



August 14, 2020

Dear Parents,

We hope that you have had a fabulous summer! We are excited about this upcoming year and getting to know you and your family! As a result of the pandemic, we have had to make many changes to our routines and requests. Please read this document closely to understand some of the steps we are taking to minimize the risk to your child and family .

Drop Off: Little Knights will need to be signed in at the side door next to the Little Knights Playground. Parents will need to park their car, use the street side to walk to the side steps near the playground. We will collect your attestation, take your child's temperature and then allow you to sign your child in. Please know, children with a temperature over 100 or displaying cold symptoms will need to stay at home. Children must arrive by 7:45am. To minimize germs in our building parents will not be allowed to walk their students to the classroom.

Upon arrival all children will wash their hands. The early arrival (7:10 to 7:30) will sit in designated areas in the Multipurpose room. After 7:30 all students will go to their individual classrooms.

Water Bottles: The water fountains will not be used this year. We would like each child to bring a refillable water bottle to leave on the snack shelf throughout the day. Students will be allowed to get drinks after outside time and use the water bottle for snack time.

Healthy Snacks: All Little Knights bring their own healthy snacks each day. We do have children with peanut allergies so we ask that all **snacks be peanut free**. To minimize staff touching students snacks, please pack snacks in containers your child is able to open independently. If you purchase individual snacks, practice opening them at home with your student. You can also "pre-open" the bags a little in the morning to make it easier. We also ask that you bag snacks separately from their lunch so the student can easily place their snack on the shelf with little to no assistance. AT this time we would like all students to have a water bottle at school for snacks and avoid juice boxes/bags where staff assistance is needed.

We ask that you send nutritious snacks and please no candy, chocolate, fruit chews, sugary drinks and fruit punch. Some snacks that we have found nourishing and filling are; Popcorn, fresh fruit, fruit bowls, goldfish, cheese crackers, carrots, string cheese, hummus, yogurt, granola bars and nutri-grain type bars. Please limit snack items to one or two products.

Notebooks: Each child will bring home their DAILY Notebook and back to school every day. Please be sure to initial the behavior log prior to returning the notebook into their book bag. To avoid unnecessary contamination, the notebooks will stay in your child's bookbag. We will start the month with all Green Stars. The notebook will only be removed if your child's star moves during the day. We will be utilizing Friday Envelopes to send items home each Friday. Please return the yellow folder each week.

Clothing and Shoes: We ask that children wear clothing they can easily remove and put back on during bathroom breaks. Overalls, belts, tight pants and one piece rompers are discouraged. **Please encourage your child to independently use the bathroom at home.**

Children must wear closed toe shoes. Please have your child wear tennis shoes on PE Day.

Change of clothes: Your child's change of clothes should be labeled. You may keep the change of clothes in your child's book bag or nap cubby/basket if space is available.

Noon Pick up: We will dismiss the children from the side playground door at noon. Please be sure to sign your child out.

Lunch: Lunch will be served in the Afterschool room. Preschool class will have lunch from 12 to 12:30 and PreKindergarten will have lunch from 12:40 to 1:10. Children will wash hands before and after lunch. The children will have approximately 30 minutes to eat after washing hands and saying a mealtime prayer. Please pack containers and bags that your child is able to open independently if at all possible. We also ask that thermos bottles are packed with water, milk

or 100% Juice. Lunches are stored in a refrigerator from 9am until 11:30 but we encourage parents to utilize icepacks if needed. **Please send meals you feel your child will eat quickly and with little or no encouragement. Please send no more than one sugary/chocolate item. Staff will send home extra sugary/chocolate items.** The USDA recommends children have milk, protein, 2 fruits or vegetables, and one grain for the lunch meal. (Chocolate milk is considered a sugary/chocolate item)

Rest time: Rest time or nap time is a time for the children to relax and rest or sleep. Please talk to your child about the importance of rest for their growing bodies. If your child does not sleep they will be asked to rest quietly for 45 minutes. After 45 minutes the children who have not fallen asleep will be given books to look at quietly. **In order to ensure all items can fit easily into the cubbies this year we will allow only crib size blankets and a small pillow or stuffed animal. No full sized blankets or pillows will be allowed. Blankets will be sent home weekly. At least for the first 9 weeks cot sheets will be washed daily. Students will be asked to wash their hands when they wake up if they do not immediately use the bathroom.**

End of Day Pick up: The children being picked up at 3:00pm will be dismissed with the School through the Carpool Line. Please remain in your car. Once your child is in the car, please pull up past the second steps to assist your child with buckling. Children will be escorted to the after school room at the end of the day.

Illness: If your child gets sick during the school day, he/she will need to be picked up in a timely manner by parent or approved contact. Your child must have an emergency contact that is able to pick up, if the parent can't-no exceptions. Parents please be considerate and respectful of your child's teacher and classmates and be timely when picking up an ill child.

Your child may return to school following normal school policies, if:

- 1. They receive confirmation of an alternative diagnosis from a health care provider that would explain the COVID-19-like symptom(s),**
- 2. Once there is no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines and they have felt well for 24 hours.**

How this year will be the same:

1. Students will be learning the same content as previous years
2. Students will be allowed to socialize and enjoy their friends
3. Little Knights will enjoy our outdoor playground
4. Teachers will provide daily instruction and fun opportunities throughout the year
5. Students and teachers will continue to wash their hands throughout the day but especially before and after meals/snacks and after a sneeze or cough. Teachers will also continue to have students wash their hands if they are observed putting their fingers or hands in their mouths.
6. Students will continue to feel safe and loved at Blessed Sacrament School

How this year will be different: As a result of the Covid Pandemic a few things have changed:

1. Students will enter the building using the side door near the playground.
2. Parents will drop off at the door and not enter the building.
3. Temperatures will be taken daily.
4. Students must bring a daily attestation sheet.
5. Students will wash their hands immediately upon arrival.
6. Students will wear a mask upon entering the building and Little Knights will exchange their mask for a face shield.
7. Students will bring individual water bottles instead of using the water fountains.
8. Teachers will wear mask or face shields throughout the day
9. Specials Teachers (Art, Music, Spanish) will come to our classroom to avoid cross contamination
10. There will be no all school gatherings (i.e., morning meetings, mass, etc.)
11. The playground equipment on the Little Knights playground will be sprayed with disinfectant after each group
12. Some students will be remotely learning and logging in daily through Google Meets for Circle Time.
13. We will utilize flipgrid within the classroom instruction so students can become familiar with that technology.
14. Students will sit at tables during circle time instruction to ensure social distancing.

Things we could use: We like to use recycled items in our art center. Children especially love having empty paper towel rolls to color and decorate. We have also found that small bowls from fruit cups are great for art activities. In addition, our classroom can always use donations of stickers, crayola dry erase markers, tape, construction paper, coloring paper or colored copy paper.

A copy of this letter will be in the DAILY notebook so you can review at your convenience throughout the year. Also, please do not hesitate to contact your teacher if you have questions or need assistance. It is easiest to use email (masmar@bssknights.org, jglenn@bssknights.org, dkelso@bssknights.org, or kspradlin@bssknights.org.)

Thank you for entrusting us with the care of your children!

Warmest Regards,

Marisol Asmar, Jill Glenn, Danica Kelso, and Kelly Spradlin