



Pre-K4 Reopening Q & A for Parents

What happens if the child takes off the mask or doesn't obey rules?

The Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Department of Health recognizes that the wearing of face masks can present challenges for children under five. However, for the health and safety of all, students will be expected to wear masks.

In consultation with the Archdiocese and the head of the CDC, it has been determined that for the safety of all, every adult and child in the building will be required to wear a mask. Any student unable to wear a mask will need to learn remotely from home.

It is expected that parents will teach the proper use and removal of the face mask, including the use of behavioral strategies as necessary to assist children with becoming comfortable wearing cloth face coverings. Monsignor Slade teachers will reinforce these concepts while children are in their care.

How will the children work on sounding out words? While making letter sounds and sounding out words, the teacher will be at a social distance of more than six feet but will wear a face shield so the children will be able to see the movement of the mouth. Students need to see how the mouth moves to be able to make the sounds on their own. Once instruction is complete, the teacher will resume wearing a mask before moving within six feet of the children. The teacher will also make recordings of themselves so the students can see the way the mouth moves.

Will they still be doing crafts to help learn? The children will be utilizing various materials as part of their curriculum and instructional time. Each child will have his own school box and tote with materials that will not be shared. Materials include crayons, pencils, glue sticks, scissors, construction paper, etc.

Will the hours of learning be cut short or interrupted by all the additional rules? In the beginning of a regular school year, much time is devoted to the teaching of rules and procedures. The same will be true this year as it is most important that the children understand all that they need to know to be safe in their classroom spaces. Frequent age-appropriate reminders will be given as are necessary. The teaching and reinforcement of rules and procedures is a natural part of a Pre-K classroom, so parents can anticipate that children will receive the complete curriculum.

How will the school day change or be different? It is hard to say how many aspects of the day will change until we are actually in the building with the children. We are going to be designating certain doors for certain cohorts to use. Only two students will be allowed in the restroom at a time. When outside, homeroom cohorts will not be able to mix; they will have designated play areas, which will not

include the playground equipment. Worksheets will be limited in use. Students will not be sharing materials.

Will the students be eating and napping in the classroom without masks? Students will not wear masks while eating a snack or lunch or while napping. Social distancing or plexiglass barriers will be in place during lunch, snack, and nap time. When possible, teachers will take students outside for lunch. Full-day students will be napping at appropriate distances from one another.

Will students have centers and time for play and socialization? They will have center time but only one child will participate at a center. Centers will be sanitized between uses. The children will be socially distanced from one another, but they can engage in parallel play. It is recommended that students bring one or two small toys for individual playtime. The school has purchased clear plexiglass dividers that will be placed on the tables in the classrooms. The children will be able to see each other and to interact through the plexiglass.

At recess will the children be able to play on equipment or does each child have to be six feet apart? The playground equipment will be closed as the staff will not be able to sanitize the equipment after each use. If children are masked, they may be three feet apart at a minimum. When outside, if the children are more than six feet apart, they will be able to remove their masks. If the children bring toys to play with, they may not be shared.

What if you cannot make it or you get stuck in traffic for the time slot for drop off or pick up, and you do not have before and after care? There is no before-school care offered until further notice. In the morning, if you arrive later than your scheduled time, you will still need to take your child's temperature in front of a staff member and have it logged. If there are no staff members on the parking lot, please ring the doorbell at the carport doors and a staff member will help you. If you are later than your scheduled pick up time, then your child will wait in a location yet to be determined until you arrive as we normally do. The first time that a parent picks up a child after 3:15 p.m., there is no charge. Each time following there is a \$20 fee for every 15 minutes (or portion thereof) a parent is late picking up a child.

Will there be a meet the teacher night or virtual classroom tour? The Pre-K4 teachers will hold a virtual back-to-school night from their classrooms on Wednesday, August 26. At that time, they will introduce themselves and show the classrooms to the parents and children.

When will the students meet their teacher face-to-face? As advertised in this past Friday's weekly parent update, students who will be meeting face-to-face with their teachers on their assigned day during the staggered opening of school.

Is there a school calendar for this year? There is a tentative school calendar on the MSCS website for the first few months of school. Because the situation changes so rapidly, we are being cautious as to what we put on the calendar. There will be a full-year tentative calendar in the Parent & Student Handbook that your oldest student will receive on the first day of school.