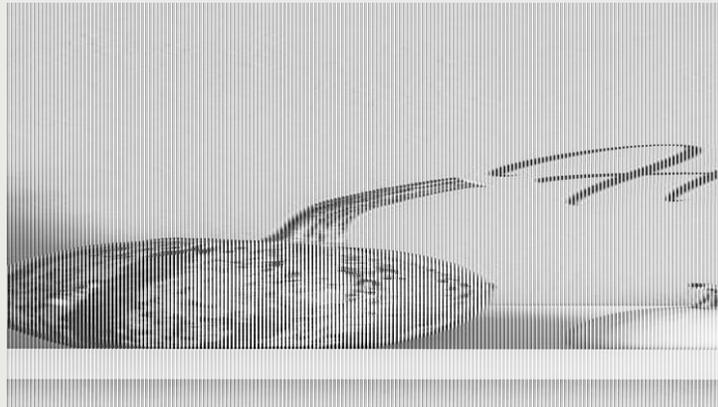




The mission of Divine Mercy Academy is to provide an academically excellent Catholic education, and to instill within our students the virtues of mercy and compassion, forming them as true disciples of Jesus Christ.

November 24, 2021 DIVINE MERCY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



From the School Office

With the recent rise in Covid cases in our school and community, and as the holidays approach, we ask that you take a moment to review our policies for this year with regard to Covid and travel, which are posted at the bottom of this newsletter and on the [Covid Resources page of our website](#).

[Click here for a December calendar.](#)

Registration for [December aftercare](#) is open. **Please note a schedule change--on Wednesday, December 15th, aftercare will close at 3:30pm.**

Support the Missions! Divine Mercy Academy will be collecting donations for the missions throughout this school year. There will be monthly and end-of-year prizes for classes with the most donations! [Find out more here.](#)

HSA Meeting Dress Down [These families](#) have earned a dress down for their children on December 1st, by attending our November HSA meeting! Stay tuned for more upcoming meeting dates.

Our 2021 Holiday Cheer Raffle is underway!

This 50/50 raffle will feature 5 cash prize winners! **The more raffle tickets we sell, the bigger the prizes!** Each family has received one booklet of 10 tickets (\$10 each ticket), via backpack. We ask our families to please try to sell their entire



booklet.

Winners will be drawn on **Friday, December 17th, 2021**. Please return all ticket stubs with payment, and any unsold tickets, to the school office **no later than Friday, December 10th**. Additional tickets are available in the office, and from the gift card sellers after weekend Masses at St. Cecilia Church.

50% of your raffle ticket purchases will count toward your HSA fundraising requirement (grades K-8).

Thank you for your support of Divine Mercy Academy!

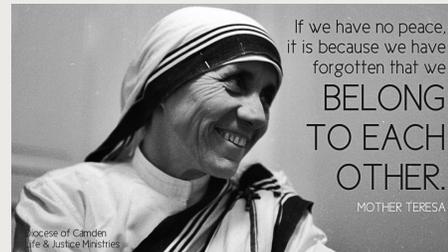


Winter Wonderland--Save the Date!

The Class of 2022 is hosting a Winter Wonderland event on Thursday, December 16th, featuring hot chocolate, gingerbread houses and Santa! [See the flyer here](#). More details to follow.

Parent Ambassadors

Prayer Intentions: The Parent Ambassadors would like to invite you to email us with any prayer intentions you may have either for yourselves, your family, or friends. At times, we see on the grade level class pages how there are families who may be awaiting the birth of a new baby, experiencing illness, or going through situations that could benefit extra prayers. By taking these intentions in confidence with us to prayer and to Mass, we hope to be able to be both a spiritual and physical community you can turn to, and we hope that this is one avenue that can foster a way to love our neighbors more deeply. Please email us at Parentambassadors@dmrockaway.org.



Gift Card & Scrip Fundraisers

Order scrip by Tuesdays and Gift Cards by Thursdays. Cards will be sent home on Friday via backpack. These are two of our most important fundraisers! **AND if you order \$400 or more in gift cards in the month of November, you will earn a dress down in December!** Our weekly Gift Card family sale orders are now online. [Find the link here](#). [Find information here](#) or in the video above, about the gift card program. You can find out more about our [scrip program here](#) or in the video below, and a [scrip order form here](#). You can also [order scrip online](#) with enrollment code 1E2EC2AA28814. ShopwithScrip has a mobile app! Find the RaiseRight app in the Apple Store or Google Play.



