

03/06/2020

Dear SMG Parents and School Community,

As we all continue to follow news and information regarding the Novel Coronavirus 2019, we are taking extra precautions on our campus to lessen and hopefully prevent the spread of all viruses, which can lead to infection and illness.

Some of the precautions we are taking include the following:

- **Sharing Food & Drinks:** We are reviewing and enforcing the policy already in place (see SMG 2019-2020 Family Handbook, page 30) which states that students are not permitted to share food or drinks. While we do our best to monitor this activity, particularly in the cafeteria during lunch periods, please remind your student(s) of the importance of not sharing any food or drink with others.
- **Washing Hands:** Thoroughly washing hands is the most effective way of preventing the spread of many viruses and bacterial infections. Of course faculty & staff will continue to encourage students to wash their hands often, especially after using the restroom, after recess, and before snack and lunch. Again, please remind your child(ren) of the importance of this simple preventative measure.
- **Coughing/Sneezing:** If your child(ren) has a habit of sneezing into his/her sleeve or clothing, please consider having at least two uniform shirts (or sweaters, fleeces, etc.) on hand, allowing your student to wear a clean uniform each day. Of course, there's always the option of washing uniform pieces daily, however we realize this is not a convenient option for most.
- **Daily Cleaning:** Door handles, tables, water fountains, restrooms, and other surfaces are wiped down daily with a germicidal solution by our custodial staff. Teachers are asked to clean desktops and other commonly used surfaces in their classrooms at the end of each day.
- **Water Fountains:** While water fountains are cleaned several times each day, they are frequently used by many and may still be a vehicle for the transmission of germs. Students are permitted to bring a personal (clearly labeled with their name) water bottle from home each day, if they wish to avoid or limit their use of water fountains.
- **Stay Home:** If your child has symptoms of illness such as (but not limited to) a cough, runny nose, sore throat, ear ache, vomiting, fever, etc. PLEASE, keep him/her home until they are symptom free for at least a full 24-48 hours. Again, please review the guidelines outlined on pages 34-37 in the SMG 2019-2020 Family Handbook.

Finally, in an effort to stay informed of any possible signs and symptoms of the Novel Coronavirus, families who plan to travel out of the country over spring break are asked to please confidentially notify me via email (lbehee@smgschool.org). As well, please review the attached information provided by the Diocese of Fort Worth regarding the common cold, flu, and Coronavirus.

Thank you for your support as we work together to keep our SMG school community safe and healthy.

Have a wonderful, restful Spring Break!

Blessings,

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