 2021

Dear St. Albans Parents,

I hope you are all enjoying your summers! I know you are eager to hear details about the year ahead. Though guidelines from CDC and CDPH are still evolving, the Executive Board and I met last week to review and revise campus Covid-19 protocols. We are pleased to be able to share good news about the year ahead!

As you know, our number one priority is always the health and well-being of our students, staff, and extended school community. We will consistently monitor guidelines from the California Department of Public Health and CDC, and will make changes accordingly. But here is what we know now:

- **TEMPERATURE / SYMPTOM CHECKS ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED:** Students, teachers and visitors will no longer need to have their temperatures checked upon arrival on campus.
- **COHORTS and DISTANCING:** The grade levels will no longer require cohorting. Students may intermingle once again with other classes on the playground, in clubs, and we can resume our Buddy Program at the beginning of the year. If the activities take place inside, masks will need to be worn, but do not have to be worn outdoors.
- **CLASSROOM and TEACHER FLOW:** Auxiliary teachers may return to their classrooms, and students will be able to travel to other areas of campus for Art, Spanish, Music/Drama, P.E., and Computers.
- **AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, CLUBS & BAND:** All outdoor afterschool activities are being reinstated with no restrictions. Masks will be worn for indoor activities, but no cohorts will be necessary. 5th Grade Band will take place in the Taber Center, and students will remain socially distanced (spread out throughout the gym) during practice. Fall Musical practice will be held for interested 6th - 8th graders, and students will be required to wear masks.
- **FALL EVENTS:** The Fall Carnival will take place, and no cohorts or masks will be required. The Flag Raising Ceremony will be held on the first day of school, and

parents are welcomed to attend. As of now, parents are asked to be masked. The Haunted House and Halloween Parade/Songfest will take place, and we believe parents will be able to attend, whether inside or outside.

- **LUNCHTIME and RECESS:** In an abundance of caution, students will continue to eat their lunches outside. Our new lunch service delivers individually prepared boxed lunches, similar to lunches served last year. The playground zones created for Covid-19 are being disbanded, and students may play and interact with students from other classrooms throughout any designated recess areas.
- **HAND HYGIENE and FACILITY SANITIZATION:** Teachers will still oversee frequent handwashing and hand sanitization for students. We will continue to keep doorways and windows propped open, and utilize additional custodial help to ensure that all areas of the school are deep cleaned daily. Our OSHA recommended HVAC system air-filters will continue to be replaced every three months. Cleaning will be on-going throughout the day- Clorox wipes, Lysol spray, sanitizing solutions and/or sprays will be utilized. All cleaners are on the EPA approved list N.
- **MASKS:** As of today, in accordance with federal and state guidelines, students will need to be masked when they are inside, but not outside. Recess, lunch, PE, outdoor instruction, or any other outdoor activity can be done without masks. *Because we feel that mask-wearing negatively impacts early reading skills, parents of students in Pre-kindergarten – 2nd grade can opt to allow their child to wear a face shield during reading and phonics instruction if they wish. Teachers who are vaccinated can choose to be unmasked, masked, or wear a face shield both inside and outside. All unvaccinated teachers will remain masked indoors (with the exception of phonics and reading instruction when a face shield would be allowed).
- **DAY CARE SERVICES:** Students will no longer be required to cohort in Day Care, and all services will move back to the Day Care Center.
- **TRAVEL:** There is no restriction on travel domestically and quarantine will not be required. However, if students or teachers travel internationally, they will be required to quarantine for 10 days.
- **DROP OFF AND PICK UP:** Drop off and pick up procedures will return to the usual guidelines of Pre-Covid. Students will not have to remain in cohorts. If any parent gets out of the car, a mask must be worn.
- **DRINKING FOUNTAINS / WATER:** All drinking fountains will remain turned off. Students will bring water bottles filled at home.
- **DISTANCE LEARNING:** Distance Learning will only be offered to an entire class should a student test positive for Covid-19 and quarantine of the entire class is required. Distance Learning will not be offered to individuals for travel or illness.

A note about masking:

While we will continue to follow federal and state guidelines, it is our goal to make masking optional for families as soon as possible, and we anticipate that the masking requirements may change as guidance is updated. We will always prioritize health and safety first, closely followed by student wellbeing and learning.

Stay tuned for more updates about whether or not we can plan for field trips and parent volunteering on campus.

See you soon!

Sincerely,
Laura Bernauer
Head of School

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