



AVE MARIA ACADEMY
CATHOLIC VALUES • ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

August 26, 2020

Ave Maria Academy Families:

Here we go...

First, I want to start with priorities. Safety should be baked into the mix at every school district in our region. In the current climate, with so many unknowns, you want to ensure that the school's academics will not leave your child behind and unprepared for the next semester, the next year. Each school day should be a full school day, whether your child is sitting in a classroom, or at home, online. Whatever comes.

This is how I approached my school this past spring and I have doubled down on it in building our two campuses. Children attend school for a reason, and the primary reason is to learn and grow.

Funny thing, I currently have a waiting list for our Academy. I wanted this, but I thought that it would happen in the coming years, tied to word-of-mouth about our Shared Values and Academic Excellence ("If you build it...").

Parents appear to be shopping schools. They are concerned and want guarantees. Understand, there are none. Just because a school starts the year in the classroom, doesn't mean that it will finish it there (look at the daily rumblings in colleges, universities and in sports). Everyone is looking to find their way, when they should be looking for the most comprehensive model for success, *whatever comes*.

Shared values...

Our teachers and professional staff are preparing each day to join the frontline workers we have all admired. They are concerned, and rightfully so. Yet, they continue to prepare for our children. I see in them a higher calling, one that mere compensation does not explain. They want to be here, they want to be a part of this and that's what makes them different.

I came to you a few weeks back asking for some items, including water for our two campuses. Thank you for your timely response and generosity (one family dropped off 48 cases of water). Again, it's what makes us different.

I am looking for volunteers to assist our teachers during lunch time and recess. Please contact our offices to begin the process of obtaining clearances to allow you to join us.

It has been so nice meeting so many of you over the summer months. From our PTG (blessed) Movie Night two weeks ago, to outside athletic practices (thank you to the young men who helped me load water for Mount Lebanon's campus in my vehicle last night) and so many meetings and visits with so many of you at our two campuses, you have animated my summer and recharged me in our mission.

Here we go...

Lynne