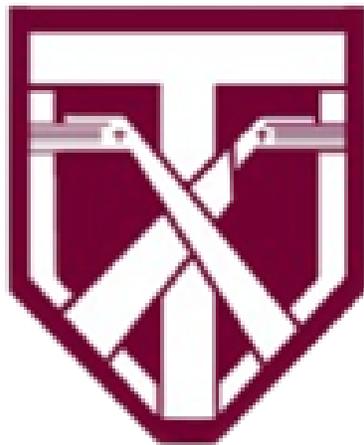


2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR PLAN

St. Margaret Regional School



INTRODUCTION

Catholic schools provide an environment in which we consistently model Gospel values and Church teachings and traditions in the image of Jesus Christ. All students experience an academically challenging curriculum that helps them to grow closer to God by learning about themselves and His world, while preparing them to succeed at every level. At St. Margaret Regional School, our mission statement says:

Inspired by the lives of Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, St. Margaret Regional School provides a challenging curriculum complimented by Catholic traditions, engaging activities, and competitive athletic programs that nurture a child's spiritual, intellectual and physical development. As a Catholic environment, enriched by prayer and the tradition of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Infant Jesus, the school creates a foundation for children in preschool through eighth grade to realize their potential as children of God.

We believe that this mission is best carried out when students, faculty, and staff can be together, in person, as a Catholic community. This belief was reinforced during the 2020-2021 school year, when parents and their children, along with the leadership, faculty, and staff of our school, made personal sacrifices every day for the good of all members of the community so that the majority of students could be in school every day from September through June. We were blessed to have been able to meet our goal of having as many students as possible come to school every day safely. In the process, we learned much that has influenced our preparations for the 2021-2022 school year. Our goal for the coming school year remains the same, and we will welcome all students back to the classroom in September. Our process for achieving that goal is influenced by the lessons we learned last year, a review of current guidelines, data on the status of COVID-19 in our community, and input from public health officials, educators, parents, and others.

We have created this plan to aid families as they prepare for the 2021-2022 school year and to guide our decisions, procedures, and protocols as a school community. It is intended to help employees, students, and families understand how we will promote health and safety together to reduce the potential impact that COVID-19 may have on our community. **It is expected that as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, new guidance may mean that aspects of this plan will need to be updated or changed.** Therefore, necessary updates will be made to this plan based on information provided by local public health officials, guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and applicable federal, state and local agencies, and our experience of how well it is working every day in school. We will inform all members of the school community of changes as soon as they occur.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In order to ensure the continued well-being of our employees and students, the following principles are the foundation that guide our planning:

- 1) Protect the health and safety of St. Margaret School students, faculty, staff, and families.
- 2) Sustain the Catholic faith communities that distinguish our schools and drive their success.
- 3) Maximize student learning through best practices in classroom and, if necessary, temporary remote learning instruction and assessment.
- 4) Maintain flexibility to respond to changing circumstances based on lived experience in the school and guidance from state, public health, and medical leaders in response to the progression of COVID-19 in our community.

In addition to these principles, our school is a Catholic community. As such, we are used to depending on one another. The school leadership and faculty are taking on many actions and activities to promote the safety of our community. In order for this plan to be effective, it is important that parents and students continue to take seriously our responsibilities to one another, just as we all did last year. All individuals will be asked to take actions that protect their health and that protect the health of others. The plan will have the best opportunity for success when we all continue to work together – when we all respond to Jesus’s commandment to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

PART I: PROMOTING HEALTH AND SAFETY

The health of students and all members of the school community is the top priority that ensures all other aspects of the Catholic school program can be delivered. The expectations provided below are intended to help all members of the St. Margaret School community to do their part to keep themselves and each other safe and healthy.

During the 2020-2021 school year, the NJ Department of Health established the Regional Risk Matrix to describe the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in six regions of the state. St. Margaret Regional School is located in the south-west region. Risk levels are low, moderate, high, and very high. Each risk level includes recommendations for additional health and safety measures.

