



**2021-2022**

**School Reopening Plan**



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# ReOpening St Joseph High School



## Mission Statement

St Joseph High School is an independent Catholic college preparatory community that educates and motivates young women and men to live purposeful lives as ethical leaders committed to the common good of all.

## Responding to Covid-19

The following plan has been created in order to protect the students, faculty, and staff of St Joseph High School. It has been created with careful attention to executive orders, Center for Disease Control (CDC), State of Connecticut Office of the Governor, and the Town of Trumbull Department of Health guidelines. This plan is subject to change as necessary. The health and safety of our community is of paramount importance.

## STRONGER, TOGETHER

Dear Friends,

Greetings from St Joes. I hope this summer has provided you and yours with an opportunity for restorative rest and many fun activities. Here at St Joes, we are eagerly counting the days until we welcome our Cadets back to campus to fill our hallways with friendship, laughter, and conversation. We are grateful to begin the year with full in-person return to celebrate Welcome Week together with the roaring school spirit for which SJ is revered.

Let's continue to faithfully pray for the easing of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact and its associated restrictions. I/we clearly understand and share your frustration with the current universal mask mandate inside CT schools. However, we will all rise above our personal disappointment and begin this new school year with great optimism and unwavering resolve. Cadets Carry On and we are always stronger together!

In adherence to Connecticut State Executive Order No. 13A, all St Joseph High School students, faculty, staff, and visitors must wear a mask while indoors on campus until the next mandate check point of September 30, 2021. Mask-wearing is not how we had hoped to reopen for the 2021-2022 school year, however, our robust program and engaging opportunities for SJHS students will continue. That said, our vibrant community's spirit, dedication, and accomplishments cannot be stifled by a face covering. Nor will a face covering distract from our mission to provide outstanding college preparatory academic instruction and social opportunities for young adults in pursuit of their talents and passion. As is customary for St. Joes, we will confidently "lean in" to this ongoing challenge and achieve success.

We are committed to maintaining the proper balance between a return to normalcy and the safety of our school community and will thoughtfully adjust our practices and minimize mandated restrictions when permitted. I am grateful for the opportunity to partner with your family to make the upcoming 2021-2022 academic year a fulfilling experience for all SJ Cadets. May God bless you and your family.

In Faith and Fellowship,



David J. Klein  
President



## OVERVIEW

St Joseph High School will reopen with full in-person, on-campus attendance. In alignment with the Center for Disease Control (CDC), State of Connecticut Office of the Governor, and the Town of Trumbull Department of Health, St Joseph High School will implement the following safety protocols detailed herein until otherwise directed, including:

- Mask wearing for all students and adults while inside the building, regardless of vaccination status
- Social distancing of three feet or more within classrooms, lunch rooms, and meeting spaces
- Health observation and school disinfection protocols

### **Plan Evaluation & Communication**

This reopening plan, including mask mandates and social distancing, will be continuously evaluated and enhanced as new reports and agency guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), State of Connecticut Office of the Governor, and the Town of Trumbull Department of Health, become available. We will continuously communicate the evaluation of our plan to ensure the safety of our students, implement immediate change as needed, and ease restrictions as soon as responsibly possible.

### **Transparency & Contact Tracing**

Should a student, faculty, or staff member test positive for Covid-19, we will inform the SJ community. We will not release the name or personal details of that individual. Additionally, should a student be in contact (closer than three feet) with the individual who tested positive for more than 15 minutes, a contact tracing notification will be sent.

### **Quarantine**

Students identified during contact tracing protocols as having been in contact (closer than three feet for more than 15 minutes) with an individual with a medically-confirmed positive case of COVID-19 will be required to quarantine for 10 days. Should an individual identified during contact tracing be fully-vaccinated, and not showing symptoms, they may waive quarantine requirements by providing our School Nurse a copy of their vaccination card. Students who are unvaccinated and quarantined will not be allowed to shorten the quarantine period with a negative test result.



