



# Saint Anthony's High School

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August 16, 2021

Dear Students and Parents:

We hope you all are enjoying a restful summer and are excited for the new school year. We recently received updated guidance from the Suffolk County Department of Health for the reopening of school next month. This guidance reiterated the recommendations of the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#). Our Administrative team has been working throughout the summer on plans to bring our students back in September to the full St. Anthony's experience both in and out of the classroom. Protecting our students' physical, social, emotional and spiritual health is our foremost priority in every decision we make. To that end, we can share the following preliminary updates with the St. Anthony's community:

- 1) There will only be one "on-campus" option for students this year. There will be no remote option or cohorts for students. Classes will return to traditional, pre-pandemic sizes.
- 2) All after school programs, athletics, clubs, and student activities will be fully restored in accordance with the guidelines from New York State and the Suffolk County Department of Health.
- 3) Mr. Ed Modica will continue to serve as the COVID Response Coordinator to consult with the Administration regarding health and safety protocols and contact tracing.
- 4) We will outline a plan during our student orientation days to engage those students who may potentially be quarantined throughout the year. We also have protocols in place for any school-wide remote learning days.
- 5) At this point, we have not made a definitive decision about a mask policy for students in the building. We continue to consult with our fellow local Catholic High Schools, our neighboring districts, and the Suffolk County Department of Health. We have been informed that further guidance is forthcoming from the state. We will update you on the specifics regarding masks, etc. as soon as we know.

- 6) Part of the Suffolk County Health Department guidance is a request for schools to submit the COVID vaccination rates of their school community. **At this time, COVID vaccinations are NOT required for students to return to school.** However, vaccinated students will be exempted from any potential contact tracing quarantines. We do encourage all families to consult your family physician regarding vaccinations.

We are requesting families of any vaccinated students to please complete and submit [this form](#) by next Friday, August 20th.

We understand that the topics of masks and vaccinations have very strong opinions on both sides. However, please be assured of the St. Anthony's Administration, Faculty and Staff's unified commitment to our Catholic, Franciscan, and educational vocations. We will continue to do whatever is necessary to serve our students.

We will certainly keep you apprised of updates going forward. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

In St. Anthony Our Patron,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brother David Anthony, O.S.F." with a small flourish at the end.

Brother David Anthony, O.S.F.  
Principal