



St. Gregory the Great Academy

A Ministry of the Church of St. Gregory the Great

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Rev. Michael Hall, Pastor

Dr. Jason C. Briggs, Principal

Mrs. Michele L. Rivera, Assistant Principal

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 3, 2021

TO: All Parents, Faculty, and Staff

FROM: Dr. Jason C. Briggs, Principal

RE: **Operational Update #30**

Welcome to May! The days are growing longer each week, the weather is warming, and the green blanket of pollen seems to cover everything outdoors. It has been almost a month since the last operational update, which in some ways is a good thing in that we have been moving along smoothly over the past several weeks. Looking at the COVID-19 data over the past week, one cannot help but be pleased in seeing every major metric for our state on a downward trajectory. We will continue with our established procedures for the remainder of the school year, as they have served us well. With that said, here are the latest updates:

167. **Remote Student Return** – Given that the data are indicating that COVID-19 activity in our area is far reduced from its peak, combined with the fact that we are maintaining our COVID-19 protocols through the end of the school year, it is time for all parents whose children are remote to give serious thought to returning for in-person instruction. **While the decision is ultimately up to each family, of course, unless there is an ongoing and compelling health-related issue which remains that makes in-person instruction a continuing threat, I strongly recommend that students who have been remote since the start of the school year set a timeline for returning to school in-person.** Obviously, there are exceptions to this and I am making no judgment; however, please weigh the current COVID-19 risk against the effect that being out of school between March 2020 and September 2021 will have on reintegrating into the physical classroom in the Fall.

168. **Spring Concert** – Students in Grades 1-4 will be performing in our Spring Concert on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 (RAIN DATE: Thursday, May 27, 2021.) If you have not done so already, please indicate if your Grade 1-4 child will be able to participate by using [THIS FORM](#). Mrs. Rivera has sent out some



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clarifying information on what the students should wear (because, you know, she is much better at thinking of things like that than I am!)

169. **Spirit Day** – Rescheduled Spirit Day 2021 is set to take place on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 (rain date: Friday, June 4, 2021.) As in the past, students will choose the “events” in which they will participate in conjunction with their homeroom teachers. The tradition of Blue Team v. White Team continues, but instead of homeroom determining which color team each student is on, this will be determined by the “squads” we used for hybrid instruction. Squad assignments for Grade 1 and below will be sent out soon.

170. **COVID-19 Regulation Status** – As New Jersey removes regulations, we will continue to follow suit. Please note that **masking is still required** while inside the fenced in “bubble” at drop off and pick up since the entire student population remains unvaccinated and social distance cannot be guaranteed in the tight squeeze of the bubble. Once you are outside of the fenced in bubble, mask removal is fine as permitted by New Jersey regulations. **I say this with as much love as possible: basically, when you enter the bubble you are coming into “our house.” Out of respect for everyone, follow our house rules.** You have your thoughts on how the State of New Jersey is performing with its COVID-19 regulations, and I have mine. My opinions are not always 100% aligned with the state’s regulations, but this is irrelevant. We follow the state regulations.

171. **Summer Camp 2021** – A reminder that Summer Camp 2021 registration is open. Once again, students entering Preschool 3, Preschool 4, and Kindergarten in September 2021 will be our CUBS, and students entering Grades 1-5 will be our LIONS. You may submit registrations for Summer Camp 2021 by following [THIS LINK](#). Space is limited this year, and there will be a maximum daily permitted cap of 15 Cubs and 25 Lions. Questions about camp may be directed to Mrs. Tracy O’Neill in the Main Office.

172. **Yearbook Orders** – Yearbook orders continue to be taken. Yearbooks can be ordered by following [THIS LINK](#). **Note that students WILL be permitted to sign each other’s yearbooks this year.**

173. **End of Year Milestones** – If your child is in one of these grade levels, please mark your calendars:

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| Friday, June 11 | - | Kindergarten Graduation (RAIN DATE: Monday, 6/14/2021) |
| | - | Grade 8 Baccalaureate Mass (RAIN DATE: TBD) |
| Tuesday, June 15 | - | Preschool 3 and Preschool 4 End of Year Ceremonies (RAIN DATE: Wednesday, 6/16/2021) |
| Wednesday, June 16 | - | Grade 8 Graduation (RAIN DATE: Thursday, 6/17/2021) |

All events, with the exception of Grade 8 Graduation, are planned for the mornings. Times will be firmed up closer to the events. All events will take place outdoors, and at this time we **DO NOT** plan to have limits on the number of attendees.

174. Upcoming Dates of Note:

- Tuesday, May 4 - Star Wars out of uniform day
- Thursday, May 6 - Christmas in May out of uniform day
- Monday, May 10 - Yearbook Orders Due
- Monday, May 17 - Spring Book Fair Begins (COVID-19 protocols to be announced)
- Tuesday, May 18 - Confirmation – Grade 8 (**Grade 8 ONLY – NO SCHOOL**)
- Tuesday, May 25 - Spring Concert – Grades 1-4
- Thursday, May 27 - RAIN DATE: Spring Concert – Grades 1-4
- Friday, May 28 - **NO SCHOOL**
- Monday, May 31 - **NO SCHOOL**
- Wednesday, June 2 - Spirit Day
- Friday, June 4 - RAIN DATE: Spirit Day

