



"Fall 2022 Learning Journey"

August 2022

Dear Families,

I would like to begin by thanking all of you for your support of our nursery school over the past two years. Many of you are new to our school and this will be your first experience in a myriad of ways. Although our world is evolving in this pandemic, we prayerfully had great success last year with our school remaining open for the entire year. Our families and staff demonstrated that through faith and perseverance we would continue this learning journey in a way we never imagined or encountered. I pray that everyone continues to be healthy physically and emotionally. As with all schools, a great deal of preparation, planning, and implementation has gone into this process. I have sought the advice of our Office of Early Childhood specialist from the State of Connecticut, our local health sanitarian from Quinnipiac Valley Health, the Office of Education, Evangelization, and Catechesis from the Archdiocese of Hartford, and our North Haven Fire Department fire inspector. After prayerful consideration and careful review of the guidelines and laws set before us during this time, I have drafted our return to school plan for fall of 2022. As I mentioned in our Welcome back to school letter, the OEC is still finalizing their recommendations for the return to school. I will update you with this information prior to the start of school.

We continue to work diligently to provide the safest environment possible with protocols and physical changes to our building to achieve this goal. Whether it be the electrostatic sprayer that will sanitize our rooms and toys to the UV filters that will be placed on all our furnace/air condition units to clean the air of the building, we are dedicated to going above and beyond in the name of safety as we have done so for the past twenty one years. The social emotional component of nursery school and the lack of social interaction for many of our children over the past few years is of our utmost concern. Attending school is critical for the social/emotional component for our little friends. Our staff continues to develop appropriate curriculum to address these very needs in addition to support from educational consultants with a focus on socialization.

With regards to tuition, in the event we are mandated to go virtual, we will continue to provide an early childhood education through online classes as well as supportive materials for activities including the tools needed to do so.

If anything should change with regards to this plan, you will be notified. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions at any time. Together we can work on making our school a safe place for our children to grow on this learning journey. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

In God's Peace,

Michele Adinolfi Director, St. Therese Nursery School



"Fall 2022 Learning Journey"

Cleaning and Physical Plant Modifications:

1. We utilize a professional cordless Electrostatic handheld sprayer made by the Victory company to us in sterilization of the classrooms and toys. This type of sprayer can be used in schools and is safe for those who have asthma. After receiving the spray, the item or surface is sanitized for viruses and dries within three minutes. The spray and electrons encapsulate an item for this sanitization procedure.
 - a. The classrooms will be sprayed each morning by our cleaning company prior to the start of school in addition to our more extensive daily cleaning.
 - b. The sprayer will be used on the playground in between the different classes on all the equipment, bikes, cars, and helmets.
 - c. The sprayer will be used in the classroom in between each center use on all items such as blocks, Legos, play kitchen items, and all surfaces of the centers.
 - d. Our cleaning company will use extended measures with our Lysol products to clean the classrooms and bathrooms.
 - e. Our HVAC system has been fitted with UV filters to clean the air provided by our air condition and heating systems.
 - f. All tables and chairs will be wiped with Lysol wipes before and after each use.
 - g. At every transition during the day the areas in use and materials will be cleaned and sterilized with the electrostatic sprayer, Lysol wipes, or Lysol disinfectant.



"Fall 2022 Learning Journey"

Arrival/Dismissal to school:

- i. Each classroom will enter a separate door to the individual classroom. Lawn signs identifying classrooms A, B, C, and D will be prominently placed to denote where to enter. Families will wait on the STNS circles six feet apart on the sidewalk and into the building. We will utilize these entrances for Meet and Greet so that our families will have a practice run.
- ii. The director will be stationed in between the white fences to direct families to the separate entrances and answer any questions.
- iii. Masks are optional. They are not required at this time. This decision is up to your family. We are asking parents to provide at least two additional masks in a Ziploc bag in their child's tote bag. In the beginning many children will wet their masks and require changing.
- iv. Health Screening: We will screen staff and children for any observable illness, including cough or respiratory distress, prior to entering the facility. A copy of our daily screening log will be used at Meet and Greet for your reference.
- v. Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol will be placed at every sign in log to the classroom for your use and your child.
- vi. Parents will sign their child in and complete a questionnaire each day regarding the health and wellbeing of their child. Pen boxes will include new pens and a box for used pens.
- vii. Communication with families at arrival and dismissal: We will be keeping our communication brief at arrival and dismissal as people will be waiting in line outside and weather could be inclement. Our staff will be utilizing other methods of communication such as emails, Remind text, or phone calls.

Handwashing

Handwashing is the best defense against the spread of any virus.

Staff and students will wash their hands at the following times:

- viii. Upon arrival to school
- ix. After arrival activity
- x. At every transition
 - 1. Example: Before and after every center, before and after eating, before and after playground use
- xi. Washing hands before and after lunch with automated dispenser
- xii. After using the bathroom
- xiii. Any time a person coughs or sneezes

Food

*All lunches are peanut/tree nut free. Parents will provide the utensils needed for each lunch daily.

*Snack: Each classroom will have labeled snack items and drinks.

Nap

- xiv. Children will be placed six feet apart or head to toe to accommodate the spacing.
- xv. Washing of hands before and after nap for both students and staff
- xvi. Nap items will be stored on hooks in bags separate from one another and sent home weekly for laundering or as needed.
- xvii. Cots will be sprayed individually after each use.

Playground

- xviii. Playground schedule: Each class will have a set playground time with a gap in between for cleaning with the sprayer to sterilize big toys/cars/outdoor toys. All day classes will have a morning and afternoon playground time.
- xix. Purel, tissues, gloves, and a trash can will be placed on playground.

Outdoor Classroom

- xx. Outdoor seating area with tables will be an option for teachers to utilize for snacks, lunch, or instruction. This area will be within the fenced in playground in a separate area. These tables will be sanitized before and after use.

Health and Well Being

*If a child becomes ill while at school for any reason, they will be brought to the meeting room outside the Director's office which will serve as the isolation room. Parents will be notified to pick up the child.

*Temperature checks will also occur mid-day to ensure that there is no change in the child's temperature if the staff notices a change in behavior or observes any symptoms differing from the initial screening at arrival.

***Fever and Gastrointestinal Illness:** A child must now remain out of school for 48 hours if they have a fever or gastrointestinal illness. The child must be fever free and not exhibit any signs of gastrointestinal distress for 48 hours before returning to school.

If COVID-19 Is Diagnosed in a Child or Staff Member

Per the OEC

If a child or staff member who has been present in the program is diagnosed with COVID-19, the childcare provider must notify families and staff about the exposure.

Update in Quarantine Policy for Positive Students: January 24, 2021

- The CDC shortened the recommended time for **isolation** for the public to 5 days as long as they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours). If symptoms do not resolve, they are still considered contagious and should remain out of school in isolation until symptoms resolve. Masks should be worn the full 10 days regardless of symptoms. Students may return to school if they are asymptomatic as described above and take a Rapid Covid Test or PCR test (no home tests) on day five that has a negative result. The student may then return to school on day six if all of the criteria above have been met.