

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ST. AMBROSE SCHOOL BOARD:

Fellow Parents:

As we all continue to navigate the uncertainty and disruption caused by the COVID-19 public health crisis, we want to stress that St. Ambrose remains committed to a safe, flexible and challenging environment to instill a sense of responsibility and accountability.

Further, we wish to thank those who proactively and respectfully inquired and offered insights on the wants, needs and desires of how we approach the challenges of educating and learning in the middle of this public health crisis.

Monsignor Bommarito, in coordination with principal Michel Wendell, school faculty and through guidance received from, the Archdiocese of St. Louis Task Force (**Archdiocese**), City of St. Louis Health Department (**STL City**), the Missouri Department of Education (**MO DoE**), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (**CDC**) have worked to develop the latest version of the return to school **plan**, which was released on August 3, 2020

Prior to that, principal Wendell informed us in her July 10, 2020 letter, St. Ambrose will be following the health, safety and security directives and guidelines the City of St. Louis Health Department, the **Archdiocese of St. Louis**, along with SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital.

Over the last several weeks each member of the School Board has received inquiries from parents, seeking information relating to our return to school plan.

The School Board met on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 with Monsignor Bommarito and principal Wendell to discuss St. Ambrose's return to school **plan**. During that meeting, we shared concerns relating to critically important communications surrounding our return to school **plan**. Those concerns were well received, and as a result of that meeting, we wish to share several important, yet still developing details on how we all plan to return to school in a safe way.

**Technology.** Utilizing the **CARES ACT**, we have sought access to funds in order to obtain portable electronic devices (e.g., iPads, tablets, laptops, etc.) for students to use and eliminate resource sharing, in classroom and in the event we are compelled to educate our children at home

**HVAC.** Considerable enhancements to the HVAC system serving the building, including specialized filters and specialized commercial-grade air "scrubbers," reasonably conforming to certain suggestive **guidelines**

**Screening and Protocols.** St. Ambrose will follow the City of St. Louis Department of Health's **decision tree** for symptomatic people, and will require screening of students and staff (including temperature checks and standardized health assessment) prior to entering the school building, and those presenting symptomatic of the illness will not be permitted to enter the building

**Masking.** **Masks** will continue to be required for grades K-8, and although not required, it is strongly encouraged that pre-school aged students wear a mask

**Msgr. Vincent Bommarito**

*Pastor*

**Michel Wendell**

*Principal*

**Sharon Gambaro**

*School Secretary*

†

**Phil Nikolai**

*President*

### School Board Members

**Michael Capizzi**

**Derio Gambaro**

**Guy Giudici**

**Reiad Khouri**

**Sarah Matarazzi**

**Michael Mense**

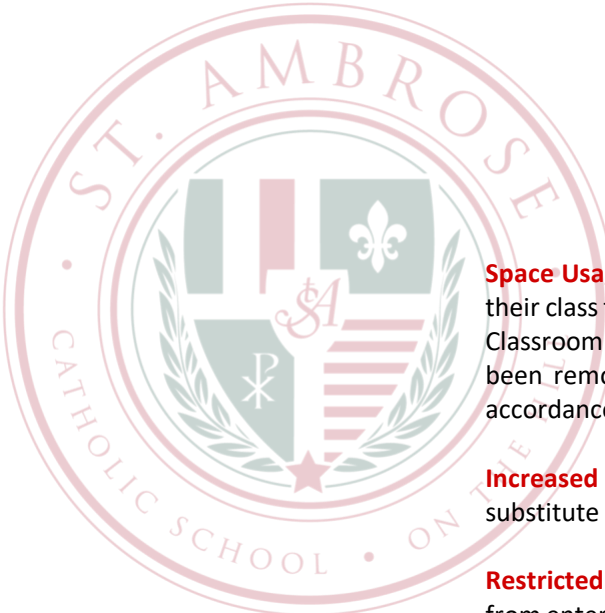
**Julie Moeser**

**Paul Sinak**

**Scott Stephens**

**Peter Sullivan**

**Jeff Zona**



**Space Usage.** In addition to utilizing the “PODS” model, students will remain with their class throughout the day, in an effort to reduce interactions with other grades. Classroom layouts have been reconfigured and necessary extraneous furniture has been removed in order to enable all desks to be a minimum of 3-feet apart in accordance with **CDC guidelines**.

**Increased Personnel.** We have increased our staff to include 2 regular, on-site substitute teachers to accommodate changing demands of the school day

**Restricted Visitors/Volunteers.** For now, Visitors and volunteers will be restricted from entering the school building, without the prior permission of principal Wendell or Monsignor Bommarito. An exception to this will be essential visitors and volunteers, subject to completing a temperate check and standardized health assessment.

As we all continue to pivot in response to the challenges of this public crisis, we ask that you continue to understand that the **plan** will remain flexible and evolve as more data is generated, and as we continue to learn more about best-practices and the practicality of how we adjust the **plan**.

The best way we continue to serve our school and the community as a whole is that we all practice social distancing, wear our masks, avoid congregating in groups larger than is currently recommended, and be accountable for keeping our students, faculty and staff safe and healthy.

As more information becomes available and more certain, either the Administration or the School Board will continue to share this information.

†

**St. Ambrose, Pray For Us!**