

Hello parents and families, I hope summer is going well for your families and everyone is safe and well. I appreciate the effort from all of our families and staff in making things work to our best abilities for March, April, and May. I am so happy and proud we kept education going for our St. Anthony School children daily.

As you know things change weekly and sometimes daily around the city and state. All schools had to submit their Return to Learn plans to the Department of Education by Wednesday this week. I have a team of teachers and staff that meet weekly to discuss plans for school in the fall. We will make adjustments as needed. Our plan was also done in collaboration with our superintendent and the administrators in the Diocese of Des Moines. Our plan has 3 parts.

- being in the classrooms fully with more safety measures in place
- a hybrid model where students would be home some days and at school some days – the purpose of this would be to be able to have more spacing between students in the rooms and other places in the buildings, so students would come to school in smaller groups
- at home full time doing online learning – but it would be adjusted from feedback we received in the spring – things went well in general, but we know there are things we can do better and some ways we can ease the burden on families

We will be prepared for any of these three options, depending on what is happening closer to **our first day of school, which is still Monday, August 24. I want to let you know that at this time we plan to be in school in the fall. We plan to start school in the fall with students in the classrooms, while taking every precaution to ensure the teachers' and students' safety.** We will listen to and respect family decisions and we will provide opportunities for all students to have an outstanding learning experience. We may also need to switch from one option to another, again depending on what is happening in the city and state. Our goal is to have students in the building with the peers and learning from their teachers. We want to be able to be with them to continue to strengthen their education, grow their faith, and support their social and emotional health.

To make in classroom instruction possible, all of us: the staff, students, and parents will have a shared responsibility to follow best practices in regards to helping mitigate the spread of illness. We will be implementing strict new protocols with cleaning, student entry, classroom structure, and other logistics of the school day, and we will continue to rely on the expertise and guidance of our public health officials.

If you will need busing for next year, an email will come to you in the next couple of days asking if you need busing. Please return it by July 15.

I will continue to send you updates on the Return to Learn plan as needed. Please reach out anytime.

*Ms. Jennifer Raes, Principal St. Anthony School*