

# All Saints

CATHOLIC ACADEMY  
Values • Education • Character

August 30, 2021

All Saints Catholic Academy Community:

The building and grounds have been coming to life this week as we inch closer and closer to our Meet the Teacher and required Orientation Days! The energy and excitement of the opening of school is clearly present in our building and we are looking forward to seeing all our students for in-person learning.

With the excitement we are feeling in our hearts, we are also fully focused on opening ASCA with an emphasis on the health and safety for all our students, faculty, and staff. Based on the corroborating recommendations from multiple agencies, we intend to open the school year with the protocols outlined below. The state of COVID-19 this fall is quite different than last, and we feel strongly that we should not let our guard down now. We will adopt most of the same protocols as last year while continuing to monitor Albany County's transmission rates and the impact on us as a school community.

Our ultimate goal is to protect the health and safety of ASCA community members by minimizing risk. In addition, we hope to maintain in-person instruction, keep ASCA building open, and minimize the amount of students and staff placed in quarantine due to exposure(s). With those goals in mind, please take a moment to review our important opening of school protocols:

- As long as permitted by public health officials, and as circumstances allow, ASCA will be open for in-person instruction and learning 7:45am – 3:00pm.
- Before and After Care Programs will operate until there is guidance suggesting otherwise. (ie. significant increase in COVID cases in Albany County or at ASCA.)
- Masks are required to be worn by all persons inside the building, regardless of vaccination status. Mask breaks with social distancing will be provided.
- Masks are **not** required outdoors when appropriate physical distancing can be maintained. The reality of keeping young children a minimum of 6 feet apart to avoid mask wearing while outside will be quite difficult. When the youngest of children are playing collaboratively, masks will be worn. When students are seated or spaced 6ft or more during outdoor learning, masks may be removed.
- Masks must always be worn on school buses.
- We will maintain at least 3-feet of physical distancing between students in classrooms and indoor school locations, combined with mask wearing. (We currently have student desks spaced between 5 and 6 feet depending on the class enrollment.)
- Students will maintain at least 6-feet of distance when masks are removed for eating.
- Students and staff will have every opportunity to properly wash their hands throughout the day. (See the 2020-2021 Reopening Plan for all health, safety and hygiene protocols. The current COVID plans pertaining to health and safety are highlighted in yellow.)
- Cleaning and sanitizing will remain rigorous on a daily basis.
- We will follow all ventilation protocols, including mechanical and natural ventilation where appropriate.
- Whenever possible, physical education classes will be conducted outdoors in appropriate weather conditions. When classes are conducted indoors, students will be socially distanced, and will be required to wear a mask.



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**10 Rosemont St. Albany, NY 12203**  
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- Working in cooperation with our Albany County Department of Health, quarantining protocols will continue to be followed.
- Parents, guardians, and staff members are urged to be mindful of symptoms of illness; to stay home if they show signs and symptoms, and to seek testing when COVID-19 symptoms are present.
- A daily health screening will continue for all faculty, staff, students, and required service providers. The goal of daily health screenings is to remain vigilant of potential COVID-like symptoms.
- In certain scenarios this school year, on-site testing may be recommended. COVID-19 testing will **not** be administered without written parent/guardian consent.
- We will continue to consult with the Albany County Department of Health to monitor community transmission rates, vaccination coverage statistics, and occurrences of outbreaks to make decisions on the degree of prevention strategies.

While we are opening school with these protocols in place, we should all be prepared for changes at any time. We may also have to monitor for mandated protocols put into place by outside entities, such as Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Department of Health.

We have no greater responsibility than the health and safety of our school community members. We are confident that our plan will allow us to proceed safely with the opening of school, change protocols when appropriate, and exercise flexibility if circumstances allow us to do so.

Thank you for your continued support and anticipated cooperation. It will take the diligence of the entire school community for us to all remain healthy and in-person. Let us continue to pray for each other and all individuals that have faced hardship during the pandemic. Feel free to contact the school office if you have any questions or concerns. We are #ASCAStrong!

Blessings,  
Ms. Traci Johnson  
Principal



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