



St. Michael's
Country Day School

FALL 2020 PLAN



LEARN WITH CONFIDENCE, LEAD WITH CHARACTER,
ACHIEVE LASTING SUCCESS

OUR APPROACH

St. Michael's Country Day School is committed to providing a safe, authentic, challenging, and mission-driven educational experience for students this fall. The coming year will require all members of the community to be flexible, creative, and quick to action as we continue to navigate uncharted waters. This document provides an overview of the possibilities of what things may look like on campus, though we expect that we will need to make adjustments in line with any shifting guidance we receive from governmental authorities. While we anticipate that operations will not be normal for a while, the strength and commitment of our faculty, the spaciousness of our campus and the ongoing work of our administrative and facilities team throughout the summer will ensure that we will be ready in the fall.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Everything we do at SMS is guided by our mission. In addition, our focus is on:

HEALTH AND SAFETY

As always, the health and safety of our students and staff are central to all our planning. We are working within state guidelines and recommendations to ensure a safe school environment.



EQUITY AND ACCESS

We are dedicated to making a St. Michael's education accessible to all of our students. Our 1:1 device program will be expanded and we are investigating our options to enhance the educational experience of students when/if they need to be off campus.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

We are reviewing our curricular course of study and the structure of our school day to make the most of our resources. We are also exploring additional systems and technology that will ensure the experience of our students in this new environment continues to reflect the high quality of a St. Michael's education.



SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Central to a St. Michael's education is the pursuit of academic excellence alongside relationships that foster a true sense of being seen and known. Students thrive when they feel connected to their teachers, their school community and each other.



SCENARIO 1



On-Campus Pod-Based Learning

A return to on-campus learning in the fall is our goal. Our open campus, numerous buildings, flexible classrooms, and outdoor spaces make St. Michael's well-suited for on-campus learning. This said, school will look different this year and we will follow the guidance offered by health officials and the state as we open up the campus.

Classroom Configuration/Stable Pods

Our main focus is on developing stable groups/pods of students that fit within the Rhode Island guidelines. Having stable pods limits interaction between students across the school, helping to minimize the spread of the virus. In addition, we are rethinking which classroom spaces will be used to allow for the social distance of students to the extent possible. St. Michael's is fortunate to have ample classroom and outdoor spaces to accommodate all of our students on campus at the same time. Pods will meet in classrooms or other flexible spaces and will remain together throughout the day.

Health and Safety of the SMCDS Community

We will follow state and local health guidelines and those developed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). We are developing protocols for health screening and social distancing and are exploring a variety of other safety measures. Families should anticipate that students and employees will likely need to wear masks during portions of the school day and may be asked to take other precautionary measures. Last year the school invested in new sanitizing equipment and we are adding additional hand sanitizing.

Drop off and Pick Up

Drop off and pick up procedures are being reviewed to ensure safety. Parents will likely not be allowed into the buildings on campus, but our processes will ensure that even our youngest students will arrive in their classrooms securely and comfortably.

Campus Updates

Our facility team has been hard at work. The team is working to construct necessary barriers to help separate pods and have installed additional hand sanitizing stations in and out of doors throughout campus. The ventilation systems in each building have received maintenance checks and have been tuned up for optimal air movement, with additional fans being installed in key locations to enhance airflow.



SCENARIO 2

Hybrid Learning



While our aim is to be on campus as a whole school come the fall, we are preparing for multiple scenarios in which some students would be on campus, while others are off. Our 1 to 1 laptop program is being expanded into the lower grades and we are investing in other technology upgrades that will improve our distance learning program including the addition of live-streaming technology. We can expect that some students and families will need to quarantine at home and we want to make sure that the curriculum is accessible during this time.



SCENARIO 3



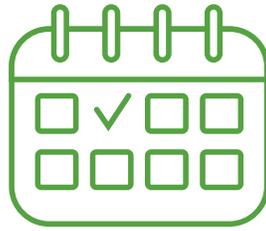
Off-Campus Distance Learning



We will be prepared to move quickly to online learning should health guidelines change. As part of our preparedness plan, we have enhanced our technology to ensure that every student will have what they need to fully participate in our program remotely.

