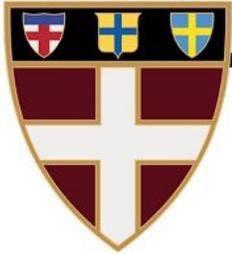


SHATTUCK-
ST. MARY'S



SHATTUCK-ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Fall 2020 FAQs

Return to School

1. What if I want to return to SSM on a date different from my scheduled cohort return date?

We ask that families adhere to the scheduled cohort arrivals. Any requests for alternative arrival dates should be sent to SSMFall2020@s-sm.org for individual consideration. As you finish your enrollment, you will receive links to share your travel information with us.

2. What if I have multiple children in different cohorts with different return dates?

Ideally, they still adhere to the scheduled date for their cohort. If that is not possible, please email us at SSMFall2020@s-sm.org to discuss.

3. What health and safety protocols will be implemented at Registration and Orientation this year? What will Registration and Orientation look like this year?

We will have registration sessions on each of the arrival Monday afternoons and Tuesday mornings in Johnson Gymnasium. If parents are dropping their students off on campus, they should plan to go through registration with their students. We ask that no more than one family member accompany the student into the gym. Students whose parents are not present will complete the registration process on their own, with school support.

All students and visitors will be required to wear masks and follow physical distancing requirements.

As we get closer to the date of registration and dorm move-in, we will share more information about the schedule and our plans to avoid large groups and congestion in our buildings during these times.

Most of our employees are still working from home, per the current orders in Minnesota. Employees who are coming to work, including those who will help you during the registration process, are participating in daily health screening and wearing masks. When in our buildings and when unable to maintain social distancing, all visitors and students will be required to wear masks. During orientation, students will be trained on health and safety protocols while they are at school.

Orientation will be different this year. We will not be hosting large gatherings, and we will not have one large opening chapel event. Students who arrive during the first two sets of arrival dates in August will participate in registration and move-in, followed by COE training sessions and school orientation in smaller groups. Students who arrive during the last set of dates will have their orientation integrated into the first week of school.

4. Will parents be allowed on campus to help with move-in day and to drop their children off?

Yes, our staggered arrival dates will allow for parents to be on campus safely for a few days in lower densities. Whenever possible, we ask that families keep their party as small as possible, ideally the student and two family members. This will help us accommodate families who cannot limit their party size, such as families traveling with younger siblings.

During your visit, please limit the number of people who accompany your student. The student and two family members are allowed in the dorms and the student and one family member is allowed in the Johnson Gymnasium.

5. When should proctors return? They usually arrive early.

Proctors have been notified by email that they should use the same schedule as everyone else. They will not have a different arrival date this year.

6. Will parents and students be required to sign a release of liability or a community contract regarding COVID-19?

Yes, we will be asking parents and students to sign a document recognizing the inherent risks of returning to school and agreeing to follow our policies and procedures.

7. Will students be required to have a COVID-19 test and/or quarantine before arrival?

As of July 10th, we have not finalized our decision regarding required COVID-19 testing for students who are asymptomatic. We are actively monitoring the pandemic and will finalize this decision in the coming weeks. At this point, all families should explore their access to testing and prepare for this likely requirement.

In addition, all students and families are urged to wear masks in public, avoid large group gatherings, and follow physical distancing guidelines for the remainder of summer ahead of their arrival. In particular, we ask that families increase their level of awareness and adherence to [these guidelines](#) during the 14 days prior to their arrival on campus and during their travel to Faribault.

Day Students

1. Will day students be allowed on campus, or will they exclusively participate in distance learning?

Day students are included in the plans we describe for students who are on-campus. Day students are required to be screened each morning before they begin their day on campus. The screening location and process will be sent to all day students prior to the start of classes. Any additional special information pertaining to day students will be included in future communication, but families should feel free to reach out to us at SSMFall2020@s-sm.org at any point to ask questions.

2. How will day students be put into their cohorts?

Day students will be put into their cohorts with the same COE/team based approach as residential students, but they will be expected to participate in daily screenings when they arrive on campus. This is already the expectation for faculty and staff who are working on campus.

3. How will a day student schedule compare to that of a boarding student?

During the academic day, day student and boarding student schedules will be very similar, but if at any time there are restrictions in place reducing student contact outside the school day, part of that response will include requiring day students to be off campus outside of the school day.

4. Where will day students be allowed to stay when not in class or in official training?

Depending on state and local guidelines, a cohort specific work area will be set aside for day students who need a place to work between assigned activities if free roaming isn't allowed. Day students will not be allowed in the dormitories.

5. What are the daily screening protocols for day students and other members of the SSM community coming from off-campus?