Health and safety expectations for St. Margaret Regional School for the 2021-2022 school year are subject to change based on the risk level for our region or if evidence of the spread of COVID-19 within a classroom here or at any school in the diocese emerges.

VACCINATION

One of the most significant differences between opening school in Fall 2021 and Fall 2020 is the availability of vaccines for adults and children ages 12 and older. According to the Centers for Disease Control, COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective (please see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html> for more information.) The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have also confirmed that the

COVID-19 vaccines are morally permissible for Catholics (please see <https://www.usccb.org/resources/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines.pdf>). The advantages of vaccination may include significantly reduced risk of critical or severe symptoms of COVID-19, significantly reduced risk of hospitalization, increased protection from infection, and in some cases reduced transmission of COVID-19 from asymptomatic infections.

Vaccination protects the community through two important mechanisms.

- 1) **Direct protection of vaccinated individuals.** Parents, students, and employees who are vaccinated are highly protected from the worst effects of COVID-19 and have strong protection against contracting it when exposed to it.
- 2) **Indirect protection of unvaccinated individuals, especially children under 12.** On a large scale, this phenomenon is sometimes called “herd immunity.” It means that when more people are vaccinated, the virus thrives in fewer people and therefore is far less likely to spread to or from most of the vaccinated individuals. In our school, specifically, all cases of COVID-19 identified during the 2020-2021 school year were contracted outside of school. If children are primarily surrounded by vaccinated adults and family members, they are less likely to encounter a high enough amount of the virus to become infected themselves, and therefore less likely to bring it to school.

It is not known at this time how long the benefits of vaccination may last, but members of the school community will be informed if public health officials recommend additional steps for vaccinated individuals.

Parents will be asked to provide vaccination information for their children to the school nurse to aid with quarantine recommendations if they become necessary.

SCHOOL SCHEDULE AND ARRIVAL

Arrival procedures for the 2021-2022 school year will be:

Arriving by Car – Beginning at 7:30am

Out of an abundance of caution, cars will enter the parking lot at the first entrance and form a line parallel to the building. Parents and students should remain in their vehicles and wear masks. Student temperatures will be taken with a touchless thermometer while in the car. If the student’s temperature is 100.4 or higher, the student **MUST** be taken home. Students with normal temperature will be admitted to the school using the designated entrance for their grade.

Students in Grades K, 1, 2 will enter the front door of the school.

Students in Grades 3, 4, 5 will enter the door nearest the playground area.

Students in Grades 6, 7, 8 will enter through the first set of gymnasium doors.

Arriving by Bus

As students leave the bus, temperatures will be taken. Students whose temperature is normal will proceed to the designated entrance door for their grade level as listed above.

All students and adults on school buses **MUST** wear a mask, by requirement of the US Department of Transportation.

Arrival of Walkers

Students will arrive on the school grounds and safely walk to the main entrance of the school for a temperature check before proceeding to their classrooms.

***All arriving students will sanitize their hands as they enter their classrooms.**

Departure: End of Day

Bus Riders

As each bus is called, teachers will escort students to the buses. Students must wear their masks while entering and riding the bus. Students will sit in their assigned seats.

Car Riders

Students who are car riders will be escorted out their designed door. Classes will be metered as they exit to keep a safe distance from one another. Students must wear their masks and keep socially distant from one another.

Walkers

Students who walk home will exit by the main doors of the school. They must wear their masks as they exit and leave the school grounds safely.

SCREENING

Identifying students, faculty, and staff who may be sick is a critical component of keeping the entire school community healthy. Identification begins before students arrive at school and continues with vigilance throughout the school day. Screening and response to symptoms require faithful citizenship and partnership between parents and the school, with all school community members doing their part to identify potential sickness and respond respectfully, swiftly, and confidentially.

