



September 4, 2020

Dear St. Cecilia School Families,

Since Sister Carolyn and I have arrived last month, we have been working hard with the dedicated faculty and staff of St. Cecilia School to get everything ready for in-person learning. While many things were being ordered and delivered, the task of organizing and compiling the plan for our safe return has been challenging at times. Please know that we understand your frustration, but we are so grateful for your prayers of support and words of kindness and appreciation.

Please review the following that was sent via email:

Virtual Learning Plan

Health and Safety Plan Summary

St. Cecilia School Reopening Guidelines

We ask that you read through everything carefully. We reviewed the Reopening Guidelines with the Faculty and Staff on Wednesday and the other components have been shared with them prior to this email. ***Please know that these documents are not final.*** We will rely on the directives of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the CDC, and make changes as necessary.

**If your child or children are learning VIRTUALLY, please complete the survey by Monday, September 7.** Even if you emailed a teacher, Sister Carolyn, or me, I ask that you complete the form so that all information is together. The link to the survey is: <https://forms.gle/QbXXfAQD9mMdcyya6>

Our teachers, under the guidance of Sister Carolyn Elizabeth, have been working hard to get the technology up and running for our live-streaming of lessons. We ask that everyone be patient as we work through the kinks. Mistakes will be made. Technology will shut down. Students, parents, and teachers will be overwhelmed at times. We have learned a lot during this pandemic. Let us be compassionate towards each other and let us be grateful for everyone's attempts.

I think the greatest challenge during this time has been in terms of staffing our school. We are still looking for teachers. We still need a 6<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA teacher. We now need a 7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA teacher for Ms. Rebecca Hyde is not returning. Therefore, Rooms 61 and 71 will not have their class assignments. If you know of any qualified teachers looking for a job or perhaps know a teacher who doesn't quite like retirement, please let me know. I know that God makes all things work together for the good for those who love Him (Romans 8:28). Before I entered the IHMs, I was a teacher at St. Monica School in South Philadelphia. I was hired Labor Day Weekend. So, let us pray, and look, for that teacher who will best serve our students and our school.

We do have good news as well. We have hired a Technology teacher. Mrs. Ann DeMarzio will join our faculty on Tuesday. She comes with a lot of teaching experience, having served as the Computer Teacher and Media Specialist at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Southampton.

I know that you will have questions. I will try to answer them in a timely manner but I am not going to be working all weekend (I hope). I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Have a good long weekend!

God bless you,

Sister Catherine Irene, IHM