Depending on recommendations and requirements issued by state and local health officials, all non-resident persons that enter campus will need to pass a daily health screening. This will include a form that asks about symptoms and possible COVID-19 exposure and temperature monitoring. This process is subject to change if recommendations from our consulting physician and local health officials change.

6. Are day students allowed to train as well?

Day students will participate in registration and all other activities with their cohort, but will likely need to be off campus when not in required sessions or school. Again, we will monitor guidelines and adjust accordingly.

Dorm Life

1. When and how do I need to submit all housing and dorm registration forms?

We will start assigning rooms and roommates in early August. All Housing Survey forms need to be submitted by then in order to be considered. The [link to the form](#) is sent in the list of links families receive from Admissions after making their deposit, but we are also including it in this document for your convenience.

2. Will students be in dorms not typically associated with their grade and gender (e.g., senior boys in Kim, all girls in St. Mary's Hall)?

Dorms will still be assigned by gender, but not all dorms may be used in the same manner as before, and all seniors may not be in traditionally senior dorms. We will be assigning dorms in accordance with our safety guidelines, and this may require changes in how we assign our dorms. Dorm assignments will not be finalized until late July.

3. Will students still be allowed to pick their roommates?

Yes, students can ask for specific roommates, and we will do what we can to honor such requests. When completing the Housing Survey, students should coordinate their roommate requests with other students in the same cohort, usually students of about the same team/grade in their COE. Students in smaller COEs (i.e., VPP, Golf, Figure Skating, BioScience, The Major, PreConservatory, and Engineering) should list 2nd and 3rd choices as we are still finalizing how we will group these students in cohorts. Because we are housing students by cohort and placing our safety guidelines as our top priority, our acceptance and review of roommate requests should not be construed as a guarantee that these matches can or will be made.

4. Will students be allowed to change roommates later in the year?

We usually discourage roommate changes throughout the year unless it can't be avoided. In order to position the school to best respond to changes in state and local guidelines related to COVID-19 throughout the year, we currently plan to maintain cohort based room assignments all year. We will evaluate this decision prior to our students' return from Winter Break.

5. What is the School's plan for individual dorms in the event of a positive COVID-19 case?

We are setting aside open spaces in a number of locations on campus to be used as quarantine and isolation rooms, including leaving extra spaces in each dorm in order to accommodate the potential need for a sudden shift.

We use the word quarantine to describe the step that happens when a person has a suspected exposure but has not tested positive or shown symptoms. Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. We use the word isolation for when a person has tested positive or has shown symptoms and is awaiting testing. Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

Travel

Note: These answers may change significantly due to shifting regulations and recommendations from local and state health officials. Please consult the proper agency in your area for more information as well.

<https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/stay-safe-mn/stay-safe-plan.jsp>

<https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/stay-safe-mn/faq.jsp>

<https://www.co.rice.mn.us/492/Coronavirus-disease-COVID-19-Current-Sit>

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/situation.html>

1. Are there any state-wide protocols families should be aware of when dropping their student off at SSM?

As of July 7th, there are no specific Minnesota protocols that families should be aware of.

Anyone that shows symptoms that could be associated with COVID-19, or has been in close proximity to someone that is either symptomatic, suspected, or confirmed for COVID-19, should not come to campus. See the links above for current information on state and local travel recommendations

2. Will students be allowed to travel home on the weekends?

For the month of August and September, we ask that students stay on campus, but circumstances will also vary depending on distance from home and length of time away. Students who do leave campus will then fall under monitoring protocols similar to those of day students for a few weeks. Please reach out to us at SSMFall2020@s-sm.org to discuss your specific circumstances.

3. Can parents visit their students on the weekends while staying in Faribault?

Generally, yes, but we may also ask that this be restricted for a period of time at the start of the school year.

4. Who needs a Visa to travel to SSM and how should families navigate this?

All students who do not have legal US residency will need a visa to enter the United States. Once a student is enrolled, the Admissions office will issue an I-20. This document will help you obtain your F-1 visa. All instructions on what to do will be included with your I-20. Email Mr. Andrew Garlinski in our Admissions Office at andrew.garlinski@s-sm.org with any questions.

5. Will the international students have to be quarantined for 14 days in a hotel before arriving on campus?

As of July 10th, the United States is not imposing quarantine measures. We will need to follow whatever government guidelines are in place at that time. Should a quarantine be required upon arrival, we will not be able to host it and families would likely need to take care of it themselves before coming to campus.

Currently the United States does have travel restrictions for some countries. Please review these restrictions at the [CDC website](#). China and many European countries are currently on this list.

Please reach out to us at SSMFall2020@s-sm.org to discuss your specific circumstances.

