



December 30, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to let you know that due to the number of positive cases and exposures that have been reported by students and employees, St. Bartholomew Academy will move to a half-day schedule for the week of January 3-7.

Dismissal will be at 12:00 pm each day. Before and Aftercare and after school tutoring and activities will be cancelled during January 3-7. These actions will support a safer reopening and reduce the amount of time that students are around each other. We have layered protection in school with masks, desk shields, and air purifiers. A KN95 mask for your child can further help spread. Teachers will be extra vigilant with social distancing and school cleaning will continue to be a priority.

Please understand that we follow all NDOE and state mandates regarding school attendance. As of now, the NJ governor has mandated school be in-person with only COVID related issues to learn remotely. Schools must receive permission after consulting with the Archdiocese of Newark, the NJ and local Department of Health, and see what their local school districts are following, to alter their schedules for days off or remote learning. It is NOT just the decision of the school itself.

As of January 3, 2022 if there is a positive case in your child's class, contact tracing will be conducted. If your child was considered a close contact, you will receive a call from the school nurse or principal and a letter via email. You will follow the guide below for close contacts. If your class had a positive case but your child was not considered a close contact, you will receive a letter via email letting you know of the positive case. You will need to monitor your child for symptoms and get them tested if symptoms begin to show.

All students who are positive with COVID, are quarantining because of being a close contact, or are a sibling of a positive family member may join remote learning during their time out of school. If you are absent because of respiratory symptoms or other confirmed illness, you may receive your work on google classroom or from your teacher via email. **ONLY COVID RELATED CASES MAY LEARN REMOTELY DURING THEIR QUARANTINE TIME AT HOME.**

I understand that the NJ Department of Health has changed quarantine days for the general public. AS OF TODAY, 12/30, THERE HAVE BEEN NO CHANGES MADE FOR K-12 SCHOOLS. Therefore, schools are being directed to follow the current K-12 school quarantine and testing procedures from December 15th. Since we are a high transmission state we have taken the current NJDOH guides and expanded on them where necessary:

If your child is positive with COVID, whether you are vaccinated or unvaccinated, you remain home for 14 days from the date you found out that you were positive and must provide a negative PCR test before returning to school.

If your child was exposed to a household member who lives with them in their home, you remain home and quarantine for 14 days if you are unvaccinated and provide a negative PCR test to return. If your child is vaccinated, they quarantine, get tested on the 5-7th day of exposure, and may return on the 8th day after **both** the household member and the child test negative with a PCR test. If the household member does not test negative they remain home until 10 days is reached.

If you were exposed as a close contact (being within 6 ft. of a person for more than 15 min.) and they do not live in your home, (they are outside your home or in class) your child quarantines and should be tested within 5-7 days of their exposure and must show a negative test to return to school if they are unvaccinated. If your child is vaccinated, they can return to school if they have NO symptoms and need to provide a negative test within 5-7 days of exposure. If they have symptoms, they follow the rules for unvaccinated individuals.

Please use the above guide to calculate whether or not your child can return to school on Monday, January 3, 2022. All tests must be PCR tests to return to school until further notice.

I understand that everyone has different life and work schedules and that some believe that the virus symptoms are not as strong or deadly this year as the same time last year. What we need to remember is that although we all have different views and beliefs, the school's job is to make sure that we cut down transmission between students and school employees as much as possible. It is our job as administrators and educators as well as Christians to have empathy and support each other during times of adversity and stress rather than get angry and tear each other down. Our admissions team and school nurse are here to help you and do what is safe for ALL of our students and employees of the school. I ask that we have mutual respect for each other and get through this adverse and difficult time together. We will reassess our situation at the end of the week and report to you. We are praying that this spike in transmission is a short term occurrence and we will be able to return to a more normal and stable situation very soon.

Please contact me at sbapincipal@stbacademy.org with any questions. We will call anyone who emailed over the break on Monday morning if you are not in school to get an update about your COVID situation. **** This letter is subject to change as the NJDOE or NJDOH changes protocols.

God bless and I wish all of you a Happy and healthy New Year!

Ms. Harrigan, Principal

