



3031 Grand Concourse Bronx, NY 10468

Office: 718-365-8806 (press 1) Fax: 718.365.1482

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ~ Romans, 8:28

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thanks to your attention to all the necessary COVID-19 protocols and our diligent work with the Health and Safety Task Force of the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, we have been open and safely providing in-person instruction since September. While our school building remains a safe place to pray, learn, and grow, the community around us finds itself within a New York State-designated yellow zone for COVID-19 transmission.

Per Governor Cuomo's micro-cluster strategy, schools identified as being in a yellow zone must conduct required bi-weekly testing of a random 20% sample of the in-person faculty, staff, and students, ages 5 and up, to continue in-person instruction. Schools not complying with this requirement will be forced to switch to full remote learning immediately, which is exactly what we do not want to happen.

Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of New York have engaged the services of SOMOS Community Care to conduct the required bi-weekly random testing in our schools. This test is easy, quick, and safe. The nasal passage is wiped with a Q-Tip-like swab and is not a rapid COVID test.

For SOMOS to administer a COVID-19 test to your child, your consent is required. We strongly encourage you to sign and quickly return the attached [consent form](#).

****Please let me know if you have *any* concerns. We are focused on making this a brief and gentle experience for our students, led by trained, qualified testers.**

Testing will occur in a secure, isolated space in our building, designated solely for this purpose. Student cohorts will remain separate from each throughout the testing procedure. Once again, by thoroughly and accurately completing the attached forms, your child's time in the testing process will be minimal.

If your child is tested, we will let you know they were tested and provide the information on how and when you will receive the results. Results are typically provided within 48-72 hours.



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Keep in mind, there is a goal in this for all of us! Under the new guidance provided by the governor's office, if the testing results show our positivity rate among the 20% random sample of in-person students ages 5 and up, staff, and faculty is lower than the yellow zone's current seven-day positivity rate, testing will not continue at our school. In other words, if we continue to faithfully follow the protocols we have been adhering to since September, wearing masks, employing good hygiene, **being mindful of our surroundings, and using good judgment by avoiding non COVID-safe activities outside of school**, we may be allowed to stop testing.

While this is yet another complication brought on by the pandemic, the testing procedure is an opportunity for us to continue working together as a family and take the next indicated step to keep our beloved schools open for as long as safety allows. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

****Please note, students ages 5 and up who do not have [consent](#) for the random bi-weekly testing will be required to switch to remote instruction immediately for the rest of this quarter.****

Yours In Christ,

Mrs. Beebe, Principal

Ms. Maria Armenta, Administrative Assistant

Ms. Grace Otieno, Financial Administrative Assistant