

September 2020



Be who you are and be that well, to give honor to the Master Craftsman whose handiwork you are.

St. Francis De Sales

Dear Parents,

As we end our second week of school I am filled with joy each day as I see the beautiful faces of the children, they are eager to come to school, are happy to see their friends, even though there is little time to play or talk, and they have a new desire and appreciation for school that perhaps they did not previously realize. They are patient with the teachers who are occasionally not as adept as they are with technology. I have gotten lots of advice from the 6th graders on finding people and muting them as we pursue the subject of Spelling each day. Our students are extraordinarily patient as they wear their masks the day long and sit behind a plexiglass shield, from Pre –K 3 through Grade 8. The students are excelling in learning and caring for one another.

I commend our teachers and classroom aides daily as they step out of their comfort zone, taking on challenges that I'm certain they had never expected; teaching a cohort live, another cohort virtually and some students totally online. Our teachers are helping one another to be successful, many have left their previous jobs teaching math or reading groups to teach half the 1st or 2nd Grade or acting as the technology facilitator for one of their colleagues, their generosity toward one another knows no bounds. When we needed aides and experts to help, the Lord graciously opened our eyes to see the talents in those around us. We discovered a technology expert, several wonderful college students to help us from St. Peter's University and parents who had never thought about coming into the classroom now making our classrooms their new workplaces. At St. Francis Academy God truly provides for every situation.

Parents, last but never least, we shower our gratitude upon you and your selfless love for your children. You are the unseen aides and teachers in our virtual world. The chauffeur, the lunch maker, the uniform washer, the story book reader and the bedtime hugger and kisser, parents, you do it all! While in your spare time you work at your own job virtually!

In this brave new world, so different from what we lived last September we have changed many of our habits. Instead of eating out weekly, we bake, instead of sport practice we eat dinner as a family, and our pets couldn't be happier to have us at home with them every day. Things have changed, without a doubt, particularly school. Will we ever get used to this new normal and will we ever be able to hug one another, hold a friends hand or whisper a secret in someone's ear without fearing for our health. Whatever is to come we must leave in God's hands, place all our trust in Him who made us, and be who we are. Moms, Dads, Grandparents, Teachers, Students, etc... Be who you are and be it well, no matter the circumstances, for the greater glory of God!

Peace,
Ms. Savage

Please note:

- *Saint Francis Academy school bags are mandatory.*
- *Girls' hair must be pulled back away from their faces.*
- *Regular short haircut for boys. Hair should not touch the collar of our dress shirts.*
- *Mask must be worn over nose at all times. Any parent or grandparent picking up a child must have a mask on.*
- *Students who are late must enter through the front entrance on Central Avenue.*
- *Make sure your child brings lunch every morning.*
- *Do not put medications in your child's lunch box or school bag. Medications must be brought to the school office labeled with your child's name, grade and a medical consent form.*
- *Do not email teachers during class time.*
- *No child is to be playing in the children's playground at dismissal. The play structure needs to be sanitized after school.*
- *In the event of an emergency closing you will be notified by our Honeywell Instant Alert System. Please notify the school office of any telephone number changes.*
- *Do not double park when dropping off your child. Please do not park in the neighbors' driveways.*

Thank you!