



# San Xavier Mission School

1980 San Xavier Road, Tucson, Arizona 85746

Office (520) 294-0628 Fax (520) 294-3465

July 22, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I would like to welcome you to the 2020/2021 school year. It has been a year like no other, many of us have suffered great losses. The loss of loved ones, the loss of job security, the loss of financial stability, and the loss of learning and teaching in the way that we are accustomed to. During this time we have been confined to our homes and the mundane acts which we have all taken for granted are no longer taken for granted. It has been difficult to comprehend all of the ramifications of this for adults much more so for our children. Yet, we have also gained insight into what matters most in our lives . . . our families, our faith, our health, our ability to work, our dear friends, and our homes. That is if we are the lucky ones. Many have lost much more.

I know that parents, teachers, students, administrators, pastors, the Catholic school superintendant, and the bishop are all concerned for the health and well being of our school communities. We begin this year tentatively with hope for God's light to lead the way for us. My children are adults but my youngest daughter is a kindergarten teacher and I fear for her well being the way you fear for your children. We are at an unfathomable crossroads at this moment in our lives. With this in mind I would like to introduce myself and let you know what the plans are going forward for San Xavier Mission School.

My name is Maria Vanessa Rothstein, I am the new principal at SXMS. I had planned on retiring to spend more time with my mother but she passed away on March 28, 2020 and this position presented itself. I have been in education for 24 years. This is a second career for me. First as a teacher (my passion and first love) and out of necessity (my husband passed away and I had two daughters in college) as an administrator for the past 13 years. I know that the SXMS community has been through a great many transitions and that you may be hesitant. I would be too. What I can tell you is that I am first and foremost here to serve the children and their families and I will always have your backs (to the best of my ability). I will not walk away when things are difficult. I will make mistakes because I am human. I will be focused on the health, safety, and well being of your children, the faculty, and the staff at SXMS. I am also quite focused on academics and I am devoted to our ministry as Catholics. I will always strive to do my best and I will always expect the same from others.

I believe that administrators, faculty, staff, parents, and students are partners in the education of our children. It is the best way to insure that we instill the finest values in them. We are their role



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models . . . imperfect though we may be. I am including a draft plan for re-entry that we will be implementing barring any unforeseen changes. The faculty, parents, and students will be trained to better understand the electronic platforms that we will be using for online instruction/distance learning. The staff has been reaching out to parents by telephone to gauge your feelings about coming back to school. 92.7% of the families that we have reached out to plan to enroll their students for this school year; 97.5% of families are very concerned about COVID-19. I want you to know that all of the faculty and staff at SXMS take the pandemic seriously.

Please take the time to read the San Xavier Mission School Back to School Re-Entry Plan attached. We will be holding Zoom trainings for parents and students with the expectations for distance learning and are in the midst of developing a Distance Learning Handbook for parents and students. A separate Distance Learning Handbook will be developed for the teachers so that everyone knows what is expected and acceptable.

Please feel free to reach out to me at anytime.

## **Poem by Kitty O'Meara - Relevant to Today's Times**

And people stayed home  
and read books and listened  
and rested and exercised  
and made art and played  
and learned new ways of being  
and stopped  
and listened deeper  
  
someone meditated  
someone prayed  
someone danced  
someone met their shadow  
  
and people began to think differently  
and people healed  
and in the absence of people who lived in ignorant ways,  
dangerous, meaningless and heartless,  
even the earth began to heal  
  
and when the danger ended  
and people found each other  
grieved for the dead people  
and they made new choices  
and dreamed of new visions



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and created new ways of life  
and healed the earth completely  
just as they were healed themselves.

Yours in Christ,

Vanessa Rothstein

Principal