

Happy Monday, families!

I will keep my communication to Wednesdays most weeks. This email will go out today to answer any last minute back-to-school questions.

As we went to Mass this past Sunday, we marked the martyrdom of the great prophet, John the Baptist. John, in many ways, was a forerunner to Christ. Born just months before his cousin, John's life paved the way for Christ culminating in Jesus' beginning of His own public ministry: His Baptism. John never wavered in preaching the Truth and called followers of Christ to the simple directive: Repent! Like John, may we be courageous in proclaiming the Truth and pray for the will to never waiver. May John's life serve as witness to the Truth and may we look to his life and death for inspiration!

And now for some reminders and pieces of information:

The first day of classes for students in 1st-8th grade is **Tuesday, August 31**. The preschool and kindergarten students have their first day of school on **Tuesday, September 7**. I look forward to meeting the students!

A note on dismissal. We will continue staggered dismissal times to limit the flow of students through the building at once. Those times are as follows:

2:45 - Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

2:50 - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd

2:55 - 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th

Any student with a sibling will be dismissed with the **youngest** sibling.

As the situation with COVID-19 remains fluid, I have decided we will ask all students **5th grade and younger** to bring a milk crate to school to contain individual belongings. This is a precaution to limit contact between individual belongings.

Parents of middle school students please plan to attend a mandatory back-to-school night on Tuesday, August 31st at 7:00 pm.

I would like to offer a welcome to all of our new families. Thank you for choosing Our Lady of Grace! As a reminder, please register for an account on FACTS to manage your tuition account. Those accounts can be registered [here](#).

I am excited to announce that we are partnering with Northeastern Music Programs again to offer instrumental music lessons to interested students who are enrolled in grades 3-8. If you'd like to learn more about the program or to sign your child up, visit this [link](#).

Students will return to school in their normal uniforms. The Swap Shop was already open for a couple weeks. If you were unaware or unable to make it, please contact the school to schedule a time to visit the Swap Shop. The Swap Shop offers gently used uniforms to our families at no

cost. In addition, all students will need to wear a mask upon entering the building. Students will not be allowed to begin their classes without one. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

On Tuesday, teachers will distribute a waiver for COVID-19. Please review the waiver and return it with your child to school by Thursday, September 2nd. I have attached a copy of that waiver.

Our Lady of Grace is partnering with Yay Lunch! for lunch services this year. Yay Lunch! curates a menu in partnership with five local vendors. Instructions for ordering can be found in the attached document. As Yay Lunch! prepares their menu, they will begin accepting orders on September 16th and the first delivery date will be September 20th.

On that note, if any parent is interested and able to volunteer as a lunchroom monitor, please reach out to the school office at 215.757.5287. Lunch monitors assist with the operations of lunch and would be at school from 12:00-1:15.

Thanks in advance to any parent who considers giving their time to volunteering!

Please find as an attachment a copy of the September calendar. Noted on the calendar, there is no school on Friday, September 3rd.

Go Gators!

In Christ,
Mr. Harper