Faculty are reassessing the curriculum in light of this potential scenario and will have materials ready should there be a need to move immediately to distance learning.

TIMELINE FOR DECISION MAKING



June

Reopening Task Force and Teams formed, survey to families sent out, and continued planning for all three reopening options.

July

Based on guidelines outlined by the state, decide details of reopening options. St. Michael's Returning to School Guide (overview of reopen plan) will be sent to all current and new families.

August

Based on requirements and guidelines from the state, decide how we will return to school in the fall. A comprehensive COVID handbook detailing exactly what to expect for the opening of school will be sent out.

September

Welcome back days will be staggered throughout the week of August 31st- September 4th. The first day of school will happen on Tuesday, September 8!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Returning to Campus

What kinds of health screening procedures will be in place?

We anticipate a health screening of each student each day, however we are still determining exactly what that will look like in order to find the best method.

Will access to campus for parents be similar?

Yes. Campus access for families, visitors, and prospective students will be limited in order to keep our learning space as safe as possible. Specific information to follow.

Will I need to pack a lunch?

Yes. We do not anticipate being able to offer catered lunch options this year in a way that complies with current health and safety recommendations.

Learning

What if our family needs to do distance learning because of quarantine or health concerns?

As mentioned in the hybrid scenario above, we are working to make the program accessible to students even if they need to be out of school.

Will my child be required to wear a mask? How about teachers?

We are reviewing the guidelines and research on this topic. We do anticipate that adults on campus will be required to wear masks and that students, to a certain degree, will too. Our main goal will be to protect both students and staff and the purpose of the mask is to protect other people.

Athletics

What will our athletic program look like this year?

We have not determined this yet, but recognize that athletics are an important part of the educational experience.

Will children participate in PE?

P.E. will still be a part of our curriculum.

Performing Arts

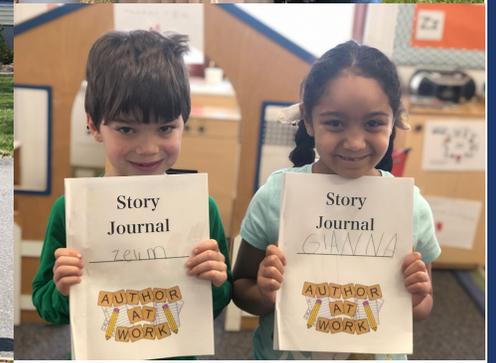
Will there be theater, chorus, and band?

We are hoping that we will be able to continue these programs in a modified fashion, but will continue to review guidelines.

THE BENEFIT OF CHOOSING A ST. MICHAEL'S EDUCATION



At its core, a St. Michael's education combines the pursuit of academic excellence with relationships that foster a true sense of each child being seen, known, heard, and valued. It is this relationship-driven learning experience that fosters a sense of community that distinguishes our school from any other and fulfills the mission of St. Michael's.



OUR PLANNING TEAM

Reopening Task Force

Our strength at St. Michael's comes from the expertise that lies in our community. As we respond to evolving state guidelines, best practices, and emerging science on COVID-19, we have sought advice from experts in medicine, public health, and education. We have also created the following working groups within our own community that represent a diverse group of SMS community members in order to help us prepare and make recommendations that serve our students and further our mission.



Reopening Task Force:

Walter Landberg (Chair)
Isabella Ridall
Mervan Osborne
Sandy Merten
Jeff Day
Lauren Abraham
Ted Ferry

Academic Team:

Lauren Abraham (Chair)
Colleen Welsh
Courtney Huth
Jessica Costa
Bernadette Griffin
Jeff Day
Walter Landberg

Operations Team:

Ted Ferry (Chair)
Megan Buchanan
Deb Perez
Walter Landberg
Jennifer Huntley

Physical Space Team

Jeff Day (Chair)
Ted Ferry
Marc Lennon
Sean Cullen
Walter Landberg
Phil Tutino