



## SAINT RAPHAEL ACADEMY

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## Re-Opening Plan for Fall 2020

June 22, 2020

Dear Members of the Saints Community:

Although summer is just beginning, Saint Raphael Academy (SRA) is already actively planning for the coming academic year. I would like to provide you with an overview of how we are preparing for the fall of 2020 and what will be important for all of us as we get ready to return to campus this fall. We are all filled with a mix of emotions and sentiments amid the pandemic, but since the beginning, the Saints community has worked together to continuously support one another and keep each other safe. I wish to again thank you for how you have enabled the Academy to respond as we face the challenges and the uncertainty of this moment.

We face complex and challenging decisions that require the most careful planning and preparation. Our focus is on protecting the health and safety of each member of our community while pursuing our academic mission.

This has been a difficult time. Many of us are experiencing deep grief and pain for people we have lost and the way that our lives have been impacted as a result of this global pandemic. In addition, our country is grappling with the recent issues of equality, justice, racism and violence. As we move forward, let us work together toward peace, equity, and justice.

### **Planning for Fall 2020**

SRA has formed a Re-Opening Committee, made up of individuals representing the many facets of the school: administration, academics, technology, arts, sports, health care, facilities, and human resources. In coordination with the Providence Diocese and guided by all appropriate health and safety precautions and mandates set forth by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), the Re-Opening Committee is developing a plan for resuming on-campus school operations in the fall.

The re-opening plan will prioritize student and teacher (and by extension, the families they return home to) safety. Our planning is focused on how we can provide for the safe return of the members of our community and how we can work to sustain their safety over the course of the year – in the classroom, in gathering places, and on the courts and fields – given the risks posed by COVID-19.

The Re-Opening Committee will continue to work throughout the summer. The Academy will continue to monitor the pandemic and follow the advice of experts, following guidance from the state and federal government.

As the start of the school year draws closer, I will have a more concrete plan to share with you. A great deal of time, effort, and energy are being put into formulating plans. We are looking at everything from class instruction, to classroom design/capacity and audio/visual technology, as well as public health requirements regarding testing, masks, quarantining and cleaning facilities, bussing and more. We will continue to refine our plans as new information becomes available.

## **Health & Safety**

As I stated earlier, the health and safety of our community (including every student, teacher, staff member, coach, and their families) are our top priority. As guidance continues to be updated and provided to us by the CDC and the RIDOH, we will continue to figure out ways to implement their recommendations. We must all remain flexible and expect change, but at a minimum, we will expand school cleaning services, purchase additional cleaning supplies, disinfectants and school health office supplies, explore new ways to clean classrooms throughout the day, and expand space for social distancing. Stable grouping will be researched as a possible option.

Parents/guardians will play a critical role in helping keep SRA healthy, safe, and open. It is the expectation that our parents will comply with all CDC, RIDOH, and SRA guidelines. Families are expected to take precautionary measures to prevent virus transmission such as temperature screening before sending a student to school. We will also ask families to provide their student with their own supply of hand sanitizer and clean facial coverings, as well as to have a plan in place for timely pick-up if a student is dismissed for illness. More than ever before, we ask families to work in concert with the school to ensure that students do not spread sickness or potentially expose others (See Attachment A for more information).

## **Emerging Scenarios for the Fall**

We are preparing for several options for the fall semester and will implement the one that makes the most sense based upon RIDOH guidance and RI guidelines as they stand when we are set to return to school in late August. All three models assume significant new cleaning protocols and policies which will prioritize limiting community spread or exposure for the health and safety of students and faculty. Our priority is to stay healthy and to stay open.

### **1. Full In-Person Model**

A return to our traditional campus model with interaction and movement which will take into consideration the guidance being offered by the RIDOH and Rhode Island Department

of Education (RIDE). Social distancing restrictions and masks will need to be addressed within classrooms along with cleaning protocols. Schedules will be intact as is and modifications will be made as the situation demands. Students may need to have lunch in classrooms rather than our traditional cafeterias options.