## **COVID-19 Vaccination & Testing**

St Joseph High School does not require individuals to be tested or vaccinated for COVID-19, nor provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination to the school. However, should an individual be identified as a close contact of someone with a medically-confirmed COVID-19 case, they may provide their vaccination card to avoid quarantine as detailed above. A student may provide a vaccination card to the School Nurse to keep confidentially on record in advance of the school year. All contacts of a medically-confirmed COVID-19 case will be notified of close contact regardless of vaccination status.

## **Virtual Learning**

At this time, St Joseph High School will not offer a virtual education plan (short or long term). It is of primary importance that the focus of our instruction return to in-person class engagement. Should a student require an extended absence, the Director of the Student Academic Center and student's College & School Counselor will prepare a personalized academic success plan as needed.

## **Learning Model Adjustments & School Closure**

As required, we will report any student, faculty, or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 to the Trumbull Department of Health and the Superintendent of the Diocese of Bridgeport. We will follow the reporting, notification, population mitigation, and closure guidelines that the Department of Health and CDC stipulate. The school will be thoroughly disinfected after a positive case is identified or if closure is required. SJHS administration will remain in very close contact with the Trumbull Department of Public Health to determine if hybrid learning models or school closure is necessary due to in-school infection rates. Should the need to revert to a hybrid or virtual model arise, St Joseph High School is technologically prepared as equipment has been installed in every classroom and all faculty have been trained on distance-learning technology and instruction.

## **Calendar of Events**

The most up to date St Joseph High School Calendar of events is available under the "Welcome" tab on our website: [www.sjcadets.org/calendar](http://www.sjcadets.org/calendar). The calendar will reflect all changes needed to ensure all school sponsored events follow the Center for Disease Control, State of Connecticut Office of the Governor, and the Town of Trumbull Department of Health guidelines. Changes will also be communicated via the "This Week at St Joes" e-newsletter. While events may be delivered in an alternative manner, St Joseph High School remains committed to ensuring our students enjoy the full "St Joes Experience" throughout the school year.



## Family-School Partnership

The successful return to school is contingent upon full adherence to the safety plan detailed within. St Joseph High School administrators, faculty, staff, students and parents are asked to comply with our community pledge and code of conduct detailing transparency of communication, self-screening, quarantine and compliance with COVID-19 safety and exposure protocols. The Family-School Partnership, including this pledge, self-screening guidance, and general expectations can be found on page 16 as well as on our website at: [www.sjcadets.org/handbook](http://www.sjcadets.org/handbook).





# Disinfecting Protocols

## Sanitization

All cleaning and disinfecting procedures will continue to follow the highest standards set by St Joseph High School as well as CDC guidelines. Our custodial team is trained in specialized sanitization procedures and provided with all appropriate supplies to meet this goal. In addition, instructional signage will be posted to educate and ensure compliance.

- Door handles, desks, and high contact areas will be given special attention as they will under-go consistent cleaning multiple times a day. Disinfectant will also be supplied to each classroom.
- In addition to the mounted hand sanitizers in the hallways, there will be portable hand sanitizer stations at school entrances. Hand sanitizers will be stocked in each classroom.
- At the lunch break, each classroom will be disinfected via electrostatic cleaning. When students go to lunch, their classrooms will be “fogged.”
- Each night, the crew will be sanitizing the entire school with backpack foggers (all classrooms, touchpoints, etc...).

## Air Quality

St Joseph High School does not recycle air within the building. The exhaust system will run constantly and ensure fresh air is continually introduced. In addition, classroom window fans will be allowed to exhaust air out. If a classroom is deemed to be too hot and unsafe, we will relocate to an alternate location or outside.

*Please see additional sanitization and cleaning protocols under the Campus Facilities on page 12.*



## Personal Safety

*The maintainance of a safe school environment requires the partnership of all in attendance.*

### Personal Protective Equipment

Teachers and students are required to wear masks at all times while indoors; families are unable to opt out of this requirement. If a student forgets their mask or requires a disposable mask, one will be made available to them. Masks must be medically and school-appropriate. Soft color pattern, no logos or text, other than St Joes. Students participating in activities outdoors will not need to wear a mask.

