

Dear St Brendan School Families,

Next week we begin our first full week of school for all grades, PreK- 8, for both in person and remote learners. The abbreviated opening last week provided all of us an opportunity to do a “dry run” and then evaluate our reopening for the 2020-2021 school year. There are some areas to improve on as we expected, but overall it was a successful beginning for our students, families, faculty, and staff! Being able to see our families and students, both in person and remote, was a true blessing.

Morning entry and afternoon dismissal moved quickly and effectively without too much of a wait at the entrances/exits. All safety protocols were followed and the building is repeatedly sanitized throughout the day by a specific staff member hired for that role .Our meal program has adjusted well to the new procedures and students were even able to enjoy a pizza lunch!

We are working on resolving any technical glitches we experienced during remote learning and I know our remote learners are doing the same at home. So far google classroom has run well and some Zoom issues are being addressed. In July the archdiocese ordered microphones for faculty to assist with audio for remote learners. Delivery on these devices is expected soon. We are also reviewing the use of an external camera to improve the video portion for our remote learners.

On Friday our faculty and staff met to review and evaluate our first day experiences. They collaborated in grade level bands to share best practices and brainstorm on ways to improve the experience for both in person and remote learners. These conversations generated some good ideas implement this coming week.

Like so much of our lives since March, this is all uncharted waters. Extensive planning went into our reopening last week and that made the days run smoothly. But as we continue to move forward, we have to constantly review and evaluate and then make adjustments where needed. Sometimes this is the only way to be successful when encountering something completely unknown. The instructional experiences last week had some bumps but that was expected. We will evaluate each week so that we continue to make improvements to ensure this year is as successful as possible. Nothing will replace being in a classroom under “normal” learning conditions - but until that happens, we are tasked with doing the very best we can with what is in front of us. With God’s grace we will have a successful school year for all of us, remote and in person learners, families, faculty, and staff.

Thank you to all of our families for your support and cooperation. Please continue to reach out with any questions, concerns, or technical problems. We will do our best to provide you with answers and solutions.

Stay safe and God bless,

Ms Pasquale

REMINDERS FOR ALL FAMILIES

*please be sure to complete and return the lunch form that was emailed home even if you will not participate in the program. This form is directly tied to our funding level and we need to be sure we receive all funding that our school and families are entitled to - most especially this year

*a school calendar and handbook will be emailed out this week

REMINDER FOR IN PERSON LEARNERS

*the building is sanitized throughout the day and again when the building is empty each evening. Hand sanitizer is readily available throughout the building, but students are also permitted to bring their own

*mask must be worn

*CDC regulations require that water fountains are shut off; please provide your child with water. Reusable bottles may be filled during the day from our sinks by the individual child

*uniforms must be worn for grades K-8

*at this time after care programs are not permitted by the Arch so all students should be picked up at dismissal

REMINDERS FOR REMOTE LEARNERS

*devices **MUST** have the student name as entered on TADS; please rename devices if needed. For security purposes no students will be admitted to Zoom unless the device has the student name

*video must be on the entire session except during lunch when Zoom sessions will be paused

*students must be in school uniform for all Zoom sessions

*students should be sitting up and at a table for their remote learning

*please keep audio muted except when speaking as background noises from the home are affecting audio quality

*if family members are assisting during remote learning sessions, please be sure to avoid video; only students should be visible in the Zoom video (while our pets and toys are cute, during instruction these should be out of video view as well)

*during departmental classes students may need to sign into a separate Zoom session; please sign in at the assigned time. Once the teacher begins instruction, he/she may not see that students are in the “waiting room”