



St. Benedict School  
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October 20, 2020

Dear Parents:

Fall is certainly upon us, which means the holiday season is right around the corner. I believe all of us agree that St. Benedict School has been exceptionally blessed with the health and safety of all of our families. We have always used an abundance of caution in all the decisions made regarding our battle with the COVID-19 pandemic. As I have stated countless times in the last eight plus weeks, "The safety of St. Benedict students and staff is paramount in all we do."

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. It is a time to relax and reflect. This year, I believe all of us have earned the right to take some time with our families. Thanksgiving dinner may have less seats at the table this year, but we are aware of the fact that St. Benedict families will be exposed to more people during this time than in recent months. Knowing this, we have created a plan that will help keep our school safe.

St. Benedict School will make the week after Thanksgiving, Monday, November 30 through Friday, December 4, a fully virtual week for our students and staff. Classes will still be conducted by our teachers, but will take place on our virtual platforms. We feel the benefits far outweigh the disadvantages. With the surge of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the state and country, this virtual week will limit exposure of all stakeholders in our building. This week will also give our staff a practice run in the event that the state mandates a transition to required remote learning.

EDP staff will be on hand for any student in need of child care. These students will be required to bring their devices and work on their classwork during regular school hours. Families will not be charged for services during regular school hours. We will need to charge regular EDP rates for before care or after care. You will need to pre-register to have your child/children come during the school day as we need to ensure proper staffing. We ask that you use this option only if it is absolutely necessary. Please remember, if your family travels to a state on the quarantine list, you must abide by the NJ state mandate and quarantine for 14 days.

We have a half day (12:15pm Dismissal) scheduled for Wednesday, November 25, 2020 and we are off on Thursday and Friday (November 26th and 27th). We will be fully virtual the following week November 30th to December 4th. We will return to school on December 7, 2020 and make it a full school day. Initially, it was scheduled as a half day for our teachers to check in with our Elective Remote Learners.

Again, we are attempting to be proactive and keep our students and faculty healthy and safe. We truly feel this initiative meets these mandates while still providing the quality Catholic education you are accustomed to and your children deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Donahue".

Kevin Donahue