We will have ample opportunity for students to schedule mask breaks outside, socially distanced. Heat and mask break tents will be strategically located on the campus. SJ faculty and staff will monitor students for compliance. Any student who does not comply will be referred to the Dean of Student Life. Faculty will have the option to use Plexiglass screens and/or face shields in addition to their masks. Microphones will be available should teachers need amplification assistance when using PPE.

### Temperature Checks

Students will have their temperatures checked before boarding the SJ buses. We will take the temperature of all faculty, staff, students and any scheduled visitor each day prior to school via kiosks at the front and rear entrances of the school. Kiosk temperature checks take approximately 3 seconds and will not delay student arrival. Kiosks will be monitored by authorized SJ personnel.

### Nurse's Office

In addition to the normal responsibilities of the School Nurse, enhancements were made to carefully address any student presenting with COVID-19 symptoms. Multiple isolation areas (both portable and stationary) for any student with a fever or showing symptoms of illness are available. After the student is dismissed, the area will be disinfected thoroughly according to CDC guidelines. Symptomatic students will be given specific instructions for testing and quarantine according to the directives from the Town of Trumbull Department of Health. Student absenteeism will be closely monitored for any illness trends and reported to the appropriate agencies.



## Arrival & Dismissal

### Drop off/Pick Up

Please take your student's temperature and review self-screening questions before leaving for school in the morning. The school day will remain 7:55am - 2:15pm. The school building will open with supervision in the Media Center beginning at 7:00am and the school building will close at 5:00pm.

Club activities will be held from 2:15pm-2:45pm, athletic activities vary per sport, and service activities vary per opportunity. We request parents to be partners in our commitment to safety. Students should arrive and leave as close to the start of the school day as possible to ensure social distancing and oversight. Students who are not participating in after-school clubs, academic support, or athletic activities are encouraged to leave as close to the end of the school day as possible. The building will open at 7:15am for students who have extenuating circumstances for arrival. The Trumbull bus will leave at 2:25pm and SJ Bus transportation will depart from school at 3:00pm. We are currently evaluating the need for a late bus, which would depart school at 5:00pm and transport students to the Fairfield Metro Train Station.

### Bus Transportation

Students will undergo a temperature check before getting on the SJ bus. Masks will be worn on all buses, regardless of vaccination status in accordance with CDC guidelines. Buses will be disinfected before and after every trip.

### Visitors to Campus

Visitors are subject to temperature checks and must follow all school safety protocols. Appointments are highly suggested.

### **Classroom Set Up & Technology**

Every classroom will be arranged according to Town of Trumbull Department of Health guidelines. All desks will be spaced at a minimum of three feet on all sides and placed in the same direction to minimize air droplet transmission. When possible, windows will be open to provide for increased fresh air circulation. Materials will not be shared by students. “Stop the Spread of Germs” and distancing/safety protocol signs will be prominently posted throughout the building.

### **Music/Choir**

Music classes will still occur. They will be held outdoors whenever possible, or in an area that allows for social distancing of six feet or more.

### **Physical Education**

The Health and Wellness curriculum includes new topics that do not always require gym use. The gym, Health and Wellness Center, and outdoor facilities will continue to be used for socially distanced physical fitness activities. The Health and Wellness Center will still be used at a decreased capacity with increased sanitization protocols. Weather permitting, gym classes will be held outdoors.

### **Assemblies/Mass**

Small assemblies are possible in the gym within social distancing guidelines.



# Campus Facilities

## Hallways/ Stairwells

Traffic in the hallways and stairwells will move in both directions; however, students will walk in one direction keeping to the sides of the hallway.

