

# St. James School

## Frequently Asked Questions

Our complete re-opening plan can be found on our website at [www.stjamesk-6.org](http://www.stjamesk-6.org).

**Q: What time does the school day start?**

**A:** We have tentative times for our school day. The times are subject to change based on the transportation provided by Gouverneur Central School. These are the tentative times:

**K-6** - School day 8:05-2:35. Students may be dropped off at 7:40 am unless other arrangements have been made with the principal.

**Preschool (3 year olds)** - 8:15-10:45am. Students will be walked to the front door and the teacher will meet them in the lobby.

**PreK (4 year olds)** - 11:30- 2:30 Students will be walked to the front door and the teacher will meet them in the lobby.

**Q: What will dismissal look like?**

**A: Dismissal of PreK-6** - Our plan for dismissal is dependent on the bus pick up time. We hope to dismiss bus students first and then schedule family pick ups. We'd like to stagger the family pick up to allow for better traffic flow. Two pick up times will be assigned. Parents will pull up to the school or park and walk to the sidewalk. Once our staff member identifies the parent (by sight), she will notify the office for dismissal of the child and the child will exit the building and meet the parent outside. **Preschool Dismissal** will occur similarly with parents pulling up to the curb and meeting their student.

**Q: Can my child still ride the bus?**

**A: Yes,** the public school is required to transport children that request it. Requests can be made through our school office with a transportation request form. At this time, we have been told that St. James students will be riding the bus together and not mingle with the public school students.

**Q: Will my child need to wear a mask all day?**

**A:** No, masks will be worn when the child is moving about the school and unable to maintain 6 feet of distance. Examples are when the child needs to use the communal bathroom or when students are picking up school lunches. Masks will not need to be worn during instructional time when students are seated for instruction. We have also planned for distancing during music, P.E. classes, and art to allow students to participate without wearing masks.

**Q: What color mask does my child need?**

**A:** Masks can be any material as long as the pattern is school appropriate. Mask colors do not need to follow our uniform policy colors at this time.

**Q. What type of mask does my child need? Can he or she wear a shield instead?**

**A:** The state guidance requires staff and students to wear “cloth face coverings.” This would include masks, bandanas or scarves, or “gators” that pull up from the neck. Face shields may be worn in addition to the cloth face coverings for extra protection if desired.

**Q: Will kids be stuck at their desks all day? Or, how will they be able to move around/interact/play?**

**A:** We do not expect students to be seated at desks all day. Many teachers now use frequent breaks and incorporate physical movement as part of their lessons. Students will still have the opportunity to participate in both recess and P.E. (K-6). Cooperative activities will be planned and students will wear masks when they are working or playing closely together and are unable to maintain 6 feet of distance.

**Q: What if I decide I don't want my child to attend school in person 5 days?**

**A:** 80% of the families that completed our survey indicated that it was important for their child to attend in person instruction. The majority of families also responded they would choose 5 days of in person instruction. Our plan is for 5 days at this time. Virtual learning all year is not an option at this time. It may be necessary at some point to move to remote learning based on the NYS mandates and we will make the necessary adjustments to do that. Students will be taught how to use their Chromebooks and the platforms used for remote learning in the first weeks of school.

**Q: If I decide to homeschool my child, can we return next year?**

**A:** Homeschooling is an option and your instructional plan must be approved by Gouverneur Central School District. You would be reporting to the Gouverneur District. If you are choosing to homeschool, please inform us immediately. St. James has open enrollment so we accept new students at any time during the school year. You are welcomed back as long as there is room in the class. We have a maximum class size of 15 students and have started waiting lists for classes that are currently at that limit.

**Q: Can I still send a bagged lunch for my child?**

**A:** Yes. Parents will still have the option to send a bag lunch for their child or children will have the option to order a school lunch.

**Q: Can my child still bring snack?**

**A:** In grades 3-6, each student will continue to bring their own snack. In grades Preschool-2nd, during this pandemic, snacks must be prepackaged, store bought snacks. This applies to birthday treats as well. Snack procedures are subject to change by the teacher.

**Q: How will you be screening staff and students for COVID-19 symptoms?**

**A:** We are going to depend on parents to monitor their children and not send them to school if they are exhibiting potential symptoms, including an elevated temperature. Students who are dropped off by a parent, will be screened for temperature at the door, as well. Random screening for bus students will occur at the door. Teachers will be instructed to send students with apparent symptoms to the school nurse. For employees, there will be a daily screening process.

**Q: What happens if my child is sick in school?**

**A:** The public school is required to provide equitable health services to our private school students. If your child is exhibiting any COVID symptoms during the day, especially a fever, loss of taste/smell and a cough, the public school nurse will be called to come evaluate your child. She will make the determination if the child needs to be sent home and you will be contacted. Any child who is exhibiting COVID symptoms will be isolated from other children in a separate sick room which is adjacent to the principal's office and will be supervised by a staff member.

**Q: What will happen when there is a suspected or positive case of COVID-19 in the school?**

**A:** St. Lawrence County is automatically contacted whenever there is a positive case in the county. If a staff member or student tests positive, Public Health will work with our school nurses to begin the process of identifying all of the individuals the patient had close contact with. Close contact is defined as closer than 6 feet apart for 15 minutes or longer. Close contacts will be notified directly by Public Health of their possible exposure to the virus so that they can be tested and begin the quarantine process. Once contacts have been identified, Public Health will advise us as to next steps.