Screening at Home

All parents will be expected to screen their children at home for symptoms of COVID-19 and to take their temperature to ensure that they do not have a fever over 100.4° F. If children have a fever or exhibit symptoms that are not explained by a known, noncontagious prior condition, then they should stay at home. COVID-19 symptoms include:

- At least two of the following symptoms: fever of 100.4 or higher, chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose; OR
- At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell.

For students with chronic illness, only new symptoms or symptoms worse than baseline should be used to fulfill symptom-based exclusion criteria.

Parents will also be expected to keep their children home from school if they have had close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19. If this occurs, parents should notify the school immediately. Close contact is considered to be:

- Within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more over the course of 24 hours
- Provided care at home to, or visited, someone who is sick with COVID-19
- Direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)
- Shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

Screening at School

All students, employees, volunteers, visitors, and employees of organizations that serve the school (e.g., food service, educational service providers) will be screened for symptoms, including a temperature check, upon arrival at school.

VENTILATION

Ensuring proper ventilation at our school is an important component of maintaining health and safety for all members of the community. Increasing the amount of fresh air and air flow when indoors can help to reduce the concentration of the virus that causes COVID-19 in classrooms and other indoor spaces if it is found there.

St. Margaret Regional School will be implementing the following measures to ensure proper ventilation at the school.

- Opening windows and doors to increase outdoor air flow. Please note that students may wish to bring in additional layers of clothing during cooler months, as windows will remain open.
- Using ceiling fans to ensure air flow.
- Adjusting the settings of central heating and air conditioning (HVAC) systems to maximize the introduction of fresh air and minimize recirculation of exhausted air back into classroom and other spaces.
- Ensuring that filters are maintained and changed according to manufacturer recommendations.
- Maximizing the outdoor air intake for window air conditioners.

- Taking students outside frequently for classes and other activities.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Personal protective equipment is an effective means to provide protection from infection with the virus that causes COVID-19. Personal protective equipment will be used at St. Margaret Regional School when necessary to promote the health and safety of the community.

Masks

As per Executive Order #251 from Governor Murphy, all students (Preschool 3 – Gr. 8), faculty and staff are required to wear a mask when indoors or in situations where social distancing of 3ft or more would be difficult. Should this Executive Order be changed, we will re-evaluate our mask protocol.

All students, Preschool 3 through Grade 8, will be required to have a cloth mask with them at school every day. Students will be required to wear the mask upon entering or exiting the building, moving about the classroom, and moving from one common place to another within the building. Please note that these requirements apply to all students, whether they are vaccinated or not.

Each family will be responsible for providing appropriately sized masks for their children. Each student should have an extra mask with them at school at all times. It is recommended that students have a few masks that are available to change throughout the day to limit the long-term use of a single mask. Masks should be solid in color, no words, no logos or prints. Gaiter neck masks are not permitted.

All students and adults on school buses must wear a mask, by requirement of the US Department of Transportation.

SOCIAL DISTANCE

Social distance involves maintaining a specified distance from all other individuals to ensure that large droplets that are exhaled and may contain the coronavirus do not reach other people. The minimum social distance that will be maintained in classrooms and other spaces in the school is 3 feet. If space permits, distance between student desks may be greater than 3ft.

Maintaining social distance may be challenging for students of all ages, particularly when they have not seen each other or when they have found themselves in social environments outside of school in which social distancing has been relaxed. It may also be difficult when larger classes are gathered.

It is critical that all school personnel and parents remain vigilant in reminding students of their responsibility to each other to maintain a social distance in case they are carrying the virus and may be able to unknowingly transmit it to others, even if they do not have symptoms.

Social Distancing in Classrooms

We have taken every measure possible to ensure the maximum distance between students in each classroom. These measures include maintaining at least 3ft of space between students and removing other furniture from the classroom.