## 2. Partial In-Person Model (“Purple and Gold Days”)

If the situation dictates that we must limit number of students in classrooms, we will implement this Partial In-Person Model, which is often considered a ‘hybrid model.’ In order to reduce class size by approximately 50%, we will divide the student body by alpha delineation into a Purple Team and a Gold Team. On two days each week the Purple Team will be on campus attending classes according to our traditional schedule while the Gold Team is logging in on their school-provided laptop from home to view and participate in the live classes. On two other days, the Gold Team will be on campus while the Purple Team is logging in on their school-provided laptop from home. And every Wednesday, all students will be home using a distance learning model (teachers will have flexibility as to whether the students are logging into a live session or working independently on an assigned task). Instruction would remain rigorous and in close alignment with predetermined curriculums and attendance will be monitored.

## 3. Distance Learning Model

If the situation dictates that all students must remain home, we will immediately implement our supportive and well-defined distance learning model. All students would be expected to ‘attend’ classes daily by logging in; attendance will be taken and direct instruction presented. Our existing schedule would be followed, as would our guidelines for student behavior and academics in a distance learning environment. Since all students will have their own school-provided laptop, we would be using TEAM format included in our Office 365 suite, as well as Zoom classes and other distance learning platforms. A committee is presently in place to oversee and refine last year’s distance learning model.

Faculty and staff have always been extremely accessible to our students, and they will continue to be available whether in-person or through virtual office hours.

### **Campus Life: Activities, Athletics & Events**

SRA will do all that is possible to safely engage our students throughout the year despite the restrictions and requirements that will need to be in place. All events are being looked at on an individual basis, and a determination will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Mass at St. Joseph’s Church will be cancelled until a time when we can safely gather in person. The opening of school and Holy Days of obligation where we would normally celebrate mass together will instead be a prayer service held virtually.

Some events (such as class elections) will be done virtual. Other events (such as Spirit Week, dances and the walk-a-thon) will be postponed until Spring 2021 in hopes that social distancing rules will be relaxed. Many afterschool clubs (such as tabletop/games, photography, dance, yearbook, math league, mock trial, model legislature, archery, art, drum line, environmental/recycling, FBLA, LaSallian Youth, school newspaper, literary society, and multicultural club) will still be available for all students. Rules pertaining to social distancing, hygiene, and group size will still apply much the same as in a classroom.

SRA is awaiting further guidance from the Rhode Island Interscholastic League (RIIL) regarding sports. As of mid-June, the RIIL gave approval for the conditioning of fall athletes throughout the summer months. (See Attachment B for further guidance.)

### **In closing**

It is in times like these that I am grateful to be part of the Saints family. Despite the uncertainty that lies ahead, I've continuously found comfort in knowing that the Saints community is there for one another and that together we will meet this challenge. I ask for your patience, and I promise to keep you updated as plans become more certain.

Please know nothing is more important to me this summer than developing a comprehensive and safe re-opening plan for all of the Saints students, families, and personnel.

In Peace,

Dan Richard  
Principal  
Saint Raphael Academy

## Attachment A

### **Saint Raphael Academy Health and Safety Guidelines**

We are operating with the best information we have as of mid-June about how to maintain the health and safety of our students and staff in any in-person school programs and limit the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Based on federal and state guidance and recommendations available at this time, safely re-opening Saint Raphael Academy will require that the following components are in place:

**Staying home if sick:** As part of the social impact of re-opening, Saint Raphael Academy students and staff must stay home if they are feeling sick or have any symptom associated with COVID-19.

**Face coverings and masks:** Saint Raphael Academy students and staff must wear face coverings or masks, with exceptions only for those students/staff for whom it is not safe to do so due to age, medical conditions, or other considerations. In cases in which face coverings or masks are not possible, social distancing of six feet is required, unless not feasible due to the personal situation. Parents will be responsible for providing students with face coverings or masks. Staff may choose to wear their own mask or one provided by the school.

**Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing:** All Saint Raphael Academy students and staff must engage in frequent handwashing, including upon arrival, before and after meals, after bathroom use, after coughing or sneezing, and before dismissal. Our protocols will highlight the need for effective hand washing in which individuals use soap and water to wash all surfaces of their hands for at least 20 seconds, wait for visible lather, rinse thoroughly, and dry with an individual disposable towel. If handwashing is not available, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol content can be used.

**Maintaining six feet of separation or wear a mask:** All Saint Raphael Academy students and staff must maintain a physical distance of six feet whenever possible. If maintaining six feet of physical distance is not possible, masks must be worn.

**Isolation and discharge protocols for students who become ill during the day:** Saint Raphael Academy is developing protocols for isolation and discharge of students who become sick during the school day. A specific room at Saint Raphael Academy will be maintained for students with COVID-19 symptoms that is separate from the nurse's office or other space where other ailments are treated. Parents are asked to have an efficient pick-up plan in place so that sick students do not remain on campus.