Minneapolis Protests

1. Are the protests in Minneapolis and the surrounding area affecting the safety of students at SSM?

While peaceful protests continue, rioting in Minneapolis has subsided, and we believe that this aspect of life in Minnesota will not affect our students in August

MSP airport is south of Minneapolis, and students do not travel through the city to go from the airport to Faribault. We will have an adult and driver traveling to pick up the students and support them through their arrival; the van will then travel directly back to campus. On campus, our buildings, dorms included of course, are locked and accessed by key cards. Doors that are accessible during the day to visitors are

monitored by cameras. We also have night security, and a close, positive working relationship with our local police department.

We will continue to monitor the situation with the protests over the course of the summer.

Our school is committed to Equity and Inclusion, and we actively strive to improve our understanding of the experience of people of color at our school and in our country. We look forward to the return of school so that we can continue our growth with our students, faculty, and staff.

Health and Safety

1. *What are SSM's policies regarding mask-wearing and physical distancing guidelines?*

All students and employees are required to maintain proper physical distancing and wear a mask while in public spaces. Students should come to school with masks they are ready to wear and are appropriate for our school setting.

2. *What are SSM's policies regarding COVID-19 testing?*

We are still working with local health officials on what testing plan, if any, is appropriate for our situation. There is no form of testing that can guarantee us a campus free of COVID-19 or tell us if a person is no longer vulnerable.

As of July 10th, we know that we do not have access asymptomatic testing for routine, large group populations. Therefore, we will not be testing our community routinely, like you may have seen in other organizations. We also know that we cannot administer our own testing through our Health Services. Therefore, we know that we will not provide testing on campus.

Access to asymptomatic testing in Rice County has been increasing, but most testing is still reserved for people who have had known exposure or are showing symptoms. We will be able to access asymptomatic testing for individuals, but not large groups.

As of July 10th, we are considering requiring COVID-19 testing for students before they return. We understand that there is enough time between testing at home and arrival on campus for students to be exposed; however, we will likely be asking families to take this step before arriving on campus. We urge all families to explore their access to asymptomatic testing now.

3. *What will the School's process be if a student or teacher is tested positive for COVID-19?*

In the case of a confirmed positive test, the School will follow proper procedures as issued by local and state officials, to include isolation for an on-campus resident and a restriction from campus for a person that lives within driving distance. How a person will be medically treated, supported, or moved could vary significantly depending on

the circumstances. A student may or may not be allowed to travel home. That will depend on the guidance of health officials and travel restrictions in place at that time.

4. *What will the School do if there is a suspected exposure?*

In the case of a suspected exposure, the School will follow proper procedures as issued by local and state officials, to include symptom monitoring for the suspected exposed person for 14 days. Our cohort model for the dorms is structured so that we can quarantine asymptomatic students in cohorts in their dorms if necessary.

5. *What will happen if there is a school closure in the area due to COVID-19?*

In the case of an area school closure due to COVID-19, the School will follow the recommendations and requirements issued by state and local health officials at that time.

6. *Does the international health insurance families purchase cover COVID-19 related issues?*

Yes, for those that purchase their insurance through the school. Families should consult their own insurance representative for guidance with their policies.

We cannot provide guidance on what the cost of COVID-19 related care will be for individuals if hospitalization is required.

Academics

1. *What is the breakdown of online and in-person instruction and what will a typical day/week look like with this hybrid model?*

Plans for the academic schedule are still ongoing. We anticipate that the bulk of the content will be delivered in an online format. However, with students on campus, we will be able to hold synchronous online sessions more easily. We are also working to develop a model that will allow students some face to face time with their teachers each week, but this model will not be the same as our normal daily schedule. We are also working to include more face-to-face time for our younger students. We will share more information on this later.

2. *Will students be able to meet with their teachers face-to-face outside of scheduled cohort meetings?*

We are planning to reserve flexible times when teachers and students can meet on an appointment basis.

3. *Will assigned cohorts affect what classes a student is able to take?*

We are not changing our curriculum or course offerings. Students will be enrolled in the classes that they registered for based on their teacher recommendations, their indicated preferences, and space in the course. The cohorts will impact when students have access to their teachers for face to face meetings, not their course selections.

4. How will the daily schedule be structured if those in a cohort are not in the same grade and or classes?

We are still working on this. We will schedule students into classes based on their academic needs, not their cohort. Their cohort will impact the time when they are able to see their teacher for face to face interaction. We will provide more details as the start of school grows closer.

5. How will cohorts be formed in sports where tryouts that determine teams occur after the school year begins?

Students and families should contact their COE director for specific questions about tryouts and plans for their sport. We will be basing cohorts mostly on age levels.

6. When will placement tests take place?

Placement testing will likely take place during registration and orientation. Most of the testing we do is to place English Language Learners. Students in Math and World Language are placed using academic records and teacher recommendations. Any necessary adjustments to these levels are typically made during the first two to three weeks of the school year.

