



Sacred Heart School

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"Learning, leading, and achieving with Jesus in our Hearts"

August 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year at Sacred Heart School! Our pastor, Fr. Eric, school faculty, staff and I look forward to a great year working with you. It has been a difficult time for all of us; we have been faced with many challenges. I am certain there will be more to come. We can still thank God for the many blessings he has given us and we will persevere. We extend a warm welcome to our many new families. The teachers, staff and I are thrilled you have joined our school community and cannot wait to get to know your children. The SHS and parish community offer their friendship to all of you. I am proud of the remarkably strong Christian values and family traditions shared here at Sacred Heart.

I am confident that working in partnership with Fr. Eric, our excellent faculty and staff, our dedicated parents and school family we will have an extraordinary 2020-2021 school year, even though this year will look differently than it has at the start of other years. This year, we will take things one-step-at-a-time, always ensuring the health and safety of our children, families, and staff.

We have been quite busy this summer preparing for the upcoming school year. There are many safety and health guidelines, which will be implemented and adhered to in our school. The documentation with the ADNY and Department of Health guideline can be found at www.catholicschoolsny.org.

First, I would like to share some "school news and changes" from the last time, we were in school. We have acquired many new students for which we are grateful. Our 3K for All has been expanded and this September we will welcome an additional class. Our 3K program will now consist of three classrooms of 15 students in each. There has been some movement of classroom grades within the building. Our 3K program will now occupy the "wing"; our middle school will now have classrooms on the second floor of the main building. The first floor will consist of Kindergarten, first, second and third grade classrooms. The Art Room has been given a makeover and I am sure the students will enjoy the fresh paint once the restriction is lifted and students can move to different rooms. Another piece of news that I am sure parents will be excited about is we now qualify for a permanent security guard due to our increase in enrollment. We are awaiting further confirmation and details. We have made a slight change in teacher class assignments. Mrs. Mooney is "looping" up to the third grade. She will now be the third grade teacher for all subjects. Ms. Kopycinski will be teaching the 2nd grade this school year. Both teachers are excited and welcome the challenge. Ms. Cynthia Gonzalez, Administrative Assistant from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel will be joining our office team. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Gonzales to the Sacred Heart family.

Based on the survey results, space requirements of desks in a classroom, and the number of students enrolled, some grades will be moved to larger spaced areas in order to accommodate 5 full days

for those who selected “in school 5 days”. These decisions were difficult to make but they were made with the best interest of all the students in mind and the limited amount of space in the building. Grades kindergarten, first, second, third, fourth, seventh and eighth grades will have five full days offered to those parents who preferred “five full days only”, or “I prefer five days but will accept a staggered schedule”. There is no HYBRID Model for the aforementioned grades, only full 5 days or full remote learning. Fifth and sixth grades will be the only grades in which we conduct the HYBRID (staggered) Model or full remote learning with no offering of 5 full days: Cohort A (Monday/Tuesday with alternating Wednesdays), Cohort B (Thursday/Friday with alternating Wednesdays). Any family who selected “staggered with one alternate day” will be receiving a separate email with the Cohort they will be assigned to at a later date. Any child remote learning, whether full time remote or staggered must wear the school’s gym uniform or regular school uniform while they are live streaming into the classroom.

Lunch will be eaten in the classrooms. Nucci’s will no longer be offering hot lunch service for grades K-8. *GRADES Kindergarten through 8th MUST BRING LUNCH FROM HOME. There is no sharing of lunch, snacks or drinks.

Attached you will find the September calendar along with pertinent information regarding the first few days of school. “STOP and DROP” procedures for grades K-8 have been altered, please see the attached instructions. “STOP and DROP” will begin on September 9th. Temperatures will be taken at this time.

Please review and read all attachments as there is other pertinent information regarding the start of the school year. A tentative school year calendar can be found on our website, as well as the September calendar. Please review the attached “STOP and DROP” procedure with diagram. There is also a summary of information of the first few days of school attached to this email for your convenience. Also, attached is the Income Survey that needs to be filled out and returned to school on the first day. This is important as it generates funding for the school. All required documents may be printed from our website and must be returned to school. The documents can be found under the TAB “Current Families” in Parent Resources. Please note documents are being updated every day, be sure to only use the 2020-21 documents.

We will also be scheduling ZOOM Grade band meeting to address any questions or concerns you may have. You will be receiving an email with the ZOOM link and meeting details. These meetings will be scheduled in the early evening, please make every effort to attend, as further details will be given regarding the reopening of school.

Together with our dedicated faculty and staff, I eagerly look forward to the first day of school and to working in an active partnership with you to provide an outstanding learning community for our school children. May the Lord’s blessing and peace be with you as you safely enjoy the rest of the summer days that lie ahead.

Sincerely,

Celeste J. Catalano

Celeste J. Catalano
Principal