## Lockers

Lockers in the academic wing and athletic locker rooms **will** be utilized this year. Therefore, students may not carry belongings in book bags throughout the hallways and classrooms. The electromagnetic disinfectant system will allow the facilities team to sanitize the outside of each locker daily.

## Lunchroom

Both cafeterias and alternate spaces will be in use to ensure that social distancing of 3 feet will be followed as mandated. Before and after each lunch wave, the tables and chairs will be sanitized (via electrostatic cleaners). Students will adhere to social distancing on the lunch



food line with physical markings on the floor. Lunches will be offered for purchase (cash or MyKidsSpending ID card) or students have the option to bring lunch from home.

## **Media Center**

The Media Center has been redesigned for reduced capacity including a new, distanced layout. Students will be spaced according to the social distancing mandate. Shared items will be disinfected after each use, including the printer/copier.

## **Restrooms**

Distancing and sanitization signage will be implemented. Bathrooms will be sanitized at least twice a day in addition to nightly cleaning. A cleaning log will be implemented by custodians for sanitization tracking.

## **Water Fountains**

Bottle fillers will be available, all other water fountain features will be disabled. Bottle fillers will be sanitized multiple times throughout the day.





## Athletics & Extracurriculars

### Athletic Games & Practices

The Athletic practice and game schedules, try out information, and parent resources are available at [sjcadets.org/athletics](http://sjcadets.org/athletics) and subject to change per CDC, State of Connecticut Office of the Governor and the Town of Trumbull Department of Health, and CIAC guidelines. If you have a specific question about athletic teams, please contact the coach directly or Mr Kevin Butler at [kbutler@sjcadets.org](mailto:kbutler@sjcadets.org).

Per CDC and CIAC guidelines, spectators will be allowed at games, but limitations may be implemented for large events. Several games will be streamed live via YouTube at no additional cost.

### Clubs

The club schedule will be structured to ensure opportunities for a wide range of extracurricular activities. Clubs will begin to meet on a regular basis starting in mid-September. A Clubs Fair will be available for all new students on September 1.

### Community Service

Service will still be required for all students as part of our school mission. The Campus Ministry Director, Mr Smith, will be a resource for students who need additional ideas for safe, but meaningful volunteer opportunities. Mr Smith can be reached at [jsmith@sjcadets.org](mailto:jsmith@sjcadets.org).

## School Contacts

### Academics

- Scott Clough, Assistant Principal, Curriculum & Instruction, sclough@sjcadets.org

### Athletics

- Kevin Butler, Athletics Director, kbutler@sjcadets.org

### Spiritual Life

- Father Eric Silva, Episcopal Chaplain, esilva@sjcadets.org

### Grades/Schedules

- Alexa Oberle, School Registrar, aoerle@sjcadets.org

### Admissions

- Caroline Burns, Assistant Director of Admission, cburns@sjcadets.org

### College Counseling

- Tim Nash, Director of College & School Counseling, tnash@sjcadets.org

### Mental Health/Anxiety

- Kathleen Seperack, Social Worker, ksperack@sjcadets.org

### Student Academic Center/Tutoring

- Lori Conetta, Student Academic Center Director, lconetta@sjcadets.org

### Student Life

- Matthew Kavulich, Dean of Student Life, mkavulich@sjcadets.org

### Community Service

- Jordan Smith, Director of Campus Ministry, jsmith@sjcadets.org

### Nurse

- Dorothy Miller, dmiller@sjcadets.org



## Family-School Partnership

*This partnership is Addendum I to our 2021-2022 Student/Parent Handbook.*

The successful return to school is contingent upon full adherence to the safety plan detailed in the St Joseph High School Reopening Plan. All SJ faculty, staff, students and parents are asked to comply with our community pledge and partnership agreement. The family-school partnership agreement form will be an addendum to our student-parent handbook. Resources including this pledge, self-screening guidance, and general expectations are available on the Current Family webpage under Campus Life:  
[www.sjcadets.org/familypartnership](http://www.sjcadets.org/familypartnership)