The Class of 2022 Snack Sale Cart will be visiting classrooms during lunch periods on December 3rd, 10th, and 17th! All snacks are \$1. Proceeds will benefit the Class of 2022 graduation activities.

Fun Pasta Fun Pasta is healthy fun pasta shaped like the holidays, sports, collegiate team logos, and more. [Check their website](#) for a wide variety of products. There's something for everyone! 40% of your purchases will count toward the HSA fundraising goal for grades K-8. Selling is fun and simple – especially with the new **Fun Pasta App**! Our store will remain open till June 2022. [See the flyer here](#) to learn how to participate in this fundraiser.



Travel Policy: As directed by the NJ Department of Health, we are following CDC guidelines with regard to travel, which are as follows:

- The CDC recommends delaying travel until you are fully vaccinated.
- If travel can not be delayed, domestic and international travelers who are not fully vaccinated must get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel, and stay home and self-quarantine for 7 days after travel, even if they test negative.
- If testing is not completed post-travel, individuals must self-quarantine for 10 days.
- For those traveling to New Jersey, domestic travel is defined as lasting 24 hours or longer to states or US territories other than those connected to New Jersey, such as Pennsylvania, New York, and Delaware.
- Virtual instruction will not be available to students who are travelling or who need to quarantine due to travel.

What are the procedures for when individuals test positive for COVID-19? If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, they should notify the school office. Individuals who test positive will be required to quarantine for at least 10 days from symptom onset or test date. They will be able to return to school on day 11, provided they are symptom-free, and have been fever-free for 24 hours. Individuals who test positive but are asymptomatic should quarantine for 10 days from the positive test result, and can return to school on day 11. An alternate diagnosis (including a positive strep test or influenza swab) without a negative COVID-19 PCR test is not acceptable for individuals who meet COVID-19 exclusion criteria to return to school earlier than the timeframes above.

What is a "close contact" and what will happen if an individual is identified as a "close contact"?

Per the CDC, a "close contact" is someone who is within 6 feet of someone with suspected or known COVID-19 for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period. This has recently been updated for K-12 indoor classroom settings, so that students who were within 3-6 feet of an infected student are not considered close contacts, as long as they were wearing well-fitted masks. Therefore, a "close contact" is now defined as a student who was within 3 feet of an infected student for 15 minutes or more during a 24-hour period. During times of low or moderate community transmission, "close contacts" will quarantine for 7 days and return to school on day 8, with a negative PCR test on day 5, 6, or 7 provided to the school OR Quarantine for 10 days without a test and return to school on

day 11. During a time of high community transmission, "close contacts" will quarantine from school for 14 days. Vaccinated individuals identified as "close contacts" do not need to quarantine. They should still monitor for symptoms, and if they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be evaluated by a physician, and be tested for COVID-19.

What will the academic and instructional procedures be for quarantined students? When students are excluded from attending school due to quarantine or other COVID-19 exclusion criteria, virtual instruction will be offered. The school will make decisions based on the length of quarantine and the number of students and staff impacted by the quarantine. The school will need 24-48 hours to implement the virtual instruction. Teachers may also assign asynchronous work to students. We strongly encourage students who are sick with COVID-19, not to participate in virtual instruction unless they feel well enough to log in and attend classes.

Can a student receive virtual instruction for any reasons other than COVID-19 exclusion criteria? No. Virtual instruction will not be available to students absent for any other reason than COVID-19 illness or exposure. The opportunity for remote/virtual instruction does not apply to children who are sick with illnesses other than COVID-19 or to students who are travelling or on vacation, or absent for any other non-COVID-19 related reason. It also does not apply to any quarantines imposed for travel.

What if a family plans to travel? Families are strongly encouraged not to plan vacations during the school year for times other than designated days off from school. If your family is planning to travel, please contact the school office for guidance regarding up-to-date travel advisories and quarantine guidelines. Virtual instruction will not be available to students who are travelling or who need to quarantine due to travel.

Will an email notification be sent out if there are positive cases of COVID-19 in our DMA community? We will continue to notify members of our school community via email of any positive cases of COVID-19 that directly impact our DMA community.

Parish Happenings The Men's Society is sponsoring a Fish & Chips Dinner on December 11th [Find out more here.](#)

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Connect with us

