



St. Theresa School

Compassion • Responsibility • Excellence in Learning

540 Washington Avenue Kenilworth, NJ 07033
908-276-7220 fax 908-709-1103

October 1, 2020

Dear STS Family,

Happy Month of October! This month begins with our school “feast day”, the Feast of St. Theresa! Normally, we would have an all-school Mass, followed – probably – by ice cream at recess (*that still might happen*), etc. Unfortunately, we’re just “not there” yet. Hopefully we will soon be able to take at least two classes to Mass on special days. This is so important to our identity as a “Catholic” school.

A word about Covid-19... we’ve gotten through the first calendar month of school relatively unscathed. Amen, Alleluia! We have had a couple of children quarantined, but that was due to outside exposure; and one child tested because the doctor was using an abundance of caution (*I think that doctor is my new favorite*). Now, today, we received news that one of our elementary students had tested positive, so we will be following our school protocol: the teacher and class affected will quarantine for fourteen days since the last day the child was in contact with them; the diagnosed child will quarantine fourteen days from the date of their test (that is, not the date the results were received). With all that said, Westfield, Cranford, Elizabeth, etc. have had to go totally remote. I do not want that to happen to us, so we cannot let our guard down. I’m beginning to sense some “push-back” from the children regarding mask wearing AND social distancing, both of which are non-negotiables. Kids are kids... understood, but if they can’t comply, it will be necessary for them to remain home and receive remote instruction. Then we can say we’ve done everything we can to prevent Covid-19 at STS, and then – if it happens – we’ll deal with it knowing that we’ve done our best.

Along with this letter we are releasing the October calendar. As you may see from our “tentative yearly calendar” there are two date changes: first of all, we will not be taking Columbus Day off; that is because we have two in-service days scheduled for the end of the month, one of which is being necessitated by our Tricky Tray set-up day on October 23.

You will also see on the calendar that this month we will be doing MapGrowth Testing. This is the standardized testing that the Archdiocese of Newark has chosen for its schools. Another letter regarding this, with more information, is also being sent to you. As always, the best way you can help your children prepare for this assessment is by making sure they have a good breakfast and are well-rested.

When we have our Faculty Meetings (First Friday of each month) and In-Service Days this year, a great deal of our time will be given to preparations for our Middle States Re-Accreditation Visit next Spring. We will be sharing more with you about this as the year progresses, and will be asking your participation with Surveys and other opportunities for input. Thank you (in advance) for your participation.

October is also traditionally the Month of Our Lady of the Rosary. We will be speaking more about this with the children, but, as you will see on the calendar, there is one evening, October 7, when we will be having a Family Twilight Rosary. Each of our families, yours and mine, need prayers and the guidance and protection of the Mother of Jesus. This is a short event, we usually walk around the outside of the school with battery-operated candles, pray the Rosary, and close the evening with some cookies and juice in the school courtyard. I hope you will be able to join us for this.

As always, any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me (louann.fantauzza@mysts.org or (908)276-7220).

God bless! Stay safe and healthy, and have a good week!



Sr. Lou Ann Fantauzza, FMA
Principal



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October 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Over the past few years, the Archdiocesan Schools Office staff has been researching assessment programs in order to find an assessment that provides teachers with data they can use throughout the year to improve instruction and to support each student's academic growth, while still providing the necessary norm-referenced data, such as national percentile scores. During the 2018-2019 school year, the Archdiocesan Schools Office piloted the NWEA *MAP Growth* online testing program in nine schools. Based on the success of that pilot, it was decided to transition elementary schools from *Iowa Assessments* to *MAP Growth*. Each elementary school had the option of moving to *MAP Growth* for the 2019-2020 school year or 2020-2021 school year.

MAP Growth is a computer adaptive test created by NWEA that students take three times per school year (fall, winter, spring). The subject areas tested in *MAP Growth* in grades 2-8 are reading, math, and language, with science included in grades 3-7 and optional in grade 8. Computer adaptive tests adjust to each student's learning level, providing a unique set of test questions based on the student's responses to previous questions. If the student answers a question correctly, the next question is more challenging. If they answer incorrectly, the next question is easier. This results in a detailed picture of what the student knows and is ready to learn—whether it is on, above, or below their grade level. The results provide teachers with information to help them deliver appropriate content for each student and monitor each student's academic growth over time.

Students take the *MAP Growth* test on a computer or tablet during a 3-4-week testing window established by the Archdiocesan Schools Office. Each school will set its own schedule within each of the testing windows. This flexibility allows testing to fit the school's schedule and become part of the flow of the school day. During the 2020-2021 school year, *MAP Growth* testing will take place during the following testing windows:

Fall Testing Window	Winter Testing Window	Spring Testing Window
October 5 th - October 30 th	January 25 th – February 19 th	May 3 rd -21 st

The MAP Growth tests are untimed. Most students complete each subject test in less than an hour. Students who do not finish the assessment in the time scheduled for the testing session are able to resume the test at another time without the loss of test responses already submitted. The reports obtained from *MAP Growth* testing provide information about the student's level of achievement and his or her growth over time. For more information about *MAP Growth* visit: <https://www.nwea.org/parent-toolkit/>

Sincerely,



Sr. Lou Ann Fantauzza, FMA
Principal