

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

Welcome to kindergarten 2021-2022! We are very excited to welcome your kindergarteners to St. Hilary School! Although this continues to be an unusual time, we are committed to making it a school year filled with fun educational experiences! You will soon receive much more information about all the exciting things your children will be doing this year, as well as other school and classroom procedures and policies. Today, we want to share a few important things as we prepare to begin the school year while continuing to live with COVID-19.



OPENING SCHEDULE FOR KINDERGARTENERS

To help ease the transition to school *during the first week*, we will follow the schedule below as we welcome our Kindergarteners.

MONDAY, AUGUST 23 – FRIDAY, AUGUST 27 – Kindergarten students will arrive between 8:30 and 8:45 a.m., after our regular drop-off time.

This will allow time for saying goodbyes in a safe “hug zone” outside our main entrance before our Kindergarten team takes children to classrooms. Look for your child’s teacher and teaching assistants holding signs indicating where each class should meet near the main entrance / Jesus statue. Each class will be color coded and have a designated area to meet, and each student will have a color-coded dot to stand on to maintain social distancing:

- 101 – Miss Faetanini: Green, Meet in front of Jesus statue / main entrance
- 102 – Mrs. Haskins: Blue, Meet in first row parking spaces to left of Jesus statue / main entrance
- 105 – Miss Bennett: Red, Meet by large garage door to right of Jesus statue / main entrance

If your Kindergartener will ride the bus to school during the first week of school, please email his/her teacher so arrangements can be made to assist your child in getting to the classroom.

******Beginning Monday, August 30, Kindergarteners will report at the same time and follow the same procedures as all other students.******

MONDAY, AUGUST 23 & TUESDAY, AUGUST 24 – First half-days of school for Kindergarten. Kindergarten students (half of each class) will attend school from 8:45 a.m. to noon as follows:

Monday, August 23

Students with last names:
101-Miss Faetanini: B-L
102-Mrs. Haskins: B-Le
105-Miss Bennett: B-Sa

Tuesday, August 24

Students with last names:
101-Miss Faetanini: M-W
102-Mrs. Haskins: Ly-W
105-Miss Bennett: Sh-Y

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25 - ALL kindergarten students will attend from 8:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

ON AUGUST 23, 24 AND 25, Rooms 101 and 102 will be dismissed from the Moorfield Road doors. Room 105 will be dismissed from the doors by the Jesus statue. There will be no buses to take kindergarten students home on these days and no Latchkey available for kindergarten students these afternoons. Please be sure your child has a ride home. The child’s name should be displayed prominently in the passenger window. Please email the teacher if someone other than a parent will be picking up your child.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26 - FULL-DAY kindergarten program begins. Please make sure your child has arrangements for lunch, a snack, a rest time towel, and a ride home or Latchkey arrangements at dismissal time.

THINGS TO BRING / WEAR TO SCHOOL EACH DAY

Although masks will be optional in the classrooms, all students will be required to enter and exit the building wearing a face mask. Masks will be required in common areas, on buses, and where at least 3 feet distance cannot be maintained. Masks may be any style or color, and may have school appropriate, non-distracting graphics but no lettering. Parents will be responsible for providing a clean mask each day. The school will provide face shields which will be cleaned and stored at the end of each day. Please put your child’s name on his or her masks with a Sharpie or permanent labeling tape.

If your child does not yet know how to tie his or her own shoes, he or she **MUST** wear Velcro strap shoes to school. Due to COVID-19, school staff will not be able to assist with tying shoes.

Each student will need to bring an individual snack. School supply lists were printed before the monthly group snack was eliminated. If you would like to send snack items to share, they must be in individual factory packaging. These can be kept in the classroom for students who forget to bring their own snack.

Each student **MUST** bring a water bottle to school each day. Water fountains are turned off due to COVID-19. Bottle filler fountains are available for students to refill water bottles, but we suggest sending enough water to get through the day.

It would be greatly appreciated if students bring only lunch items they are able to open self-sufficiently to avoid school staff having to handle and assist with opening items.

Each student should bring an extra mask in the backpack each day. You may want to create a small COVID-19 kit that includes hand sanitizer, an extra mask, and sanitizing wipes.



HELPFUL HINTS

If your child will wear a mask in the classroom, please have him/her practice wearing a face mask at home to get used to it. It may be helpful to try this while doing a fun activity. Do not wait until the first day of school to introduce wearing a mask. Please contact your child's teacher if you have concerns about your child wearing a mask or shield.

Please have several masks at home in order to be able to wash and thoroughly dry masks after they are worn. This will ensure a clean mask each day. Please do not send wet or damp masks to school.

Please label all of your child's school supplies, water bottle, and other personal items with his or her name to help ensure the items are not being shared or mistakenly touched by another child. If you ordered a school supply kit for your child, our staff will assist with labeling items in the kit.

You may want to have a designated place in your home for your child's backpack and lunchbox to contain germs. Brown bags are a welcome disposable option for those bringing lunches from home.

Please be sure your household has a working thermometer so you can check your child's temperature before he or she comes to school.

Please be sure your household has a working printer and printer paper in the event you need to print any hard copies should distance learning become necessary at any time during the school year.

DISMISSAL

We will be using a staggered dismissal schedule to ensure social distancing. Beginning on Thursday, August 26, when Kindergarteners have their first full day of school, they will follow the dismissal schedule and procedures along with the rest of the school. Kindergarteners and their siblings will be the first group to be dismissed, at 2:50 p.m. We will have additional adults assisting with dismissal for the first few full days of Kindergarten to help the children find the appropriate areas. If your child will be a car rider, please do not pull into the car line, but park in the back parking lot and staff members will safely cross your Kindergartener (and any older siblings) to you. The "red box" painted on the parking lot surface is our designated meeting place for parents and children. Kindergarteners and their siblings riding buses will be directed to buses, and those going to Latchkey for after-school care will also be directed there. If you have not yet done so, please complete our [Kindergarten Dismissal Survey](#) to help us direct your child.

We realize that this is an unusual time to begin kindergarten. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the school office. We are here to help!
