



# Saint Margaret of Scotland

## Catholic School in Saint Louis, Missouri

February 25, 2021

Dear Parents of St. Margaret of Scotland School,

Thank you for your support during the challenges of this pandemic. We are continually amazed at the level of grace given to each other, the teachers, and the children at St. Margaret of Scotland School. We recognize the hardships that many families are going through and our goal remains to provide a safe, flexible, enriching learning environment for our students while being vigilant for the most vulnerable in our St. Margaret of Scotland community.

For fourth-quarter, St. Margaret of Scotland School intends to continue to implement these teaching and learning models:

### **In-Person Learning**

- The in-person learning option will accommodate four days per week of in-person learning for grades, K – 8.
- Kindergarten - 8th Grade Students will be on campus Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- Wednesdays will continue as virtual learning days to give teachers the opportunity to assess our full virtual learners, as well as to do additional cleaning in the buildings.
- Teachers and students will adhere to a physical distancing of 6 feet apart, per CDC guidance and results from parent and teacher surveys.
- PreK Students will be on campus Monday-Friday.

### **Full-Virtual Learning**

- The full-virtual learning option will be offered through the end of the 2020-21 school year.
- Based on focus group feedback and survey results, administration will continue to work with teachers, parents, and students.
- Areas of growth identified as priorities: Opportunities to work with teachers and learning consultants and creating opportunities for socialization with students.

With Spring Break approaching, we ask each St. Margaret of Scotland family to be mindful of how their personal decisions affect others in our community. **Whether due to travel, family gatherings, holiday parties, or sporting events: Students who are NOT able to follow the precautions agreed upon in the COVID-19 procedure parental agreement, are asked to virtually learn from home for 14 days.** We ask that all families revisit the parental agreement listed below and use it as a guideline to recommit yourselves to the safety of our school community.

#### COVID-19 PROCEDURE PARENTAL AGREEMENT

- I have read and understood the Return to Learn plan issued July 31, 2020, and the Quarter Three plans put forth by St. Margaret of Scotland, hereinafter referred to as "the Plan"
- I understand that if I choose to allow my student(s) to attend in person, rather than through virtual learning, I am agreeing to abide by the Plan, and certify that all members of my family agree to do so. I understand that by signing this agreement, I am signing on behalf of my student(s) and all family members.
- I agree to notify St. Margaret of Scotland School immediately should my student, myself, or any family member become exposed to COVID-19, as set forth in the Return to Learn Plan issued July 31, 2020, and that my failure to do so can and will result in appropriate action.
- I agree that should it be necessary, that I will see and execute all necessary medical appointments and testing as set forth in the Return to Learn Plan issued July 31, 2020.
- I understand that I am ultimately responsible for any third-party caregiver's (grandparent, babysitter, etc) compliance with the Plan and that a third-party caregiver's failure to abide by the Plan will be imputed to me.
- I agree that any willful attempt to subvert the COVID-19 safety procedures in any way can and will result in appropriate action being taken on behalf of St. Margaret of Scotland School, including but not limited to involuntary placement on virtual learning for a period to be determined by school administration, suspension of my student(s) from school, up to and including expulsion from St. Margaret of Scotland School.
- I acknowledge that in the event my student is required to transition to virtual learning due to school shut down, due to any provision of the COVID-19 safety procedures, or due to a finding by the administration that our family is in violation of Paragraph (3) or Paragraph (6), I am not entitled to any refund or discount in tuition.
- I acknowledge that if I have any objection to the Plan, or believe my family will not be able to follow any provision of the Plan for any reason, I will alert St. Margaret of Scotland School in writing and that my student will not attend school until such objections have been formally resolved.

If you have any questions we will do our best, with guidance from the Department of Health, to help families assess the potential risks from outside activities. We know that setting restrictions can be an inconvenience, but we consider it a necessity to limit the potential spread of Covid-19 infection in our school following Spring Break. As of right now, **St. Margaret of Scotland School will not be pivoting to the full virtual learning model the week after Spring Break. We are relying on our school community to make good decisions and self-quarantine if needed.**

We are aware that many families will likely gather for Easter, regardless of St. Margaret of Scotland's recommendations to avoid gathering with anyone outside of immediate household members. Following our previous holiday breaks, St. Margaret of Scotland found success mitigating the transmission of the virus by switching to the full-virtual model. **We will continue to use this plan following the Easter holiday. ALL students, Pre-Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grades, will be in the full virtual learning model the week after Easter break, Tuesday, April 6 through Friday, April 9th.** This plan is approved by our Department of Health contact, and allows for an incubation period following Easter to mitigate any transmission of the virus that may happen over the holiday.

We recognize that the pivot to full-virtual will be particularly difficult for some families. If you are an essential worker or a family that has both parents who work outside the home, and this situation creates a hardship for you, we want to help. Please fill out the attached form by Thursday, March 25, and we will contact you to help find a way to best support you. [Virtual Learning Model Support Form](#)

The vaccine is currently only being administered through healthcare networks (Mercy, SSM, BJC, etc.) and local health departments (St. Louis County, etc.). St. Margaret of Scotland has encouraged all faculty and staff members who wish to receive the COVID-19 vaccine to pre-register with healthcare systems and local health departments. When our Teachers have access to receive the vaccine, we make accommodations to ensure they do not miss the opportunity. Missouri is currently vaccinating individuals who fall into the Phase 1B - Tier 2 priority phase. Teachers are up next in the Phase 1B - Tier 3 priority phase. It is our hope that Teachers will have at least one dose of the vaccination by April.

St. Margaret of Scotland is committed to continuing to provide a safe environment for learning, but we need your help. St. Margaret of Scotland Staff (teachers, administrators, maintenance, daily cleaning crew) are all doing our best every day to keep the children socially distanced,

cohorts separated, masks on, washing hands, disinfecting, and making wise decisions regarding gatherings. I ask that you, the SMOS Families do the same.

We rely on your prayers, patience, and cooperation. St. Margaret of Scotland, pray for us!

Rev. Matthew O'Toole

Mrs. Clare Young

Ms. Christine Burke

Pastor

Principal

Assistant Principal