

ST. MARY'S VISITATION

Catholic School  Elm Grove, WI

Frequently Asked Questions

Why wasn't a parent survey conducted? By creating a special email account parents had a border platform to express their concerns. Surveys can be very limited by the types of questions that are asked. The email messages that were received were fully discussed and considered in the SMV Comeback Plan.

Why are you requiring masks in K3 and K4 when the mandate states it is for ages 5 and up? In K4, we often have children that turn 5 before or during September. We hope to create a consistent environment for all children as we protect staff, students, and families who are more vulnerable. We are following the governor's mandate as well as CDC guidelines for all children over two years old.

How will gaps in learning from Spring 2020 be communicated and filled? MAPS screening will take place during the first two weeks of school and instruction will be adjusted accordingly.

Are we still transitioning to Standards Based Grading for the 2020-2021 school year? As mandated by the archdiocese, yes. As we referenced SBG during the 2020-2021 school year, we are still moving forward with this. A parent handbook created by the archdiocese will come out in the Back to School materials.

Will all curriculum standards be taught? All curriculum from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee will be instructed, practiced and assessed whether we are face to face or virtual. A high level of learning will be maintained.

How will student workspaces be distanced in classrooms? Workspaces will be distanced as far as classroom spaces will allow. More importantly, we are using a cohort model. A cohort is where a group of students (with a teacher) stay together throughout the school day to minimize exposure for students, teachers, and staff across the school environment. At the elementary school level, it may be easier to keep the same class together for most of the school day. In middle school, strategies such as creating block schedules or keeping students separated by grade can help to keep smaller groups of students together and limit mixing. Strategies that keep smaller groups of students together can also help limit the impact of COVID-19 cases when they do occur in a school.

How much of the school day will take place outside? Our intent is to be outside as much as possible.

Will students have recess? Students will have recess with their cohorts. Teachers will guide them through play using social distancing so masks will not be worn.

Will the air conditioners be used or will windows be open? The weather conditions will dictate the best way to keep the room well ventilated.

Will we be using a hybrid model for instruction? At the present time we intend to offer the entire school in person classes. If closing the school building is necessary we will provide entire school online instruction. Currently, a hybrid model is not under consideration.

Will there be use of the elementary and junior high science labs? We will be using the science labs. They will need to be thoroughly cleaned after each use.

Will the students be able to use the Makerspace? No, activities in the Makerspace do not lend themselves to social distancing.

What if a student or immediate family member travels outside of the country or to a state with a high COVID -19 rate? Will they need to quarantine? We ask that families contact your local health department for guidance regarding quarantine after travel. We will adhere to the Waukesha County Health Department's recommendation.