Social Distancing in Other Areas of the School

In addition to social distancing measures in classrooms, we are implementing the following procedures and protocols to promote social distancing:

- Physical Education/Gym Class will be held outside, weather permitting. Students will participate in activities that maximize distance. Masks do not need to be worn during this class when students are engaged in aerobic activity and/or when at least 3 feet apart.
- The number of students who can enter the restroom at any time will be limited to ensure adequate social distancing. The maximum number of students allowed in a restroom will be posted on the door. Students will use assigned restrooms to limit the total number of individuals using any one restroom.
- In areas where students might wait in line (e.g., main office, restroom, cafeteria, entrances, doorways), clear markings will be placed on the ground to identify at least a 3-foot distance between individuals.
- Student movement through the school will be limited to only essential movement (e.g., to use the restroom, to get to/from class).

PERSONAL HYGIENE

In addition to PPE and social distancing, each member of the school community will be expected to take responsibility for his or her personal hygiene, including responsibility for personal belongings and space. Teachers will provide instruction and allocate time in the classroom to ensure that students understand and can take these responsibilities seriously.

Hand Washing and Hand Sanitizing

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important defenses against the spread of all sickness, including COVID-19. The virus may survive for a period of time on surfaces that students touch throughout the day. For this reason, it is critical that students, teachers, and staff wash or sanitize their hands regularly.

- Each class will have a regular schedule, including before and after all meals or snacks, for students and teachers to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds or to use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol to sanitize their hands.
- Hand sanitization stations will be set up in the following locations:
 - In each classroom
 - At all entrances and exits to the school building
 - At the entrance to the school office
 - At the entrance to or in the nurse's office
 - At the entrance to or in the faculty lounge

- Each student should have a personal bottle of hand sanitizer and a personal container of sanitizing wipes for use in his or her personal space.
- Teachers will reinforce hand washing and the importance of students avoiding touching their faces and masks, particularly with those in the primary grades.

Personal Space and Belongings

Personal responsibility is an important skill for students to develop and exercise as a defense against the spread of COVID-19. Students have a responsibility to each other that they demonstrate through hand washing, social distancing, and the use of masks when appropriate. Taking responsibility for their own belongings and contributing to cleaning their workspaces are additional ways that students can be accountable to each other for maintaining the community's health.

- All students will need to have their own set of school supplies.
- Each student's belongings will be separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas.
- Students will be directed by their teacher to keep their personal and school belongings in their backpack, bin, or case as per the teacher's instruction.
- Where supplies must be shared, such as science lab equipment, computers, or math manipulatives, only one group of students will use those supplies at a time.
- Lockers will not be used to avoid students clustering in a small area.
- When students use spaces that may be used by others, students arriving in each classroom will wipe down the space with a disinfecting wipe before they use it.

Students in Grades 5, 6, 7 & 8 will not be switching classrooms as they have in the past for different subjects. Instead, teachers will be switching classes as we did in the previous school year. This will be done to limit the number of students who use specific desks and classrooms. We will closely monitor the impact of these procedures on student health and make adjustments.

FOOD SERVICE AND RECESS

Food service, including lunch and snacks, and recess are important opportunities for students to socialize and exercise during the school day.

Lunch and Snacks

Lunch and snacks will be in the classrooms. Teachers will ensure that students will wash and / or sanitize their hands before and after eating. Masks may be removed while eating, but students must remain in their seats.

Recess

- Students will not be required to wear masks for outdoor recess or breaks. They may wear them if they feel more comfortable doing so.
- Students will wash or sanitize their hands after recess.

BEFORE CARE AND AFTER CARE

We will continue to offer before care and after care. We ask that only those families who need these services use them, and that they not be used for convenience. Students in before care and after care will be grouped with family members or members of their homeroom class to reduce the number of interactions across groups of students.

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

Visitors to the School

Visitors to the school during the school day will be limited to individuals with official business at the school (e.g., contractors, service, sales). All visitors to the school will be required to provide their name and contact information, will be temperature checked and will be required to wear a cloth mask and maintain social distance while on the premises at all times.

Volunteers

Adults who give their time to participate in the critical activities of the school will be allowed to volunteer on a designated schedule. Volunteers will be temperature checked and required to wear a mask at all times, until further notice.