Please review carefully before signing and returning your agreement to Mr Matthew Kavulich, Dean of Student Life, by September 10, 2021

### **School Administrators, Faculty and Staff**

St Joseph High School will:

- Provide an environment which has been risk assessed in response to COVID-19
- Adhere to the social distancing guidance set by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), State of Connecticut, and Trumbull Board of Health guidelines.
- Adhere to protective measures and hygiene controls to reduce the risk of infection as recommended by the CDC, State of Connecticut, and Trumbull Board of Health guidelines.
- Provide professional medical care and proper isolation for any individual displaying symptoms of COVID-19. Should a student, faculty, or staff member test positive for COVID-19, transparent and prompt communication will be sent to inform the community. The name or personal details of COVID-19 positive individual(s) will be protected.
- Provide a rigorous curricular instruction complemented by tutoring and College and School Counseling resources. Provide varied spiritual, extracurricular, and social opportunities for student engagement.

### **Parent Agreement**

Our family agrees to:

- Check my student's temperature and self-screen for symptoms before commuting to school. Inform St Joseph High School if my student, or anyone in my household:
  - ◇ shows symptoms of Covid-19

- ◊ has traveled to an area on the state travel advisory list
- ◊ has been in contact with a Covid-19 positive person
- ◊ has been given a recommendation from a health professional to self-isolate
- Follow the instructions for self-isolation and quarantine given by the school health official (in collaboration with the CDC, State of Connecticut, and Trumbull Board of Health).
- Pick up my student from school immediately if my student shows symptoms of COVID-19 while at school and follow the quarantine instructions given by the school health official before returning to school.
- Wear a mask and adhere to the 3-foot social distancing rules when dropping off and picking up my child, and while on school grounds.
- Adhere to the school drop off and pick up times for my child.
- Understand that I will be subject to all safety protocols and temperature checks before entering the building. Appointments can be made by calling the representative office.
- Support all staff in their efforts to create a safe environment during this time.

## **Student Agreement**

I agree to:

- Follow the safety and sanitization directions of all faculty and staff members the first time and every time.
- Follow the rules displayed around campus that are intended to keep myself and others safe:
  - ◊ Follow the 3-foot social distancing rule while traveling to, in school, and on my commute home.
  - ◊ Sanitize my hands upon entering the school.
  - ◊ Not share any of my materials, technology, or food with others.
  - ◊ Wear my mask while indoors. If outdoors, and the mask is removed, I will maintain a 3-foot social distance from the nearest person.
- Wear a proper mask to school daily:
  - ◊ A mask must be clean, properly fitting, cover both the nose and mouth, and allow for hands-free stability.
  - ◊ A mask must be a solid color or soft-patterned.
  - ◊ Masks will not contain any text or logos other than official St Joseph High School branding. Masks are subject to review by Administration.
- Tell an adult if I feel unwell or have any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Only enter and exit the school building through the designated entrances and exits.
- Follow the above expectations and know that if I do not, I will be sent home and will not be able to return to school until granted permission by the Dean of Student Life.



For Any Questions, Please Reach out to  
Matthew Kavulich, MM  
Dean of Student Life  
St Joseph High School  
mkavulich@sjcadets.org | 203.378.9378 x301

A downloadable version of this form will be available on our Handbook webpage.

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Print Name

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Date

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Signature







## Prayer to Saint Joseph

Be pleased, dear St Joseph,  
to accept this dedication  
we make of ourselves to thee.  
We dedicate ourselves wholly to thee,  
that thou mayest ever be  
our father, our patron, and our guide  
in the way of salvation.

Obtain for us great purity of heart  
and a fervent devotion to the interior life.

Grant that following thine example  
we may direct all our actions  
to the greater glory of God,  
in union with the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
and the Immaculate Heart of Mary  
and in union with thee.

Finally, pray for us that we may be  
partakers in the peace and joy  
which were thine  
at the hour of thy holy death.

Amen.

Saint Joseph our Patron.

Pray for us.