**Regular cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and disposal protocols:** Saint Raphael Academy has developed new protocols and routines to ensure that facilities and surfaces are regularly cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected in accordance with health and safety guidelines and that hazardous materials are disposed of properly. Saints has purchased two sanitizing defoggers which will be used daily to insure disinfecting of the school every night.

## Attachment B

### **Saint Raphael Academy Athletics** **Safety and Health Protocols for Summer & Fall 2020 Athletic Seasons**

The Saint Raphael Academy Athletic Department is preparing for summer training in anticipation for the start of the 2020 school year. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Athletic Department has prepared a health and safety plan that will be based on four points of emphasis: screening, contact tracing, personal protection and social distancing.

The following safety protocols are being recommended to help protect the safety and health of all players and coaches. Adjustments to these protocols will be made as necessary in order to comply with new or updated guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the State of Rhode Island, or as deemed necessary by the RIIL or NFHS. The safety guidelines have been adopted from the CDC, NFHS, RI State Police, US Army National Guard, Reopening RI, and local first responders, all of which are agencies that are implementing training guidelines through the current pandemic.

While the implementation of the additional safety and health protocols explained in this document will help mitigate the risk of spreading or contracting the virus, we cannot eliminate the risks associated with COVID-19 completely. All involved will retain personal responsibility for their individual health and safety. Any individual who feels unsafe or ill at any time during the delivery of this training, or any event associated with the delivery of this training is required to immediately notify a coach and cease engagement in any or all activities.

#### SECTION 1: Education

Coaches will initially explain, then continuously monitor, the CDC guidance on how to protect oneself and others from the COVID-19 virus. This guidance includes:

- Knowing how the virus spreads
- Frequent hand washing/sanitation
- Avoiding touching one's eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed/un-sanitized hands
- Avoiding close contact with other people
- Covering one's mouth and nose with a cloth cover when around others
- Covering coughs and sneezes using a tissue or the inside of one's elbow
- The frequent cleaning and disinfecting of regularly touched surfaces

The CDC recommends an awareness of COVID-19 symptoms and the constant self-monitoring for signs of illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days following exposure to the virus and may vary from mild to severe. Symptoms include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea.

#### SECTION 2: Implementation

Pre-workout Screening:

- All coaches and students will be verbally screened for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 prior to a workout.
- Screening includes set of questions asked prior to work out that include, but not limited to: "Has player been around any person not feeling well or who has tested positive for COVID-19?"
- Any person who reports positive symptoms will not be allowed to participate in workouts and should contact his or her primary care provider or other appropriate health-care professional.
- Vulnerable individuals should not oversee or participate in any workouts.

- Anyone sent home may not return to the workouts until he/she (or his/her parent) provides competent evidence demonstrating that:
- After being sent home he/she was tested negative for COVID-19; or
- After being sent home he/she was tested positive for COVID-19, but has since met RIDOH guidelines for ending isolation; or
- They can provide a doctor's note stating he/she is not contagious.

Limitations on Gatherings/Physical Distancing:

- No gathering of more than 15 people at a time.
- Workouts will be conducted in “pods” of players with the same 14 players always working out together with the same coach. That will make a “stable” group of 15 people.
- Although not required within each stable group, physical distancing will be encouraged and activities that allow for six feet of distancing will be encouraged.
- When not engaged in active play, members of a stable group should maintain a physical distance of six feet between each person.
- Stable groups are required to maintain a minimum of 14 feet between the outer limit of their group and any other stable group or passersby.
- All workouts will be done outdoors.

Personal Protection:

- Due to a long period of interrupted organized physical activity, the pre-season Heat Acclimatization Rules set forth by the RIIL will be followed with the purpose of minimizing injury and enhancing the player’s health, performance, and well-being.
- Players and coaches will wear protective face masks before and after training.
- Players will wear their own appropriate workout clothing.
- Individual clothing must be washed and cleaned after every workout.
- Players will be instructed on how to properly and thoroughly clean and sanitize any equipment used.
- Athletic equipment, including balls, will be cleaned after each use and prior to the next workout.
- All students shall bring their own water bottle. Water bottles will not be shared.
- Hand sanitizer will be plentiful and available to individuals as they enter and leave their designated workout area.