

Social and Emotional

Diocese of Brooklyn

St. Leo Catholic Academy

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Responsible Party:
Jennifer Hernandez, Principal

❖ **Creating community and connecting with students in new school configurations**

- Current technology such as Option C will be used to connect with families and students via text and email.
- Teachers will use zoom and google meets to have students interact with each other while in different classrooms. Students will remain in their cohorts to facilitate social distancing so in-person contact would not be advisable. Contact between students in different classes will occur using technology.

❖ **Facilitating community and connection with faculty and staff**

- Technology will be used to connect students with each other and with staff. Class pages will connect students with their teachers and classmates. Special pages will be connected so that students can interact with each other in different classes. Students in the upper grades will continue to work with the younger children via zoom.
- Website will be updated to be more user friendly so that information can be accessed quickly. Important information will be highlighted for ease of parental access.
- A “Getting to Know You” section will be posted on the website highlighting the teachers and their backgrounds to introduce them to the new families.
- Class pages will be updated on the website to include a link to contact teachers.
- An SLCA App is being developed to facilitate communication with parents. The app will be used for parents to submit daily health checks and report when their children will be absent.

❖ **Onboarding students to orient to the new realities of the classroom and school**

- Reopening Plans will be posted on the school website with a summary of important information.
- The online calendar will be updated to include detailed school opening information.
- Parent meetings via zoom will be scheduled for the Principal to present the opening guidelines to families. This will be followed by breakout sessions with the individual teachers.
- The first day of school will be staggered for grades to allow for students to get acclimated to the new procedures in a smaller group setting.

❖ **Developing a differentiated on-boarding plan for students that are new to the school (transfer students)**

- Parents of prospective students receive a phone call from the teacher of the class to welcome them, explain class procedures, and answer questions.
- Office staff contacts the parent to explain tuition and other procedures. Contact information is supplied should questions arise.
- Students will be welcomed to the class via a zoom meeting to be introduced to their classmates. These zoom meetings will take place before the physical first day of school to ensure that students are clear on the new procedures for social distancing.

❖ **Developing authentic ways for parents to connect with the school community in a virtual world**

- A new system called School Admin will be implemented in September to increase contact between school and families. The system will provide enhanced record keeping and communication platforms.
- SLCA is developing an APP so that parents can download to their phones and keep in constant contact with the school. The App will be used for daily health screenings, absence reporting, and important news blasts.
- Parent meetings will be scheduled on a regular basis using zoom. The meeting format will include an opening session with the Principal and administrative staff followed by a breakout session with the classroom teacher.

❖ **Maintaining daily rituals (i.e. daily announcements, morning prayer, etc.)**

- Daily prayers will be conducted via the internet from classrooms. Selected classes will post each day to be broadcast to the other classes.
- Announcements will continue to be made by administrative staff over the PA system.
 - Grace will continue to be broadcast over the PA system before lunch.
 - Monthly Masses will continue with a limited number of students attending church and the remainder of students watching the Mass via facebook.
 - Students will no longer be allowed to bring materials to the main office. Any material that needs to be sent to the office will be placed on a table in the hallway outside the classroom for the school secretary to pick up.
 - A website school bulletin board will be created for daily news blasts.

❖ Structuring social opportunities for students and families

- Several social events will be instituted and will continue. They could be:
 - Thursday night at the movies. A movie is played via zoom.
 - Game night: Students can log in via zoom and play games with a teacher and their classmates.
 - Online events such as Bingo are being explored.

❖ Creating ways to mitigate stress responses in students, teachers, and families

- Communication through various online sources will be used to make sure families and staff are kept informed and updated with latest developments.
- Opportunities will be provided to have class outside in the fresh air to mitigate stress and have a change of environment.
- Families that contact the school through email will receive prompt responses.
- Guidance services will be enhanced. The school has a guidance counselor who will coordinate efforts to maintain mental health services. During the COVID crisis the guidance counselor conducted zoom meetings with students to keep in touch and stay connected. These will continue.

❖ Enhancing approaches to support social emotional learning

- SLCA has a guidance counselor. Counselors will be instrumental in developing a school-wide guidance plan which will coordinate with the classroom teachers to provide outlets for students to express their feelings and interact with their friends in a safe and secure manner.

❖ **Adjusting recruiting and marketing practices to attract new families and maintain contact with those newly enrolled.**

- SLCA has a Director of Marketing and Development to assist with managing and maintaining the school's social media presence and website connection.
- Targeted advertising focuses on the entry level grades of Kindergarten and Grade 6. This advertising is on social media and websites.
- Paper Ads have been purchased through the Queens family.
- Prospect families can fill out an online application through the website which will receive a response by the next business day. Response includes a call from the teacher of the grade, secretarial staff regarding the admissions process, and inclusion on mailing lists to get up-to-date information.