7. Where can a student work during unscheduled time?

Depending on state and local guidelines, work areas will be set aside for students who need a place to work between assigned activities. Boarding students will be encouraged to use their dorm rooms for study time.

8. How will this model impact seniors' college applications?

Students across the United States and throughout much of the world will be experiencing a new education model. In many ways, we are better positioned for this shift because we have been teaching in a blended model for many years. We will continue to offer a rigorous, relevant, college preparatory curriculum to our students. Many colleges and universities have already begun to move toward test optional admissions as a result of the challenges associated with access to SAT and ACT testing during the pandemic. As a test center for SAT, ACT, and TOEFL, we are well positioned to help our students who do need access to testing for their admissions process.

9. How does a student get their textbooks if they elect to learn from a distance?

Textbooks and materials can be shipped to students who are learning from a distance.

Student Life

1. Will the weight room be available to students?

At some point, yes, but only when permitted by state guidelines and with limitations to provide safe use of that facility.

2. Will there be restrictions on social interaction outside of school hours?

There may be some significant restrictions in place for the first few weeks. Decisions will need to be made closer to the time of student arrival.

3. What extracurricular activities will be available (e.g., interscholastic sports, school plays, field trips, Harvest Breakfast, Christmas Dinner)?

Travel will likely be restricted for the first few weeks. Decisions on other events will need to be made closer to the dates those events are set to take place. It is our intent to retain as many of these events as possible.

4. Will students be allowed to visit other parts of Faribault (e.g., local businesses, Walmart, restaurants)?

Local trips will likely be restricted at first, then relaxed as conditions allow. The School will support students who arrive without their families and need supplies when they arrive on campus.

5. What does the day look like beyond training for athletes? Will they be restricted to campus only, or are they allowed off campus to visit friends?

We will need to reference whatever government guidelines are in place at the time, but everyone should assume there will be significant restrictions on movement and visitors for at least the first few weeks. Visiting with friends off campus during the first few weeks is very unlikely, and day students will not be allowed in the dorms.

6. Can students stay on campus for school breaks?

We encourage all students to stay on campus for the long Thanksgiving weekend between Fall and Winter terms. International students will have the option to stay on campus for the Winter and Spring breaks for a fixed fee.

7. What programming will be available for the Thanksgiving long weekend? Can families visit that weekend?

It will primarily be a break for students, faculty, and staff. Food service will be open, of course, and a few dorm activities will be planned for that time as well, taking into consideration the nature of the restrictions in place at that time.

We will send more information about the Thanksgiving holiday as we get closer and have a better understanding of the impact of the pandemic in the United States.

8. Will spectators, including families, be able to attend games?

While attendance at games will likely be dictated by state regulations instead of internal School policy, we anticipate that sporting venues will be opening up in the coming months, provided that attendees adhere to mask and physical distancing guidelines, which the School will be requiring.

Prorated Tuition and Fees

1. Can families expect any decreases in tuition?

If students cannot safely arrive on campus by the beginning of the school year, a distance learning option will be available. Because distance learning work will be closely tied to the on-campus experience, we will not be offering prorated tuition.

Families considering keeping their students at home for the year should contact the Admissions Office to discuss specifics.

2. *Can families expect any decreases in COE fees?*

In the event that students cannot safely arrive on campus by the beginning of the school year, Academic and Arts Centers of Excellence will continue to be offered. We will not be offering prorated COE fees for these programs. Athletic COE fees cover many other expenses besides travel, such as coaching and trainer salaries, capital costs to provide facilities and operating and maintenance costs of facilities. There may be minor adjustments made to COE fees based on abbreviated travel schedules, but families should not plan on these fees being prorated.

3. *Can families expect any decreases in boarding expenses?*

In the event that health guidelines dictate we are unable to provide boarding accommodations, we will offer a prorated refund/credit for boarding fees. This prorated refund/credit would be calculated on months starting in October, assuming the student did not make it back to campus by the end of September.

Food

1. *What is the protocol for food service and dining?*

Most food will be served by our servery staff, along with other measures put in place to minimize contact with touch surfaces. Our current plan is for students to eat meals within their cohorts and in a rotation that will allow physical distancing.

2. *Can students have fridges in their rooms?*

The rules regarding dorm refrigerators have not changed. The electrical service in our dorms will have difficulty handling the extra power draw a large number of such devices will create.

3. *Are there other dining options available in Faribault?*

Along with the regular delivered food options many students already use, a handful of restaurants in town have created a delivery option that may or may not continue into the school year. To our knowledge, at this time there are no third-party food delivery operations in Faribault, such as DoorDash, Grubhub, etc.