

Mount Aviat Academy Reopening Plan

*“We shall steer safely through every storm, so long as our heart is right, our intention fervent, our courage steadfast, and our **trust** fixed on God.”*
~St. Francis de Sales

Based upon consultation with the Catholic Schools Office and in conformance with all state mandates and health advisories, we want to share with you our plans for reopening on September 1, 2020 for the 2020/21 school year.

By reorganizing classrooms, we are able to have all students return to school five days a week to the MAA campus. Please note that a resurgence of COVID-19 and a change back to Phase 1 by the state of Maryland would require us to move back to distance learning.

*Parents will have **three options** regarding the start of the new school year. Please carefully consider the information provided as you decide the best choice for your family.*

The MAA School Day

Schedule:

Early arrival – 7:30 to 7:50 am (Holy Family Hall)

Homeroom – 7:50 to 8:00 am

Morning Prayer and Announcements – 8:00 to 8:10 am

Essential Learning Classes – 8:10 am to 12:20 pm
(Religion, ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies)

Lunch and Recess - 12:20 to 1:40 pm

Learning Activities – 1:40 to 2:45 pm PE, STREAM, Robotics, Study sessions, etc.

Dismissal – 3:00 pm



Option 1 – On-Site

With social distancing rules currently in place, student desks are separated and all additional furniture removed from classrooms. The library has been set up as a classroom for 4th grade to allow additional space. Grades 7 and 8 will have two rooms on the top floor for each grade level. We have purchased camera/sound bar devices so students in both rooms can follow classes.

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As much as possible, students will **remain in the same room all day and teachers will change rooms**. The exception to this will be academic groups for math instruction in grades 6 through 8.

Option 2 – Essential Learning Day



Families may choose to have their children on-site only during essential learning, which is scheduled from 8:10 to 12:20 pm. **Students must be picked up promptly at 12:30 pm**. These students will not need to make up work from the afternoon as no additional assignments will be given to any students. If you choose this option, your child will participate in the academic program but will have fewer occasions to come into contact with others.

Option 3 – Virtual Learning

For students whose families have chosen for them to learn via the virtual option, they will be required to **log on through a Chromebook to access instruction during the school day**. The format for instruction may vary based on the grade level and subject. Learning expectations will be similar for students in the classroom and those on the virtual platform. Students will need to be in uniform and seated at a table or desk with learning materials ready when they are scheduled to be online.

Here are more details about virtual learning at different grade levels:

Preschool – Virtual learning is not available.

Kindergarten – Children will log into Google Meet at certain times during the day to participate in class. Mrs. DelCoglin will periodically meet with students individually during the week.

Grades 1 to 3 – A special session will be scheduled from 1:00 to 2:00 pm each day for teachers to connect with virtual learners through Google Meet. Students will receive instruction in key concepts and teachers will give assignments to be done independently. In addition, students will be given times to log into Google Meet to participate in learning activities with the class.

Grades 4 to 8 – Students will follow the same schedule as their classmates in school. Cameras with sound bars and mics have been installed to allow virtual learners to participate in class. Students will also have times during the day to work independently on assignments.

An intent form is coming out today for families to indicate the option they believe is best for their children. Responses from each family will be required.

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Arrival Procedures

For arrival, all students **MUST** have their mask on when they exit the car. If a parent chooses to park and walk their child to the door, the parent **MUST** be wearing a mask. In addition, **parents will be required to take their child's temperature** and verify that students are symptom-free prior to drop off.

Students will go to Holy Family Hall where they will be required to practice social distancing if they arrive before 7:50 am. All other students will be dropped off in the arrival lane and must **maintain a 6 ft. distance**. Students in grades 5 and 6 may enter through the door near their classrooms. Other students will pass through Holy Family and proceed to their classroom.

Preschool students will arrive at the Preschool building. They must also, in accordance with Child Care regulations, have their temperatures taken upon arrival by their parent in front of a staff member. Preschool parents must bring their own thermometer to use based on the guidelines from the Maryland Office of Child Care. Parents of preschool students will receive specific information about this process before school begins.

Lunch and Recess

Most students will **eat lunch in their classrooms** for the beginning of the year. This diminishes additional contact with other groups. Students will sanitize their desks and clean their hands both before and after lunch. There will be no hot lunch service through the end of December. Parents cannot drop off fast food for students to eat in place of packing a lunch. Also, birthday food treats are not permitted. We will update the status of the milk program closer to the start of the school year.

Students will go **outside for recess whenever possible** but the number of students in any one area will be restricted. Students will not need to wear their masks when outside at recess. Equipment will be available to encourage active play that does not require contact with others.

Dismissal

Parents will need to **remain in their cars for dismissal**. Parents cannot gather in the front of school. The school will follow the same procedure for carpools as last year. The carpool numbers are given at the gym so that they can be displayed in the classrooms. Students will be given directions to help them maintain social distancing during dismissal.

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Facilities Management

School Cleaning

Advant-Edge has provided guidance for the reopening of the school and the procedures that will be in place for regular disinfecting. **They trained MAA staff in the proper procedures for cleaning during the pandemic.** The school will institute a daily cleaning schedule. This includes disinfecting all areas of the campus including those items that are frequently touched by students and teachers, including but not limited to bathrooms, doorknobs, light switches, and furniture. In addition, **MAA will regularly use an EPA-approved disinfectant that will be applied to all areas and contact surfaces of the school through a professional fogging process.**

Air purifiers will be installed in all classrooms and special attention will be given to provide fresh air ventilation during the day and after school hours.

