

August 23, 2020

Dear Parents,

On Friday, the daily readings from Mass were taken from the Book of Ezekiel who had a vision from God that he was in a desert filled with dry bones. God asked Ezekiel in the vision, 'Can these bones come to life?' God then went on to tell Ezekiel, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! See! I will bring spirit into you, that you may come to life.' These words have been my reflection, even today, and I have had to ask myself, 'Do I believe in hope or discouragement?' Do I believe that we as a school community can be restored and that the energy of God is greater? Great things will come out of the 'dry bones' of this time. We are a people who believe in the power of God over any difficulties or struggles that come our way! We are in a dark time, a time when it may be easy to give into discouragement, but **WE MUST BE THAT MESSAGE OF HOPE**. With God all things are possible. **We place our hope with Him who walks with us on this journey**. Let us stay united in this hope.

This school year will be different than a normal school year, but we are doing all that we can to make sure it is as normal as possible. There are some new changes, however, and so I am adding bullet points for easy reading:

*. We will **not have a Preschool Program this coming year** due to lower enrollment, however, we will have a vibrant Transitional Kindergarten Program for any student that is 4 years old by September 1

*. I will send home an important **SCHOOL UPDATE on August 31st that will let you know if we received the WAIVER** and how we will begin the first 2 weeks of school. Ten private schools in Orange County have received the Waiver so we anticipate that we too will receive it. If we should reopen, it will only be for Grades TK through Grade 6. 7th and 8th will have to remain home until we have the approval of the governor. We are sorry that we are not able to offer Daycare for 7th and 8th graders. Daycare will be available for all of our other grades however.

*. On **August 31st, I will also include SCHEDULES for Middle School, Grades 5-8**. There will be SCHEDULES for in person learning and also Distance Learning as we need to be ready for both. Students in the lower grades will be contacted by their teachers and you will receive a SCHEDULE from them as they are much more autonomous. Any student that does not check in with their teacher in the morning between 8:15 - 8:30 should we have to begin the school year with DISTANCE LEARNING will be counted absent or late. Check in will take place with the homeroom teacher. Students must stay connected for the four hours of Distance Learning. They will be dismissed by their teachers at 12:30 pm for the day. Teachers will have a one hour break and then will meet with smaller groups of students or be available for students and parents at that time until 2:30.

*. On **August 31st, we will also let you know if your child/children are in the RED CLASS or the BLUE CLASS**. The RED CLASS will meet with the teachers in the morning session that will also be live streamed. The BLUE CLASS will meet with the teachers in the afternoon and it will not be live-streamed. Another survey is going out today and needs to be RETURNED BY TUESDAY AT NOON to let us know how you wish to send your children back to school on the week of SEPTEMBER 8. If you choose DISTANCE LEARNING or HYBRID (coming only 2 days a week) your child will need to be in the morning session. It is very important that we know now as we must limit our class sizes to no more than 16 students per class. Thank you for filling this out right away. Also know that **YOU MAY CHANGE YOUR MIND AT ANY TIME BY CALLING THE FRONT OFFICE TO LET US KNOW**.

