



215 KIPP AVENUE
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201-288-0614 FAX 201-288-5956
www.corpuschristischool.net

Principal Letter: August 2, 2020

"Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening my axe."

- Abraham Lincoln

Good morning and happy Sunday everyone,

Preparation. If I had to sum up the entire month of July at Corpus Christi School in one word, the word I would choose would be preparation.

Yesterday marked the beginning of August, and one month closer to the start of the new school year. It has been a busy, yet very productive first month for me at Corpus Christi School. We live in very uncertain or even scary times, but know that I, Mrs. Spinosa, the staff, and other dedicated members of the parish continue to talk, work hard, strategize, make tough decisions, and most importantly, prepare for the arrival of your children to the two Corpus Christi School buildings next month.

The riseabove@corpuschristischool.net email has been working wonderfully. Parents have been asking questions, providing feedback, and offering suggestions to better our preparation for September. We thank you for that and welcome you to continue being vocal. We are looking and preparing to provide a safe and strong educational experience for everyone. Being mindful of parents' thinking and feelings is crucial to that preparation.

Earlier last week a tentative plan was provided in regards to how we intend to run a typical day at Corpus Christi School. We used the survey results most of you provided, devised a tentative plan based off of those numbers, presented it to the teachers where they had the opportunity to ask questions, give feedback and make adjustments, and finally sent it to the archdiocese and all of you to review.

Many of you have responded by asking several new questions and have expressed an eagerness to learn more. Please know we are reading, considering, and working to address as many of these questions as we can. In some instances, we don't have the answer. No one in the world seemingly does, but we are open to the dialogue and willing to be honest and transparent when we don't have a specific answer to a question yet. In other instances, we have an idea of what we would like to do, or how we are working towards a solution, but understand Corpus Christi School must also operate under the guidelines and directives of the governor, the CDC and the Archdiocese of Newark and so some questions simply cannot be answered just yet because we too are awaiting answers and directions.

For those of you who have asked, we have received some financial assistance from both the town through the Cares Act and through the Archdiocese of Newark. We are working extremely hard to strategically spend every dollar we've been given to purchase the most, best, and safest items we can through the approved list of vendors we can use. We are working with Deacon Carris and an engineer to create floor plans and build structures to enhance safe social distancing for your children throughout the schools and in every classroom.



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We intend to send out a list of your strong and frequently asked questions with whatever answers we can currently provide by the end of this week. We have been taking pictures of the cleaning, the planning, and the building that have been going on at the school and we intend to share those photos with all of you soon. I am looking to schedule another Zoom Summer Summit meeting in mid-August to provide more details. The administrative team is working on scheduling earlier fun and informative orientations to get your children acclimated to the buildings. We are also working on scheduling Google Classroom workshops for all families and students that need to become more familiar with the virtual platform.

July was busy. I anticipate August will be busier. There are some great and even sad changes happening throughout Corpus Christi School that we intend to share with all of you soon. But one thing that will never change will be our commitment to the safety, learning, and happiness of your children.

We understand, sympathize with, and share your concerns. We know people are fearful, want answers, and pray for an end to this pandemic. Remember, right now all we can do is be there for each other, pray together and pray for each other, and prepare. Everything we are saying, doing, and working on could be changed at a moment's notice. We understand that and are closely monitoring everything the governor and the archdiocese are stating. We recognize this is all tentative and it's all subject to change, but regardless, we must continue to prepare. We owe you that. We owe your children that. And so we will continue to sharpen our axe and be ready to do the work. It is a challenge we will all continue to face together.

Stay safe and God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Feliciano".

Jason Feliciano
Principal