



**St. Charles School**  
Achieving Excellence Together

200 Penn Avenue  
Staten Island, New York 10306  
Office: (718) 987-0200 · Fax: (718) 987-8158  
[www.SaintCharlesSchoolSI.org](http://www.SaintCharlesSchoolSI.org)

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August 2019

Dear Saint Charles School Families,

I hope you are all enjoying the much needed time off. There have been many exciting changes and improvements over the summer that I would like to share with you.

The first day of school for UPK students will be Thursday, September 5, 2019. The UPK school day schedule will be abbreviated; please see the teacher's summer letter for more information on times.

Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> students will have their first day of school on Thursday, September 5, 2019. It is a full day of school, however; there will be NO BUS SERVICE available on September 5 or September 6. The hot lunch program with Nucci's will be available starting on Thursday. Please see Nucci's information on the school website.

The first day of school for M, W, F: PK-3 year olds will be on Monday, September 9, 2019. The first day of school for T, Tr.: PK-3 year olds will be on Tuesday, September 10, 2019. The AM session runs from 8:15am to 10:45am. The full day session runs from 8:15am to 2:30pm. Please see the teachers' letter and website for orientation information.

On the first two days of school, kindergarten students and parents will follow a 15 minute delayed start to allow time for parents to be with the child on the first day of school. More information from the kindergarten teachers will be given before school starts.

Mrs. Gollinge has retired from her position as first grade teacher. I would like to welcome Ms. Patricia McKenna as our new first grade teacher.

Ms. Dinsmore has stepped down from her position as the third grade teacher; we wish her all the best. I would like to welcome Ms. Jennifer Clausen as our new third grade teacher.

Ms. McKenna and Ms. Clausen have years of teaching experience and I know will do great jobs. I know I speak for everyone when I say "welcome to St. Charles, Ms. McKenna and Ms. Clausen."

The stop and drop in the front of the building will remain the same. If you are dropping off students and continuing on, please stay to the right of the street. All through traffic and parking lot traffic must stay to the left.

Students in grades 6-8 only will continue to take midterm exams and final exams with the exception of the religion exams which will be taken by students in grades 3-8.

I am extremely excited to inform you about our new "weather station" that has been installed atop the school. This interactive system will allow our students to track and monitor weather patterns that occur in our neighborhood. Along with studying our own weather data, we will be able to partner with one of our local north shore Catholic schools to compare and contrast data. This is a wonderful addition to our science program. This weather station will be utilized in conjunction primarily with the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade curricula, but will be also available to all grade levels on different academic levels.

We purchased new 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies textbooks; this was long overdue. The hardcover textbooks will be used during the school day; with the purchase of these new textbooks comes the online textbook. Students will be expected to access the textbook from home for studying and homework without having to carry the heavy and burdensome book home with them.

Saint Charles School is going paperless! I am happy to announce that report cards and test grades will now be available online. The school will no longer be sending home printed progress reports or report cards. More information on how parents will be able to see student grades and report cards will be discussed at the "Back to School Night."

I am looking for parent volunteers willing to help kick-off an alumni development initiative. Any parents who are willing to help with alumni relations and communication, please see me at the "Back to School Night" for more information.

The Archdiocese of NY policy is that no in-school tuition or fee payments can be made. All tuition and fees must be paid through the *Smart Tuition Company*. If you would like to make a mail-in payment, you can bring it to the school; however, only personal checks, bank checks, or cashier checks can be sent to *Smart*. No cash can be mailed to *Smart*. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Browne in the main office.

I am happy to say that we will once again be eligible for the reimbursable NYC security guard program this school year.

Our Back to School Parents Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 beginning at 7:00pm in the cafeteria. This will be a chance for you to hear updates from me and to meet your child's teacher. Please make every effort to attend this very informative and important meeting. Teachers in grades K-8 will be available this night; PK3 and UPK teachers hold separate "orientation days."

This year, at the Back to School meeting we will open the school doors at 6:30pm. The Family Association, Ms. Quinn from the Religious Education Program, and the sports program will be represented to give out information and answer questions. Also, I am going to ask each family to fill out necessary documents at the Back to School meeting; this will ensure that all the documentation that is necessary is returned to the school. If possible, please come to the school at 6:30pm so you can begin to fill out the paperwork (bring a pen) and to speak with the different representatives from the programs.

Please stay up-to-date with documents and announcements that I send home in e-mail and by visiting your child's teacher's home page. Access his/her homepage by clicking on "Current Families" tab, then "Class Pages," and finally by clicking on the teacher's name.

Students should be in spring uniforms when they return in September. For a full explanation of the uniforms, please see the "Current Families" tab on the school website.

Before/After care will begin on Monday, September 9, 2019.

Mrs. Sobrado is still working with the Office of Pupil Transportation on bus service/stops. When it is all straightened out, I will send out an e-mail with the next steps. There is nothing for you to do at this time.

I would like to thank the custodial staff for their hard work in preparing the school building. We are pleased to notify you that the school is in compliance with FDNY code, as well as regulations set forth in the annual asbestos surveillance.

I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable rest of the summer and I look forward to keeping our partnership and collaboration strong as we work to bring the best Catholic education to the children of Saint Charles.

Thank you,



Mr. JC Kiernan, Principal