

St. Andrew Apostle School
Return to Learn - Better Together
2021-2022

*better
together*

Overview

St. Andrew Apostle School continues to follow a “safety first” philosophy for the 2021-2022 academic school year. Since the Spring of 2020, we have been working with the Archdiocese of Washington and we have compiled a committee consisting of the parish office, Father Mel & Monsignor Mike Wilson, the advisory board, faculty, staff, and a group of parents to review the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Maryland State Department of Health and Montgomery County Public Health and Human Services. We recognize the public health situation continues to change and we are prepared to act on it. As such, this document is considered to be fluid and additional details will be added as updates are made.

Precautions, Preventative Measures & Preparation

We will be relying on all our families to be truthful and to comply with all health-related policies and procedures. Prevention is the key to any successful plan. While we are not in the business of monitoring personal liberties, we are asking for all our families to be considerate of others and to assess how your actions may potentially impact others.

Health Screening

Each student, faculty and staff will be required to complete a daily health screening assessment upon arrival on campus. Students and caregivers may complete this screening while in their vehicle on the drop-off line. A staff member or volunteer will ask caregiver(s) a series of health questions and check the temperature of the students and caregiver(s). Students who do not use the drop-off line may use the health screening station on the blacktop with their caregivers. Caregivers must complete the health screening with their students. Families who arrive after 8:00 am must complete the health screening in the office before going to the classroom. All faculty and staff members will also participate in the same daily health assessment. Anyone with a fever above 100 degrees will need to leave the school grounds as soon as possible and may not return to school until their fever has been gone for 24-48 hours.

Cleaning Procedures

The classrooms and common areas will be regularly cleaned and sanitized. Students will review handwashing techniques which will be emphasized/practiced throughout the day. Hand sanitizer will be used as students enter and exit the classroom. The school, ELC building and church have had iWave Air filtration systems installed which run 24 hours a day.

Social Distancing & Masking

Students will be distanced 3 feet or more while in the classroom. When possible, teachers will be utilizing outdoor areas for lunch and instruction. Visuals will be placed throughout the building as a reminder about social distancing. All faculty and students will be required to wear masks during entrance, exit, and while indoors.

Illness

It is very important to closely monitor symptoms if your child or anyone at home is feeling ill. If your child is feeling ill, he/she should refrain from coming to school or participating in any afterschool activity. Should a student fall ill during the school day, he/she will be directed to the health room or other designated areas. A staff member will contact the parents/guardians and they will be required to pick-up their student immediately. Anyone with a fever above 100 degrees will need to leave the school grounds as soon as possible and may not return to school until their fever has been gone for 24-48 hours. If a child has vomited and/or has had diarrhea, the student may not return to school for 24-48 hours after (this is a change from previous years).

Operations

General School Operations

- Visitors, including parents, will have limited access to the school but may visit the church and school office.
- All faculty and staff will be trained on all new procedures and protocols.
- All classrooms are being cleared of unnecessary furnishings to allow for desks to be spaced appropriately and for ease of frequent cleaning.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles, filled and ready for use. Water fountains have been covered and a 2nd water bottle refill station has been installed.
- Students will not be permitted to share food/drinks.
- Students will eat lunch in their classrooms. Whenever possible, lunch will be outside.
- Students will use the classroom back doors as much as possible to avoid any crowding in the hallways.
- We will continue to support our community through the “We Care Wednesday” food collection drive for Catholic Charities & neighboring food pantries.

Morning Arrival

St. Andrew Apostle Early Learning Center operates 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Monday – Friday. Preschool and Pre-K students not using the morning day care option are expected to arrive at 8:00 AM. **The rear parking lot is reserved for families of Early Learning Center children only and for parishioners who need to access the handicapped entrance for 8:30AM mass.**

Morning arrival for Preschool-Grade 8 is a very busy time in the St. Andrew Apostle main parking lot with scores of cars entering to drop off students, and then exiting. **The school administration’s primary concern is for the safety of all children, parents, faculty and staff.** It is important to have procedures that allow cars to enter and exit the property as quickly as possible to ensure that students arrive at school on time, and that the school arrival cars do not cause delayed, excess traffic on Kemp Mill Road.

Parents/guardians and others who drive children to St. Andrew Apostle are expected to cooperate in the following procedures developed to ensure the safety of our students.

Morning arrival begins at 7:35 AM. Students may not be left on the premises before that time, as there will be no supervision. Early care is available for \$5/day beginning at 7:00am in the MPR on school days. No preregistration is required.

From 7:35 AM until the morning bell rings at 7:50 AM, students who have completed their health assessment will assemble on the blacktop outside the school office. Students will be supervised by staff and volunteers. At 7:50am, the teachers will escort the students through the back doors into the classroom. On inclement weather days, students will enter through the school entrance to their classrooms.

Students in K-8 who arrive between 7:50 – 8:00 am (after their classes have entered the building) must complete the health screening on the blacktop before entering their classroom back door.

**Students in Pre-K or younger only may complete the health screening at their classroom door between 7:50 – 8:00 am.*

Any student entering the building after 8:00 AM must enter with a parent/guardian and report to the office for a health screening before entering the classroom.

Afternoon Dismissal

Students will be dismissed to the blacktop at the end of the day. They will stay in their classroom lines until the bell rings. Parents must wait on the parking lot until the bell rings at which point the students will walk to them. This is the procedure we have used in years past, but not the same procedure used last year. Parents and others who pick-up children from St. Andrew Apostle are expected to cooperate in the following procedures developed to ensure the safety of our students.

- Cars must wait in line and follow the direction of the teachers on duty.
- Cars may not pull off or back up without a teacher's direction.
- Cellular phones may not be used while driving on school property.

CARDINAL RULE: If cars are moving, students and adults do not.

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It is our goal, that despite the circumstances, we will continue to live up to these high standards. We feel that we are safely able to do so! I ask that you continue to pray for our school and parish community and for those who are suffering.

With hope and joy in my heart,

Ms. Susan Sheehan