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HASBROUCK HEIGHTS, NEW JERSEY 07604  
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www.corpuschristischool.net

Principal Letter: December 10, 2020

*"Keep looking up. That's the secret of life."*

- Snoopy

To All the Members of Our Corpus Christi School Family,

When I started at Corpus Christi School, I had all these ideas and plans that I wanted to set forth to help build upon the amazing attributes of this school, parish and community. All I heard about were the wonderful people, the innovative activities and programs and the tremendous efforts of everyone involved. People outside of Corpus Christi School spoke highly about Corpus Christi School and I was excited to be a part of your next chapter of growth.

The pandemic slowed a lot of those plans. The need to ensure that every person entering this building was safe on a daily basis, that every staff member and child felt supported and somewhat at ease going through the daily routines took precedence over any of my initial objectives and grand plans. 2020 has been a difficult year for all of us. My mother used to say, "Everything happens for a reason," and "Everything always finds a way to work itself out." I sit here with her on my mind in full support of that idea, proud of everything we've accomplished so far together as a team and truly excited for the things we have coming in the next few months.

I know I speak of my gratitude every month, but just look at all we've already accomplished. In these past few months, our teachers and staff have been phenomenal in their efforts to educate our children. Through hard work, exhaustion, fear, compassion and perseverance they continue to do everything they can to bring education and some sort of normalcy to our children's daily lives. I cannot say enough about our HSA and dedicated parents. The events they've created, the fundraisers, the communication and their ability to keep our school spirit going during these unprecedented times cannot go unnoticed. I mean the nation is searching for a Playstation 5 videogame console and thanks to our HSA, you have a chance to get one for a \$5 raffle ticket.

Our maintenance crew and staff walk into this building every day, smile no matter what and put their best foot forward to do what needs to be done to keep this school smiling and running as safely and as smoothly as possible. And our parents are doing the same. Just yesterday, we sent a message about our school turtles, and within minutes, staff and parents offered ideas, items and their services to help. One of our wonderful moms was even here this morning helping our little friends. There truly is something special about Corpus Christi School.

Now as we look towards January and 2021 we need to continue to look up. Aim high, move forward and rise above will continue to be our mantra. We are looking to raise our standards as an academic institution with changes to our honor roll, the addition of monthly awards and stronger more consistent communication as it pertains to grading.

One of the sudden and biggest hurdles we faced the last two months has been in regards to the inconsistency of our internet. I've heard your concerns and I am happy to announce that we are in the process of changing our service providers. We've already made the change in our main building and our preschool will be set before the end of the year. So where a month ago, we had a download speed of 200 and an upload speed of 30, our main building now has a download and



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upload speed of 400 each. The preschool building, which is much smaller, will also see a tremendous boost from 200/30 to 200/200.

Plans are being made to introduce class rings to Corpus Christi School. Beginning in September 2021, this will be a new 7<sup>th</sup> grade tradition. However, we have decided that for this year both the 2020-2021 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes will be invited this spring to purchase class rings and participate in a small ring ceremony.

We've also created two new donation programs that we plan to share with our alumni, parishioners and current families. Flyers began going out this week regarding it and will be accessible on our website next week. With our RISE (Reward Students' Individual Education) program, you can be a tuition angel and donate towards our tuition assistance. This will allow the school to really be there for each other and help families when unfortunate circumstances arise. We also have our Building the Building program which will allow individuals to contribute towards the enhancement and maintenance of the building. To date, we've received over \$2,000 and are in the process of using some of those funds to enhance the security within and around the two buildings.

Lastly, I do want to confirm that Corpus Christi School has decided to go virtual December 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and the week of January 4<sup>th</sup>. As we did on November 30<sup>th</sup>, the entire school will conduct virtually from home. I know that this may be an inconvenience for some, and we considered all of the options, but we do feel that the positives outweigh the potential risks. We can't control the possible exposure to this pandemic before the holiday season, but we can do our part to minimize the chance of an outbreak by staying proactive. By making the 18<sup>th</sup> the last in-person day of school, it will allow a full week before Christmas to ultimately prevent any risks of exposure and any possibility of someone having to spend the holiday in quarantine. The week of January 4<sup>th</sup> ensures that any issues that may happen in the days after New Year's will have no affect the overall school community. Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> will still be a full day of school with the \$1 Pajama dress up theme, but all celebrations planned for the 23<sup>rd</sup> will be conducted in the afternoon of the 18<sup>th</sup>. There will still be aftercare as well on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

These past three months have been very different from anything most of us have ever experienced. I understand that and I am truly grateful for the roles all of us have been doing to date to keep moving forward. God willing we are almost there and know we are striving to look up, rise above and make 2021 a fantastic year for all members of our Corpus Christi School family. Lord knows you all deserve it.

Stay safe and God Bless,

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

Jason Feliciano  
*Principal*