



# Saint Margaret of Scotland

## Catholic School in Saint Louis, Missouri

March 25, 2021

Dear St. Margaret of Scotland Parents,

Over the last week, we have been collecting feedback from School Board members, Health and Safety committee members, and St. Margaret of Scotland Teachers.

Last night, at the School Board meeting, members of the School Board and Health and Safety reviewed all the feedback and the [new CDC guidelines](#). From those discussions, St. Margaret of Scotland has decided to implement the following changes to our fourth quarter plan.

### **In Person Learning Following Easter Break**

St. Margaret of Scotland will have in person learning the week following Easter Break.

Students in K-8 will have in person learning Tuesday, April 6, Thursday, April 8 and Friday, April 9 following Easter break. Wednesday, April 7 will be a virtual learning day for K-8 students.

Preschool students will have in person learning Tuesday, April 6, Wednesday, April 7, Thursday, April 8 and Friday, April 9 following Easter break.

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](#) and use it as a guideline to recommit themselves to the safety of our school community.

### **Q4 Plan Changes**

St. Margaret of Scotland's third, fourth, and sixth grades will transition from three classrooms back to two classrooms. The CDC recently released new guidelines stating that elementary

students should be at least 3 feet apart. The first and second grades will remain in three classrooms. The Teachers believe that their students have been in this routine since the beginning of the school year, and switching would be a disruption. The third, fourth, and sixth-grade Teachers believe moving back to two homerooms will greatly improve the learning environment and engagement of students. We will continue to maintain 6 feet of distance in the following settings:

- Between adults, and between adults and students, at all times in the school building.
- When masks cannot be worn, such as when eating. Students in third, fourth, and sixth grades will split into three groups for lunch in order to maintain 6ft distance.
- During activities when increased exhalation occurs, such as singing, shouting, band, or sports and exercise.
- In common areas.

Another significant change is that students will be considered grade-level cohorts instead of class cohorts. Because of this change, students will now be able to play with other students in their grade level outside at recess. Students may also play competitive sports, like soccer, at recess while remaining masked.

### **Wednesdays will remain virtual for K-8**

The School Board advised the St. Margaret of Scotland administration team to consider our Teachers, their mental health, Teacher exhaustion, and virtual learners while making the decision about returning to in person learning on Wednesdays for the last nine weeks of the school year. After discussions and deliberation, St. Margaret of Scotland has decided Wednesdays will remain virtual learning days until the end of the 2020-21 school year with the exception of the last day of school on May 26.

### **Last day of school on, May 26, will be In-Person with 12:15 Dismissal**

The last day of the 2020-21 school year for PreK - 7th grade students will be Wednesday, May 26. Students will celebrate their last day of school in person. There will be a 12:15 dismissal.

St. Margaret of Scotland will continue to implement transmission prevention strategies. Ventilation, handwashing, disinfecting surfaces, grade level cohorting, and ill students and staff staying home from school will continue to be important layers of protection. Please continue to stay vigilant and keep school informed if any of your direct family members are in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid 19.

We thank God for all of our many blessings that our School Community continues to stay safe and healthy throughout this pandemic. May we all have a blessed Holy Week and joyous observance of Easter.

Fr. Matthew O'Toole

Mrs. Clare Young

Ms. Christine Burke

Pastor

Principal

Assistant Principal

