

August 21, 2020

Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are now just a little over 2 weeks from our opening days of school. We are all so excited to be back in the building. We have been working hard and adjusting to the updates that are continuously coming out.

We have been busy moving furniture around and into storage while installing the necessary items throughout the building.

I am happy to share that we have gotten a number of new families but are still keeping the number of students in a classroom in compliance with guidelines. I have been interviewing for additional teachers to work with both Mrs. Toritto and Mrs. Williams and have some great candidates that I hope to fill these positions by next week.

Needless to say, we have been purchasing many items to be in compliance. We recently purchased 230 polycarbonate dividers for each student in Grades K-8. This is an additional safety measure that we are able to provide, courtesy of a very generous donation. Additional dividers were purchased so that students will be able to attend AIS.

While I anticipate that we will likely adjust our arrival procedure as time goes on, my plan is to have each child's temperature taken prior to their leaving their car. The nurse and myself, with possibly one other staff member, will come out to the cars in the morning as parents are pulling up on Broadway. We will start allowing children into the building at 7:40am. Students arriving by bus will either have their temperature taken prior to leaving the bus or just as they are entering the building. As mentioned, anyone with a temperature of 100 or above, will need to go home. Our bus dismissal will proceed with children from each bus being called down, one bus at a time. Our walker dismissal will take a bit more time. We will be handing out name cards for each family on the first days of school. Those signs should be placed on the windowsill of any car picking the children up from school. Someone will be outside and will call into the school office the names of families as lined up in front of school beginning down by the gym doors. I ask your patience as this is the only way we feel we can ensure that each child exits the building safely and immediately gets into their family car.

I feel our plan for the opening days will provide the children a more relaxed opportunity to begin getting acclimated with their teacher/classroom and all routines.

Our **Middle School** will begin on Wednesday, September 9th. We will meet in the gym (socially distancing apart) at which time I will speak with the students as will their teachers. They will also view a film made by Perrotta Consulting for students and then go up to their classrooms. Fr. Brian will also say mass over in church for the children.

On Thursday, September 10th, our **4th and 5th graders** will come to school and meet in the gym while the MS students go directly up to their classrooms. We will follow the same routine for Grades 4 and 5 along with a mass while the MS students begin their classes.

On Friday, September 11th, we will welcome our children in **grades 1, 2 and 3** beginning in the gym while the other grades will go directly to their classrooms. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders will also attend mass. We will also have our **Kindergarten students join us at 9am** on Friday and do our traditional first day of school picture.

Our **Pre-K** students will begin on Monday, September 14th and **Nursery** on Tuesday, September 15th. Both these classes will enter the building through the entrance on Penn Street.

The question has been raised about what we do if a child has a temperature while in school. If this occurs, he/she will go to the nurse and be placed in the isolation room and ultimately will be sent home. A student will not be allowed back in school for 48 hours and must have a doctor's note. If a child or a member of the child's family tests positive for COVID, we will immediately contact Perrotta Consulting and the DOH to get specific guidance on how to proceed.

What I can assure you is that we will be taking every precaution and continuously be asking questions to make sure we are doing what we need to do to keep our teachers and students safe. We have purchased disinfecting machines and our custodian, along with the cleaning crew, will be in complete compliance with what is expected to keep our school clean.

Our teachers will be implementing breaks for the children throughout the day and we will take full advantage of our outdoor space and the Boardwalk for teaching opportunities.

I have also been asked about uniforms. We will be wearing the summer uniform and if the embroidered white shirts are not available, then a plain white golf shirt is allowed. As we are approaching our transition to the winter uniform, we will see where things are and potentially opt to wear the gym uniform to help with washing and keeping clean.

Lastly, each teacher will be wearing a face shield along with a mask. He/she may keep the mask down as long as they are 6 feet or more apart from the children. We feel that when teaching, the shield will provide the students an opportunity to see their teacher's face, hear them better and see their expressions. Since every student will be expected to have a face mask with them and will need to be wearing the face mask intermittently throughout the day, I ask that you have them wearing a mask more frequently during these last days of summer so that this is something they are accustomed to.

Any student who will be learning remotely for the first trimester will be contacted about a day and time to pick up their "school packs" which will include textbooks, class schedule and other necessary information regarding this process.

Finally, I would like to welcome Fr. Leo to our school and parish family. I met him briefly the other day and he immediately spoke about how excited he is to meet the children and be a presence in our school.

Thank you again for your ongoing support and while I will certainly be back in touch with you before the start of school, feel free to reach out if you have any additional questions.