

Bulletin #2
July 10,2020

Our PLAN is in PLACE
We are ready to OPEN

**To All Members of St. Mary's Parish School
Community**

We will be sending emails on a regular basis to all families to inform you of our plans for school in the Fall. Bulletin #1 was sent week of June 23rd.

A few questions that have been asked recently:

- ❖ The Idaho State Department of Education Guidelines have just been released. Does St Mary's Parish School have to follow these guidelines?

As a Catholic (that is, a parochial school) we are not governed by the Idaho State Board of Education. However, the guidelines that the State Board has developed are based on CDC and the District Health Department Guidelines which we do need to follow to open.

- ❖ Does the report mandate what must happen to open schools?

No. These are recommendations to help ensure the health and safety of faculty staff, students, and families.

NOTE from Dr. Beller: "ALL these guidelines clearly state that schools should operate within the context of their own communities and situations. There are things we may be able to do here that other parts of the state cannot. The District 2 health dept makes their recommendations for our local community as well as region." ***

Great news!! When school opens: As you are aware, we use some different computer programs in the school that help *augment* our curriculum. Programs such as accelerated reading, accelerated math, IXL, Waterford, and Lexia Core 5 are used through the grades. Why have we chosen to use programs such as these? Such programs assist students individually to move and be challenged at their own pace. Such programs have assisted our students to grow stronger, academically.

Recently, we have purchased 80 Chromebooks. Why is this important? We have computers in each classroom, but given the health, safety and social distancing we *must follow*, the number of students who can be on the computers at any time would be greatly restricted in accessing the programs for their needed practice skills. Should the school be *required* to move into soft closure, we will be able to use devices such as the Chromebooks to ***directly teach*** the students in their home.

Remember, if you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Beller at jbeller@stmarysmoscow.com or call her at 208-882-2121 or 208-310-5000.

*****For the safety and health of the students, faculty, staff, and families of St. Mary's Parish School community, we must follow District II Health Department Guideline and our **local** authority.**