



August 11, 2020

Dear St. Martin's Families,

I would like to thank you for your patience as we developed a detailed process for educating our students this fall. The Building Re-entry Team (BReT) spent the summer diligently preparing and I am pleased to share that the 2020-2021 school year Building Reopening Plan was approved by the Archdiocese of Washington. It will be posted on our school website within the next few days for everyone to view. Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to all the members of BReT who worked collectively for weeks and considered all variables on how to continue fulfilling the mission to our school families during this uncertain time.

Likewise, a sincere thank you to our faculty and staff; not only for their insight and feedback during planning, but for their support to implement all facets of our plan moving forward. We would not be able to do this without them! Additionally, thank you to Fr. Wells and the School Advisory Board for their feedback and continued support.

The 2020-2021 school year will begin with some students participating completely in distance learning, while others will have a blended learning experience (a combination of in-person and virtual instruction). All blended learning students in Kindergarten through Eighth Grade will be in the building four days per week on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. **Wednesdays will be virtual learning for those students.** However, Pre-Kindergarten students that have not opted for distance learning will be in the building five days a week.

Included in this letter is a schedule summarizing the staggered opening for the beginning of the school year. This will allow faculty and staff to safely execute the measures outlined in the plan, while monitoring all public health data. Further details will be provided this Friday, August 14, and include information regarding the first week of school, materials, and uniforms (yes - all students will be required to still wear uniforms).

Teachers and staff will return to the building on Wednesday, August 19. This will begin eight days of pre-service for professional development and preparations for the school year. During the week of Monday, August 24, students will have the opportunity to meet teachers, both virtually and in person. Families may also schedule a time to pick-up materials. Furthermore, the school will host virtual orientation sessions to provide further guidance to families on how the year will operate.

The first day of school will be **Monday, August 31** and in-person Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students will begin to enter the building in small groups. Students in First Grade through Eighth Grade will start the year completely virtual and slowly blended learn students will be introduced back into the building until all grades have returned. On the first day that a grade is in the building, one half of those blended learning students will receive instructions on new building and classroom safety protocols. Likewise, the next group of blended learners for that grade will receive those same instructions on the second day of school. During those two days, the group of blended learners that is not in the building will receive virtual asynchronous lessons with distance learners. Please note- lower grades will begin entering the building first as younger children have the most difficulty with virtual learning. The goal is to have all blended learners returned to the building by **Thursday, October 22.**



Week 1 (8/31/20 - 9/4/20)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blended Learning (B.L.) Pre-Kindergarten students will come in half groups on 8/31 and 9/1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Kindergarten Blended Learning/Distance Learning on 9/2, 9/3, and 9/4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B.L. Kindergarten students will come in half groups on 8/31 and 9/1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Kindergarten students – Virtual Learning on 9/2 Kindergarten Blended Learning/Distance Learning on 9/3 & 9/4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Grade through Eighth Grade students will begin the year with Virtual Learning
Week 2 (9/7 – 9/11) & Week 3 (9/14 – 9/18)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday, 9/7 – Labor Day – NO SCHOOL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten – Blended Learning/Distance Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Grade through Eighth Grade students - Virtual Learning
Week 4 (9/21 – 9/25)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten – Blended Learning/Distance Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First & Second Grade B.L. students will come in half groups 9/21 and 9/22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First and Second Blended Learning/Distance Learning on 9/24 and 9/25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third Grade through Eighth Grade students - Virtual Learning
Week 5 (9/28 – 10/2)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Kindergarten through Second Grade – Blended Learning/Distance Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third Grade through Eighth Grade students - Virtual Learning
Week 6 (10/5 – 10/9)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Kindergarten through Second Grade – Blended Learning/Distance Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third, Fourth, & Fifth Grade B.L. students will come in half groups 10/5 and 10/6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third, Fourth, & Fifth Grades Blended Learning/Distance Learning on 10/8 and 10/9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sixth Grade through Eighth Grade students - Virtual Learning
Week 7 (10/12 – 10/16)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade – Blended Learning/Distance Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sixth Grade through Eighth Grade students - Virtual Learning
Week 8 (10/19 – 10/23)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade – Blended Learning/Distance Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sixth, Seventh, & Eighth Grade B.L. students will come in half groups 10/19 and 10/20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sixth, Seventh, & Eighth Grades Blended Learning/Distance Learning on 10/22 and 10/23
Week 9 (10/26 - 10/30)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth Grade – Blended Learning/Distance Learning

This schedule was developed based on responses from: our school families; feedback from the faculty; and, conversations with the School Advisory Board. Moreover, the guidelines presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and state and local health departments were also considered.



It is crucial to allow time to scale up safety plans as more students enter the building. Therefore, a two-week period has been included in between each new group of blended learning students entering the building for students, staff, and families to settle into this new routine. This will also allow for close monitoring of our students' and teachers' health. Finally, an additional week was added prior to First and Second Grade blended learners entering the building to account for possible exposure during the Labor Day holiday weekend.

For the blended learning model to work, there will be strict health and safety protocols. It is imperative that families and teachers monitor their health and make very conservative choices about activities outside of school to mitigate exposure. Specifics on these procedures will be shared prior to the start of school.

Furthermore, I would like to ask for your support for our faculty and staff. Our families have the choice for their student(s) to be in school or learn from home because of **THEIR** commitment and dedication. If students are in the building, teachers must be present in the building. It is vital that each family pledges to ensure the health and safety of our teachers and all members of the community. In addition, the challenges of instructing both blended and distance learners simultaneously while balancing the safety protocols will be a completely new experience for all our educators. Please know, all are working incredibly hard for students to have the best learning opportunities available and I ask that everyone please be an element of the solution and do their part!

Again, I appreciate your fortitude as we navigate these uncharted waters. Thank you again for your participation in the planning process and for your devotion to our school. We **WILL** have a successful 2020-2021 school year and continue to build on our collaboration, communication, and consistency efforts to become stronger as a community.

May God bless each of you, St. Martin's School, and the Parish community.

Yours in Christ,

Stephen C. Lamont

Principal