HEALTHY FACILITIES

An important part of maintaining the health of the school community is ensuring that the school grounds and systems support the health of students and employees. St. Margaret Regional School will continue our attention to the cleanliness of the school grounds, facilities, and environment.

Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection

We have developed protocols to ensure that all areas used by students or staff are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected every day.

Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each day. This includes:

- All desks, tables, and chairs
- Bookshelves, windows, and blackboards/whiteboards
- Carpets (vacuum) or floors (mop)
- Frequently touched objects, (pencil sharpeners, coat hooks, door handles, light switches)

For classrooms that are used by multiple classes, including shared use spaces, frequently used objects (e.g., doorknobs, pencil sharpeners) and all student seating (chairs, desks, tables) will be disinfected after every class.

Bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected twice daily by misting, including at the end of the day when they will be wiped down and mopped.

In addition, frequently used objects in common spaces, offices, and other rooms throughout the school will be disinfected each day.

When the school building or classrooms are used by other groups after normal school hours (e.g., parish religious education), then surfaces will be cleaned by students at the end of their day as they would after a class and professional cleaning will occur after the building has been vacated by all groups for the day.

PART II: MANAGING POTENTIAL SICKNESS

St. Margaret Regional School is taking the precautions above to limit the transmission of sickness, especially COVID-19. However, we recognize that some students and/or staff may still show symptoms of COVID-19, or students, employees, or their family members might be exposed to or test positive for COVID-19. Our response will be conducted in collaboration with the Gloucester County Department of Public Health.

RESPONSE TO COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

Students and Employees who Show Symptoms of COVID-19 in School

Any adult or student who shows symptoms of COVID-19 upon arrival at school or at any time while they are in the school building will enter a protocol to protect them and other members of the school community that will result in their leaving the school building as soon as possible.

- Students, employees, and any other adults in the school will enter an isolation area if they show symptoms of COVID-19.
- All students, employees, personnel, and others in the isolation area will wear a mask and gloves and maintain a 3-foot distance from each other as much as possible.
- A parent, guardian, or authorized adult will be called to pick up any student who shows symptoms of COVID-19.
- Students will be isolated safely and respectfully, with continued supervision and care and respect for their privacy, until an authorized adult can pick them up. The isolation area will be thoroughly disinfected after it is used by symptomatic students.
- If symptoms appear after the school day has begun, the teacher and students will wash their hands thoroughly and immediately. The class will meet in an alternate location for the rest of the day. The classroom in question will be sanitized via mister.
- The Gloucester County Public Health Officer will be notified that an individual with symptoms that are potentially due to COVID-19 has been sent home. This contact will be made confidentially to protect the individual.
- The County Public Health Officer will advise the school about whether or not any additional steps, such as asking other students to self-quarantine, need to be taken. It is important to understand that such decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis, depending on the circumstances. Not every case of an individual with symptoms that are potentially due to COVID-19 will lead to self-quarantine for other individuals, a class, or the school.

- Students and staff who show symptoms that could be attributed to COVID-19 will be advised to seek the advice of a physician about whether isolation is necessary and will be required to have a negative COVID-19 test before returning to school.

Students and Employees who Show Symptoms of COVID-19 Outside of School

Students or employees who show symptoms of COVID-19 outside of school that are not explained by a known, noncontagious prior condition, should not come to the school and should visit a physician to determine the cause of the symptoms. Symptoms include:

- At least two of the following symptoms: fever of 100.4 or higher, chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose; OR
- At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell.

Students or employees who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, whether at home or in school, must obtain a molecular/viral/PCR or antigen COVID-19 test before returning to school.

- Students or employees who show symptoms of COVID-19 and receive a negative COVID-19 test, and whose doctors do not also prescribe another confirmatory test, may return to school with the negative COVID-19 after 24 hours have passed without symptoms, including fever-free without medication. If the absence is longer than 3 days, the individual is required to provide a doctor's clearance to return to school.
- Students or employees who show symptoms of COVID-19 and receive a positive COVID-19 test may return to school after 10 days from the date the sample was taken, if they have been symptom free for 24 hours, including fever-free without medication.