Facilities Modification

To promote all of the protocols in place for the safety and health of MAA students and faculty, the following upgrades have taken place:

- Signage to promote physical distancing, one-way pedestrian traffic, hygiene practices, etc.
- Eliminating shared supplies, equipment, and devices
- Access to hand sanitizer upon entering the building and in each classroom
- Closure of water fountains except for water bottle refilling feature
- Reduction in number of students allowed in a restroom at a given time for appropriate social distancing

Visitor Policy

The MAA school buildings will be limited to faculty, staff, students, and essential guests. At this time, there will be no volunteers in any of the classrooms. All visitors are required to wear a mask while on campus. Visitors will be directed to wait in the entrance and will not have access to other areas of the school building. If you should need to drop off any items for your child during the school day, please follow the above protocol and leave all items in the entrance.

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Campus Events

All large gatherings, meetings, and school events are suspended through 12/31/2020. We will reevaluate the feasibility of events in 2021. Virtual or digital options will be available when applicable.

Health and Wellness

Full-Time School Nurse

Ms. Amanda George, RN, will be available in school at all times. We hope to have a substitute nurse if she cannot be there. In addition to the regular nurse's room, we have a dedicated room where a student who becomes ill can be isolated. **Parents will be called and asked to pick up any sick student as promptly as possible but within a 30-minute window.** Students must be fever free for 24 hours, without the use of medication, before returning to school. In addition, a doctor's note will be required for re-entry. A fever is defined as any reading over 100.4 degrees.



Masks

Each member of the MAA school community will be required to wear a mask during arrival, dismissal, and while in the school buildings. It is the responsibility of the families to supply masks for the students to wear. Families should purchase their own masks of soft cloth, paper fiber, or fabric masks with layers of material that fully cover a person's nose and mouth. Masks must be worn with BOTH the nose and mouth covered at all times. Students will need at least one extra mask in a disposable baggie or washable pouch in their backpack for daily use. Fabric or reusable masks must be washed before re-use. Paper masks should be disposed of after one use. Masks should have no writing, lettering, graphics, slogans, or controversial material on them. They can have a design. Masks should be labeled with the student's name. Students should practice wearing their masks for extended time before school starts to ensure choosing a comfortable mask and to practice keeping it on while completing a variety of tasks.

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During the school day, we will have *mask breaks* outdoors with the required social distancing.

State guidelines allow for some accommodations for young children that will be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the school nurse. Older students may not remove their masks except when practicing social distancing outdoors. Please inform Ms. George if your child has a medical condition related to wearing a mask.

Reporting & Contact Tracing

In the case of a positive COVID-19 test within our MAA community, **the Cecil County Health Department will work collaboratively with the school and the school nurse to lead the efforts to perform outreach and guide the contact tracing process.** This may result in faculty, staff, and students quarantining for a defined period of time. As guidelines evolve, we will adjust our processes accordingly. Response to a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 and information-sharing about cases are handled by the local health department, in accordance with the Maryland Health Department requirements.

Co-Curricular Activities

MAA Clubs and Activities

Once the school year begins, clubs and activities will be evaluated based on risk, availability of space, and size of the program. This includes clubs/activities that occur during the school day as well as those after school.



Gatherings During the School Day

Schoolwide gatherings, such as assemblies, prayer services, and Masses will not occur through 12/31/2020.

Field Trips

We will not be scheduling any field trips for the 2020-21 school year.

CYM Athletics

Based on information received from CYM, our school will not participate in fall sports (volleyball and soccer).

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Reversal to Stage 1

In the event that the cases of COVID-19 increase and we have to go back to stage 1 based on directives from the State of Maryland, or a student has to be quarantined, students will follow classes by use of their electronic devices. All students in grades 3 to 8 will have a Chromebook which will have the appropriate safety software installed (Go Guardian). We have ordered tablet devices for grades 1 and 2 that are presently backordered. Students in PS and K will continue to use their family devices because they cannot be on a device without an adult present. If needed, we will help you to obtain the necessary device.

If we have to go back to Distance Learning, each class will have regular “live” classes via Google Meet. Our cameras and sound bars will allow teachers to meet with students daily and provide direct instruction followed by independent learning activities. There will be designated times that each academic subject area will meet, along with the number of minutes spent with instruction and independent practice.

Final Notes

This is a living document that will be amended as regulations are modified by the State of Maryland.

This is uncharted territory for all of us. We have attempted to provide as much information as possible. As we have more to share, we will do so. We cannot answer every question as some procedures are not yet in place. Our faculty and staff are working together to provide the very best education in the safest and most supportive environment possible. We appreciate the support and prayers of all in our school community. We are humbled by the trust you show in placing your children with us throughout the day.

As we make decisions and establish processes, we promise you that our only criterion is the well-being of the children entrusted to our care. All we do is for the children and helping them to grow and learn as God has destined them to do. That is our pledge and what guides us along the way. Let us remain united in prayer as we journey along this extraordinary path.



“It is love that gives value to all our labors. It is not by the greatness or the multiplicity of our works that we please God, but by the love with which we do them.” Saint Francis de Sales