

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

Dear Parents,

Today I **spoke with Dr. Zhao from the Orange County Health Department who was reviewing our COVID plan for Saint Anne School.** He said that **he was approving it and sending it on to the STATE CDC** for final approval which he said takes a couple of days. We should have final word by this coming Friday or Saturday and he will call me on my cell phone. I will then send out a big announcement that we will be able to return IN PERSON on September 8th. We believe that this is a reality so we are planning now on that to be true. We believe that 7th and 8th graders will be able to return to school IN PERSON on or near September 22nd. We will announce this when we know for certain, but it is looking like that too will become a reality for us.

We had several days of teacher meetings and trainings to be ready for the the first days of school. Your child's teacher is ready to begin the school year and is eager to meet you. This first **BACK TO SCHOOL** meeting tomorrow, **September 2, at 4:30 pm**, in the tent area of the parking lot. Please bring your own chair. This is for Grades Preschool through Grade 4. You will receive one service hour for attendance.

Mrs. Jennifer Muecke, our Preschool/TK teacher resigned on Monday and we are in the process of hiring a new Preschool/TK teacher. We have found someone with 10 years experience, great passion for this age group and has her BA in early childhood. She just needs to complete the paperwork required by the Diocese of Orange before we can announce her to you. She will be ready to start on September 8th and will be outside the gate in the morning to welcome her students.

The **BACK TO SCHOOL meeting for Grades 5-8 is on Tuesday at 4:30 pm under the tent.** We hope everyone will be able to come as very important information will also be presented at this meeting. You will receive a parent service hour for attending.

**Teachers will be contacting you and setting up a ZOOM call for Thursday and Friday, from 5:00 - 8:00 pm, for 30 minutes.** This way they can speak with your directly about the books your children will be using, their own expectations of students, and their class schedules each day. You will have a chance to ask questions and meet the teacher. We have purposely not scheduled two teachers at the same time because we know some of you have multiple children and need to hear from each teacher so you can better support your child's learning. I will send that schedule out later.

**On Thursday, from 9:00 to 3:30 pm, you may come at any time between these hours, to pick up your child's books and device.** They will be spread out on tables under the tent with grades listed for easy location. Your child will also be receiving a cloth face mask and a rosary. We are asking each family to say just one decade of the rosary each day so that by Friday an entire rosary will have been said by you. This coming year we are placing each child, each parent, each family, each faculty member under the protection of Our Lady of Guadalupe who told Juan Diego, 'Am I not your mother?' She is our mother too and will watch over all of us during this time of COVID.

**Each family will also be receiving a laminated card (hopefully on Thursday) with your last name on it.** This is to be displayed in the passenger side of the front window (on the inside) so that when you drive through either in the drop off/pick up zone on Sycamore Street for students in Grades 5-8 or through the parking lot of the school, we can see the name and quickly call for your students to exit the gate and into your car.

When you arrive in the morning with your children, there will be a team of people who will **take the temperature of your children in your cars.** If their temperature is less than 99 degrees they can exit the car, we will put a sticker on their shoulder and they can enter the school grounds where they will line up under the tent with their teacher or teacher aide. If someone in your car has a temperature higher than 99 degrees we ask that you take all your children home and get a note from the doctor saying that

they do not have COVID. This is important for the safety and health of all of our students and faculty members.

If a student should in fact have COVID and were in school, the class of the child will have to be at home and **do DISTANCE LEARNING for two weeks with the teacher**. If the school has more than 30 cases of COVID (an outbreak) then the school will be shut down completely for two weeks and will have to be sanitized completely before reopening. This coming weekend is Labor Day Weekend. Please do not let your children associate with others who may be able to spread the virus as we do not want infections in our school. **It is up to you as parents, to prevent this from happening, for the sake of everyone at school.**

As part of the supplies for your children, have them bring two water bottles that **ARE NOT METAL**. They can be acrylic or plastic, but not metal. Students in Grades 2-8 should bring **a backpack with all that they will need** for the day: pencil case with their pens, pencils, markers, ear buds, etc. as students will not be allowed to share any supplies. They also need their lunch and their snack with their water bottles. These will be near them at their desk as students will not be using cubbies this year.

In the supply list it mentioned bringing 6 bottles of hand sanitizer. Please have your children **bring ONLY ONE** for now as we received a donation of hand sanitizer. We will need more later and will let you know when your child should bring more. All of our water fountains will be converted into hand washing stations. That is why your child will need two bottles per day of water. We are looking into getting a water bottle fill up station as well.

Each class will have a morning recess time of **15 minutes and a lunch period of 30 minutes**. Students will not be allowed to play group sports, but they can bring their own bean bag to throw around and catch themselves or a jumprope. Students will need to stay socially distant from one another at all times, including recess.

In order to get the waiver approved, we had to divide the classes into two groups: **the RED class and the BLUE class**. Anyone who is doing DISTANCE LEARNING or HYBRID will automatically be placed in the RED class as we will only livestream in the morning from **8:15 to 11:30 am**. The RED class will therefore be with the teacher in the morning session and then go with a teacher aide in the afternoon. The BLUE class will be with the teacher aide in the morning and then with the teacher in the afternoon. The two groups will never be together even for recess times as we must keep each cohort together and not mingle with other students, even of the same grade level. We hope that by January the pandemic will be over and then we can bring students back together as a class group.

Please refer **to the website often** as we are continually adding letters, schedules, documents to it. You will find the **GENERAL BELL SCHEDULE** there and I am also including it here. This schedule is for IN PERSON learning. Teachers will give you their own schedules which will include the schedule for DISTANCE LEARNERS. Their schedule will run from 8:15 to 11:30 am and then they will be expected to work on their own for the afternoon in their homes, completing the assignments that the teacher has given them.

I am attaching the following documents: **The Letter of Dr. Erin Barisano, Superintendent; The General Bell Schedule; and the Updated COVID Guidelines for Saint Anne School**. Have a safe and healthy Labor Day Weekend. God bless, Sr. Teresa

Here are the important dates to remember:

**September 2, Wednesday**                      **BACK TO SCHOOL MEETING**, Grades Preschool through Grade 4, 4:30 pm, bring your own chair

**September 3, Thursday**                      **Pick up books and device**, 9:00 to 3:30, come when you can - NO SCHEDULE

**September 8, Tuesday**                      **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL** for Grade **Preschool through Grade 2, NOON DISMISSAL, NO DAY CARE**

**NO DISTANCE LEARNING today** - this is only for IN PERSON students to understand safety procedures

**September 9, Wednesday. FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL for Grade 3-6, NOON DISMISSAL, NO DAY CARE**

**NO DISTANCE LEARNING TODAY** - this is only for IN PERSON students to understand safety procedures

**September 10, Thursday FIRST FULL DAY OF SCHOOL, Grades Preschool through Grade 6. DAY CARE IS AVAILABLE TODAY.**

**DISTANCE LEARNERS should check in with teachers between 8:05 and 8:20** to not be counted absent. This is their FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.

**September 11, Friday. FULL DAY OF SCHOOL, Daycare is available**