If a member of the school community receives a positive test for COVID-19, it is imperative that the individual (if an employee) or his or her parent (if a student) contact the school so that the school can conduct proper contact tracing and inform the rest of the school community. The school principal, nurse, or other staff will send a letter to the school community confirming that someone who has been in the school tested positive for COVID-19 and will conduct contact tracing (see below) to determine whether any students or adults are considered close contacts and recommended to quarantine. Any student recommended to quarantine will be contacted separately by the school.

CLOSE CONTACT WITH COVID-19

Close Contact at School

If someone who has been in the school building tests positive for COVID-19, the school will conduct contact tracing in collaboration with the Gloucester County Department of Health. Some students and/or teachers may be considered close contacts and advised to quarantine for a number of days, depending on the date of the contact and the regional risk level at the time of

contact. The beginning of the quarantine period will generally be the date of last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19. Close contact is considered to be:

- Within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 cumulative minutes over 24 hours, regardless of whether masks were worn
- Provided care at home to, or visited, someone who is sick with COVID-19
- Direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)
- Shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

During times of low or moderate risk, individuals who are advised to quarantine by a physician or a public health official are expected to stay in the home for a period of 10 days, or 7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days. During times of high risk, the quarantine term will be 14 days. Quarantine may be longer if the individual shares living space with a person diagnosed with COVID-19. Students who do not show symptoms during this period will be expected to participate in school remotely.

Students and staff members who are fully vaccinated will not be required to quarantine unless they show symptoms of COVID-19.

Close Contact Outside of School

It is critical that any member of the school community who has had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 outside of school alert the school as soon as possible. The school will work with the Gloucester County Public Health Officer, while maintaining confidentiality, to determine the length of any quarantine period necessary. This includes employees of the school, students, volunteers, and family members of students.

Students and staff members who are fully vaccinated will not be required to quarantine unless they show symptoms of COVID-19. However, even if a student or staff member who is a close contact of someone who tests positive for COVID-19 is fully vaccinated, it is important that the individual inform the school.

PART III: SUSTAINING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Academic excellence is a hallmark of Catholic schools. We will adapt and continue some changes to instruction for the 2020-2021 that were effective in helping all students learn. Most students will be in classrooms, onsite for the 2021-2022 school year, with temporary remote learning available only for students who are positive for COVID-19 or have been directed to quarantine due to close contact. It is also possible that the progression of COVID-19 in our community and/or in the state may require us to transition to full time remote learning for all students temporarily as we did during the 2019-2020 school year. The instructional plan leverages technology so that instruction and learning are as fluid and transferrable as possible between onsite and remote learning.

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Continued strategic use of technology will allow teachers to personalize learning and also provide instruction that is fluid across onsite/in classroom learning and at home.

Hardware

Students will be able to use school iPad/Laptops as needed. Units will be wiped / sanitized between uses. Guidelines will be communicated and both parents and students will be asked to read and sign a user agreement.

Software

The use of instructional software will aid teachers in understanding student progress and learning, personalizing learning, and organizing assignments for students.

- All students in K-8 will use Google Classroom during the school day to organize instruction for students in-school and those who are temporarily at home due to COVID exposure.
- Students in Grades K-8 will use Freckle – ELA and Math programs as a regular part of their in-school learning experience and those learning at home due to temporary quarantine because of COVID exposure. Login information will be shared with both students and parents to ensure access.

CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT, AND INSTRUCTION

- St. Margaret Regional School will continue to follow the curriculum for the Diocese of Camden.
- Library will be held in the classrooms for grades K-5 until further notice.
- All students, grades 1-8, will participate in the Star Assessments in Reading and Math to help teachers and parents continue to identify their growth and customize their learning.
- All teachers will use the educational technology infrastructure and the expertise they developed last year to incorporate blended learning into their classrooms to the extent possible. Blended learning incorporates technology into instruction to assist teachers with personalizing instruction for all students. Blended learning in the classroom can also help prepare students for learning at home, if necessary.

