

Dear St. Stanislaus Kostka Families,

Summer is quickly coming to a close, and it is time to look towards the beginning of our school year here at St. Stanislaus Kostka School.

Our reopening plan is available for viewing on the school website. It was written using the guidance of the CDC, NJ Department of Education, our school reopening committee, and the Diocese of Metuchen. This is a fluid document that will be revised when needed as the school year progresses. Our teachers have read and discussed the plan, and we have addressed any concerns as best we can.

You will be receiving information via mail and email regarding the opening of school. You will also receive a survey of how you would like your child to return to school on August 31. The choices are in person or via a live feed of the school day from home.

**Please complete the survey by August 17.** We strongly encourage face-to-face instruction, but if virtual learning is your choice a form must also be completed and returned to the office by **August 21**. The form will be available on our website. This information is needed to properly set up our classrooms for the school year. I will be hosting a parent Zoom meeting next week to discuss any questions you may have. That date and code will be sent out next week.

Here are just a few more items that are important for a successful start to our school year:

- Please practice proper mask wearing and hand washing with your children; this is especially important for our younger students.
- **Our first week back will be all half days**, dismissing at 11:50. Grades 1-8 will begin on August 31. Grades PreK and K will begin on September 1. Our normal school hours are 7:40 – 1:50 for full days, half-days run from 7:40-1:50.
- Students must bring a lunch for the first week of school. Lunch service will begin September 8.
- Please read over our new arrival and dismissal procedures in our Return to School Plan, which is posted on the website. There are changes due to COVID-19.
- There will be **NO BEFORE CARE** available until September 8. There will be after care available starting the first day of school. Before care begins at 7:00. After care runs until 6:00 PM.
- If you have traveled outside of the state from August 16 on, you will need to quarantine for 14 days in accordance with state regulations. Your child **MAY NOT** return to face-to-face instruction until they have completed quarantine. This is for the safety of all students and faculty.
- If you see any symptoms of COVID, please be diligent about keeping your child home.
- School will be open Monday to Friday, on a full day schedule, unless otherwise noted on the calendar.

- As stated earlier, before care will start September 8, and after care will start August 31. Please make sure you complete and send in an after care form if you intend for your child to stay in after care. Students cannot be admitted to after care without a completed application. The form is available on our website.
- Parents have asked if they can purchase desk shields for their own children. If a parent chooses to do this, the shield would have to travel back and forth with your child each day. The school cannot be responsible for disinfecting them.
- If you choose the virtual learning option to start the school year, it will be for the entire marking period. Should you choose to switch for the second marking period, an email must be sent to the principal at least two weeks prior to the end of the marking period so teachers can plan accordingly for the next marking period.
- Virtual learning will ONLY be used in the following instances. It will not be used for any other absences.
  1. If you choose virtual learning to start the school year.
  2. If your child develops an underlying health issue that will prohibit them from being at school in person.
  3. If your child needs to quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19.
  4. If the school as an entirety, or partially, needs to quarantine due to potential exposure.

St. Stanislaus Kostka School wants to ensure a safe and healthy return to school for all of our students and faculty. We will keep you informed via Honeywell, email blasts, our weekly white envelope, and our school website. Since visitors entering the building are limited, please feel free to also contact me with any questions as they arise.

We are all entering uncharted waters with the start of this new school year. Our plan has been devised to make our year as safe and productive as possible. I know that we may have some bumps along the way, and I ask for your patience and understanding as we smooth them out.

Thank you in advance for your support. I am confident that we will have a great year, and I look forward to seeing all of the students in our building once again!

Regards,

Lori Hodder  
Principal  
St. Stanislaus Kostka School  
[www.sskschool.org](http://www.sskschool.org)