



October 2020

Dear Parents,

What a year this is! It is truly beyond description, but there is something particularly hopeful and powerful in the communal experience. We are all dealing uniquely with our current challenges, but we share an experience that bonds us. I am grateful to a faculty and staff whose focus on our students remains steadfast. I'm thankful to you, our parents, who have shown flexibility, patience, and support as we adapted and created new protocols and models of instruction this year. And I am grateful for the mission of Good Shepherd Parish that carries us forward in uncertain times. Though we are not physically in community like we are all used to, we are a Good Shepherd community that is strong and will remain so as we move forward in Faith, courage, confidence, and trust.

One way to stay strong is to be aware of the blessings we experience every day. In particular, I would like to share some incredible blessings bestowed upon Good Shepherd School:

- We celebrate the Holy Sacraments and worship together as a Faith community
  - Every Friday, we go to mass in the Church and live-stream to our kindergarten and First Grade students in school and to all our families at home.
  - On Oct 10, GSS students will make their First Holy Communion, and on Oct 30, GSS students will make their Confirmation.
  - Retreats for our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades are in the planning stages
- In-Person and Distance Learning continues five days a week as a result of:
  - Planning and execution of instruction by a committed faculty and staff who are going the extra mile to do what is best for students;
  - Higher standards of building sanitization and enhanced cleaning daily, including disinfection of the entire building;
  - Signage, mask-wearing and social distancing efforts (we can always improve) by faculty, staff, and students;
  - Families who remain committed to taking precautions outside of school to keep our students and families healthy;
  - Families working with us and showing patience as our nurse continues to ensure that all symptoms are taken seriously and follow the proper protocol.
- We welcome new members to our Early Childhood Team and Administrative Staff:

- Ms. Kenia Guzman, Director of Early Childhood
- Ms. Jade Ross, teacher of 3k
- Ms. Jennifer Javier, 3k classroom aide
- Mrs. Victoria Castillo, IESP coordinator, and Administrative Assistant k-8

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during the first four weeks of this unusual year. I have received many emails and phone calls from parents regarding keeping children home from school when ill and returning to school protocol.

As many of you know, COVID-19 symptoms tend to be milder in children than adults. Some children may not have obvious signs of illness at all. Some may only have a runny nose/mild congestion or a stomachache. Please keep your child home from school if he/she reports any symptoms of COVID-19. I understand this can be frustrating. Some children suffer from allergies or asthma, and some have sensitive stomachs. However, we must take a community approach and keep our child home and seek a physician's guidance to prevent the spread of illness.

## Looking Ahead for October

TACHS Registration for 8th Graders PLEASE REGISTER :  
<https://www.tachsinfo.com/howtoregister.aspx>

**Friday, Oct 2 Noon Dismissal for K-8**

Saturday, Oct 10 First Holy Communion

Monday, Oct 12 Columbus Day - No School

**Friday, Oct 30 Trek or Treat (Details to follow) Dismissal all Grades 12 noon Confirmation 7pm**

Stay safe and well -

Kindest Regards,

Mrs. Geraldine Lavery  
Principal

[geraldinelavery@gsschoolnyc.org](mailto:geraldinelavery@gsschoolnyc.org)