REMOTE LEARNING

We anticipate that there may be a need for temporary remote learning during the 2021-2022 school year for students who have a positive COVID-19 test or who have been determined to be in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19. Therefore, we will support temporary remote learning when necessary for students who are in need of it so that students learning at home can stay as up to date with their learning as possible.

Temporary Remote Learning Criteria

Students who are informed by the school or a public health officer or department that they need to quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19, and those who have tested positive for

COVID-19 but are healthy enough to participate in class, will be able to participate in temporary remote learning.

Temporary remote learning is intended to serve students who are out for health reasons (such as COVID-19-related isolation or quarantine) for longer than they would be in a typical year. Students may not choose to remain home from school and expect to use remote learning for reasons other than COVID illness & quarantine. Temporary remote learning will not be available for any reason other than close contact, or a positive COVID-19 test. Students who are out sick with COVID-19 symptoms but do not yet have test results will not have access to live remote learning. Temporary live remote learning will also not be available for students who are home sick for non-COVID reasons, for students who travel, or for any other reason. The school reserves the right to request verification of the need for temporary remote learning (e.g., positive COVID-19 test result for a family member) before approving it.

Temporary Remote Learning Process

There will be a transition period to participate in temporary remote learning once it is determined that the student needs to remain out of the school building. This transition period will allow teachers to prepare and/or adapt their schedules and lessons to accommodate the students who will be participating remotely. This transition will begin 1 full school day following notification to our school nurse.

The intent of temporary remote learning is to ensure continuity of education for students who are out of school due to COVID-19. Teachers will do their best to ensure that students are as up to date as possible with their learning while they are quarantined.

- Each classroom is set up with videoconferencing capabilities so that students can be “live” in the classroom through Zoom during the full course of the school day 8:05am to 2:45pm. Option to remain on camera during the lunch period will be left up to the student and teacher.
- Students who are learning remotely, and in the classroom, will both have access to lesson materials using Google Classroom.
- Teachers will schedule their classes as consistently as possible every day so that students who may be learning remotely will be able to follow the schedule to participate in class.
- Schedules, assignments, time for remote students to be “live” in the classroom, and approaches will vary according to the age and grade level of the students.

Mandated Remote Learning

It is possible that during the 2021-2022 school year, one or more classes at St. Margaret Regional School, or the whole school, will be advised by public health officials to close temporarily due to the presence of COVID-19 cases so that members of the school community can self-quarantine. It is also possible that St. Margaret Regional School will be ordered to close temporarily due to the progression of COVID-19 in the region or state, as it was during the 2019-2020 school year.

In the event that the school is advised or ordered to enter remote learning status, teachers and classes will adhere to the following guidelines:

- We will continue the use of Google Classroom established for in-class and remote learning. Using it in school regularly should make access to and completion of assignments at home easier.
- The schedule for the remote learning school day will continue as seamlessly as possible from the schedule for in-classroom learning, with live teaching and learning scheduled every day.
- The same comportment expected of students while in school will be expected during remote learning. This includes the expectation that the students are dressed and groomed and seated at a desk or table, as free from distractions as possible.
- We are committed to making remote learning, if necessary, as close to the classroom experience as possible to ensure that teaching and learning are continuous and student progress as expected regardless of the learning environment.

ATTENDANCE

The attendance policy will be adapted for the 2021-2022 school year to accommodate students who may be learning remotely. When in-classroom learning is occurring, attendance will be marked as: Present, if in school; Remote, if learning remotely (present for live teaching and turning in assignments within class time expectations), or Absent, if home and too ill to participate.

If the school building is closed for all students due to advice from a public health official or an order, then attendance categories will be Remote or Absent. It is required in this scenario that students learning remotely will attend all live instruction and submit all assignments by the deadlines. Students who are sick or who do not attend classes and do not submit assignments will be marked as Absent.