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Michele Pasquale, *Principal*

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Dear St. Brendan Families,

I hope this letter finds you all well and enjoying the last weeks of summer. As we prepare for the first day of school, Wednesday, September 9th, I wanted to share some of the guidelines for the start of the school year.

The research is clear that our best protection during this pandemic is to maintain social distance, wear facial coverings and wash hands regularly with soap and water (or use sanitizer). We believe that these precautions protect not only ourselves, but our household members, friends, and other community members from the COVID-19 virus.

Our reopening plan features the following restrictions and changes:

- All students K-8 and staff will be required to wear masks while indoors. Masks may only be removed during designated activities (such as lunch and recess) and only then if students remain physically distant.
- Students will be assigned to a “cohort”, which will correspond to their homeroom class and will remain with those same classmates throughout the day. Students within a cohort will remain physically as far apart as possible to prevent the spread of illness.
- We will provide new pick-up and drop-off procedures, walking routes within the buildings and other measures to limit the physical interaction of students. Classroom layouts will be modified to facilitate social distancing.
- Parents will be asked to take their children’s temperatures daily. Temperature checks will also occur as students enter the school building every day.
- We will adhere to infection protocols, requiring any student who presents symptoms of COVID-19 and/or tests positive for the virus to quarantine and seek medical attention before returning to class.
- Water fountains will be turned off; students are permitted to bring their own water bottle for the day.
- Lunch will be in the classroom; school lunch will be provided (individually packed) or students may bring a lunch from home. Hand washing/sanitizing will take place before and after lunch.
- Bathroom breaks will be scheduled throughout the day adhering to social distancing. Bathrooms and common spaces will be properly sanitized on a frequent and regular basis.
- Finally, families who are not ready for their children to return to classrooms have the option for online learning. Your survey responses are currently being sorted.

Our prayers continue for all members of our Catholic school communities, as well as all those impacted by the pandemic. May our faith strengthen us as we face the many challenges in our world today. It is our goal to continue to provide you with timely updates and clear communication.

Stay safe and God Bless,

Ms. Michele Pasquale
Principal