



January, 2021

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the Faculty and Staff, thank you for your very thoughtful and generous Christmas gifts. We hope you had a peaceful and blessed Christmas season with your family and friends.

Thank you to Ms. Ginley and The Nativity and A Charlie Brown Christmas cast for a marvelous production showcasing the talents of our students. We discovered many “Off-Broadway” stars and we look forward to another production in the Spring! Bravo!!

I would also like to thank you for your continued cooperation in our endeavor to keep our school community healthy and safe. Every Good Shepherd family is experiencing the pandemic differently, and it has been uniquely difficult for everyone. We want all our children to be back to in-person learning, and beyond that, we want to be back to the normal that we enjoyed pre-pandemic. Although we face challenges in the short term, I am heartened by the hopeful signs of the vaccine distribution. In the meantime, we will remain in compliance with all applicable CDC orders. I ask you to keep your child home if they are sick or have been in close contact with a person infected with the virus.

All students in Kindergarten to 8th Grade will participate in round two of the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Assessment. Students in Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd Grade will participate in a Reading and Mathematics Assessment, and students in grades 3 to 8 will participate in Reading, Grammar, and Mathematics Assessments. Each test, while untimed, typically takes less than an hour. Information for our remote learners will be forthcoming.

As a reminder, the MAP Assessment is an adaptive form of technology, meaning that it will adapt to the student's progress. Each student will be presented with individualized questions tailored to their specific needs. If your child answers a question correctly, the test follows up with a more challenging question. Conversely, if your child answers incorrectly, the test follows up with an easier question until we establish a baseline.

Students are not given a grade on the assessment, nor will it be used to promote or retain any student. The MAP Assessment will provide students a RIT score, which is strictly used to measure a student's achievement level at different times of the school year and to **compute growth**.

The data gathered from these assessments will be used as a tool to monitor our students' growth.

We will release Progress Reports on January 11th and report cards on February 10th. Report card conferences are required only for students doing poorly at the end of the semester. Please note that if a child is failing one subject in June, they may be required to attend summer school, but if they are failing two or more subjects, they may not be promoted to the next Grade. We will not release Report Cards to families with outstanding tuition.

There are several virtual Open House opportunities during January and February, including *Touring Tuesdays*. Please check the calendar and spread the word to your friends and neighbors about our great school. **Registration for Kindergarten is open! Parents of UPK students, please refer to the registration packet for details.**

Students will be going outside for recess/gym during the winter months unless extraordinarily cold or inclement wet weather. Please send your child to school appropriately dressed to spend 25/30mins outdoors for recess.

Included in this email is an Updated Mini Calendar through April 2021.

I wish you Peace, Health, and Happiness for 2021!

Mrs. Lavery

Principal

GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL

MINI CALENDAR – January to April 2021

JANUARY

- 4 **SCHOOL – RESUMES**
- 11 Progress Report
- 13 Release of Admission Notices by
Catholic Schools
- 15 **NOON DISMISSAL – FACULTY MEETING**
3K & UPK FULL DAY
- 18 **SCHOOL CLOSED – ALL GRADES**
Martin Luther King Jr.
- 19-29 Winter MAP Testing K to 8th grade
- 29 END OF 2ND QUARTER

FEBRUARY

- 1-5 *Catholic Schools Week*
- 1-5 *Good Shepherd School*
RE-REGISTRATION K TO 7TH
- 05 **NOON DISMISSAL – FACULTY MEETING**
3K & UPK FULL DAY
- 10 REPORT CARD – RELEASE
- 11 **SCHOOL CLOSED – K TO 8TH GRADE**
TEACHER'S CONFERENCE DAY
- 12 **SCHOOL CLOSED – ALL GRADES**
- 15 **SCHOOL CLOSED – ALL GRADES**
PRESIDENT'S DAY
- 17 ASH WEDNESDAY

UPDATED CALENDAR

MARCH

- 05** **NOON DISMISSAL – FACULTY MEETING**
3K & UPK FULL DAY
- 12** **SCHOOL CLOSED – ALL GRADES**
PASTOR HOLIDAY
- 31** **SCHOOL CLOSED – ALL GRADES**
BEGINNING OF EASTER BREAK
- 31** **END OF 3RD QUARTER**

APRIL

- 01-9** ***SCHOOL CLOSED – ALL GRADES***
EASTER VACATION
- 14** **REPORT CARD – RELEASE**
- 23** **NOON DISMISSAL – FACULTY MEETING**
3K & UPK FULL DAY