OPENING OF SCHOOL FAQ

Q. Will my son be safe returning to school for in person instruction?

A. We believe we can provide a safe and healthy environment for our students to learn in person. We have dramatically overhauled our cleaning and disinfecting protocols and installed sanitizing stations in each classroom. Students will be asked to wipe down their desk at the beginning of each class. There is always some risk of exposure for everyone as we interact with others in public during this pandemic. Given the rate of local infections we believe our re-opening plan is strong.

Q. Why did St. Francis decide to re-open for in person instruction 5 days per week?

A. Well before we received any guidance from New York State our faculty felt we could best serve our students having them on campus everyday if we could do it safely. 80% of our parents indicated they wanted their son(s) in school, for in person instruction every day.

Q. My son or someone in our household has a medical condition that makes him a high risk for infection. Can he do online instruction?

A. Yes we will accommodate those with medical conditions with online learning. Those learning from home with health concerns will log into daily classes taught live by our teachers. They will also receive online support from their teachers through the Portal, but it will not be an entire online curriculum built out as experienced in the Spring. Students at home must follow their assigned schedule to fully engage online learning. Families who are requesting this must contact the school and provide a doctors note.

Q. Some school districts are offering families the choice of in person or online learning. Can I have that option for my son?

A. A Franciscan education at its core is interpersonal. To offer our form of education and be true to our mission, it calls for us to be together when it can be done safely. Online students don’t get the personal interaction of in person teaching and the student won’t get a fully built out online course prepared for remote learning. We simply do not have the staff or resources to open up remote learning for anyone choosing it, while still executing our regular program.

Q. What will happen if someone in school tests positive for COVID-19?

A. Once we become aware of a positive case in our school community we will report it to the Department of Health and they will direct us as to the necessary scope of quarantine required. Of course that person who tested positive will be quarantined away from our school community, but it may also be necessary for those who came in contact with that person to be quarantined and tested. We will communicate such quarantines in conjunction with the Department of Health.
Q. How will the school address students or staff showing symptoms of COVID-19?

A. The symptom of COVID-19 can look like many other common illnesses. We will be screening all people who enter our buildings to check for fever. Any student with a fever will be directed to the nurse for screening and then be quarantined and sent home. Any student without fever but complaining of other symptoms such as headache, stomach ache, diarrhea will be quarantined for precaution and sent home.

Q. If my son is sent home because he is displaying a symptom related to COVID-19, but does not have COVID-19 when can he return to school?

A. The school nurse will communicate the required verification so that your son may return, but at minimum will need a doctor’s clearance.

Q. If my son is quarantined at home due to potential exposure or contact with someone with COVID-19, how long will the quarantine last?

A. Generally 14 days, but we will defer to the Department of Health for guidance. All students on quarantine will be able to learn from home through Google Classroom. They can log into each class and view the lesson as though they were in the classroom.

Q. Are masks or face coverings required all day?

A. Each student is asked to come to school with a mask or face covering each day. Mask will be necessary when 6 feet of social distancing is not possible. Students will be provided “mask breaks” throughout the day when maximum social distancing can be achieved. (i.e. small classes, Physical Education meeting outside etc...)

Q. My son has a health issue that prevents him from wearing a mask all day. What should he do?

A. Please contact the school nurse about the necessary accommodations he may require.

Q. What is the dress code this year?

A. To accommodate for the discomfort of wearing a mask we will be permitting all student to wear St. Francis polos. Students will be expected to wear dress pants with belt and dress shoes.

Q. Where can I buy St. Francis polo?

A. The Campus Store will have polos available during the opening sale. Please consult web site for the Campus Store hours.
Q. What happens if St. Francis or the wider community has an outbreak and must move to online learning?

A. Unlike this past spring we are more prepared to offer online instruction. If we are forced to move to online instruction we have a predetermined schedule for each student, which is a modified version of the regular schedule. Student learning online will have live instruction each day and all teachers will have regularly scheduled office hours to assist students.

Q. What about serving breakfast and lunch at school?

A. We will continue to offer our daily breakfast and lunch program at school. Working with our food service staff we will modify the serving lines to reduce contact between individuals buying meals. Meals will be pre-prepared to be more grab and go rather than a la carte. To create appropriate social distancing during lunch we will be using barriers as well as a number of alternative locations where students can eat lunch, including outside.

Q. Can I send my son to school with money for his lunch account?

A. Yes, but all cash or checks need to be placed on account prior to your son’s lunch period. No monies will be accepted at the register during lunch periods. You may place funds on your son’s lunch account by using the online tool called Nutri-kids. See the school web site for more details.

Q. What about ventilation and fresh air requirements?

A. All ventilation systems that move air (ie. locker room, auditorium etc...) have had filters changed and will be changed out regularly. All classrooms will have fans to exhaust air and pull in fresh air. Oscillating fans that just blow are around will not be allowed.

Q. How will social distancing be handled in Physical Education?

A. We believe it is important and necessary for our students to engage in physical activity. Physical Education will facilitate activities with maximum social distancing as a priority and will involve individual activities rather than group or team activities. Physical Education will take place outdoors as much as possible.

Q. Will changes in my local school districts plan affect my son’s bussing?

A. If you are normally eligible to receive bussing from your school district, you should continue to receive bussing. District are required by law to provide bussing regardless of their instructional model. (in person or online) Districts are scrambling to finalize routes so you may not hear about pick up times until the last minute.
Q. I will be driving my son to school. How early can I drop him off?

A. Students may enter the buildings no earlier than 7AM, when someone is in place to screen them.

Q. What about fall athletic season?

A. If your son is a fall athlete, make sure that you consult with the school web site to make sure you have completed all the necessary paperwork. As of August 15th there is still a great deal of uncertainty around athletics. The NYSPHSAA has officially delayed the start of the fall season until the end of September. This could change as we get closer to September.

Q. Will St. Francis continue to offer after school activities such as clubs and other activities?

A. Yes! Clubs and activities will go on under the protocols for social distancing.

Q. When do we start?!

A. A mailing with be sent out the week of 8/17 detailing the opening schedule. Juniors and Seniors will have their Orientation Day Wed. September 9th. Freshmen and Sophomores will have Orientation Day Thursday September 10th. All students will have their first full day of classes on Friday September 11th. All student should report to Homeroom by 8:10AM.

Q. What Homeroom will my son be assigned to?

A. Homeroom assignments will be detailed in the Summer Mailing.

Q. When does my son get his class schedule?

A. Students will receive their schedule on Orientation day.

Q. Where can I find other information about the start of school?

A. All information and required forms for the start of school are located on the school web site. www.stfrancishigh.org

Q. Who should I contact if I have specific questions about my son’s situation?

A. Parents may contact the school’s Main Office at 627-1200 and you will be directed to the office or person that may best assist you. Don’t hesitate to call!