

June 4, 2020

Dear ASA Families,

What a year.

We can't express how grateful we are to be a part of such a strong community. A community whose values and beliefs shine even more brightly amid a crisis. A community who cares about one another, just as Jesus has taught us. When we finally get to see many of you tonight for our summer send off, we will have been away from each other for 83 days. Eighty. Three. Days.

So, first and foremost, THANK YOU. Parenting is hard. So is teaching. During our remote learning experience we asked you to do both. We know it was stressful at times whether it was workload expectations, understanding the directions, or just trying to keep your child motivated. Thankfully, we have a dedicated staff here to serve you. Teachers who were compassionate, flexible, and who put the well-being of the child ahead of a letter grade. Our mission calls us to serve and partner with our parents for the development of the whole child. Never before has this partnership been so important. Your support did not go unnoticed.

While we grieve the missed traditions and milestones of the spring at All Saints Academy, Via Dolorosa, Alleluia Day, Preschool Picnic, Graduation and so much more, we are also thankful for the small things we were able to experience over the course of the last three months. Maybe you were able to spend more time as a family. Perhaps you were able to witness firsthand that "lightbulb" when your student learned something new, a moment typically reserved by us here at school. Hopefully, you were able to draw yourself closer to God and your faith as we watched the world change daily.

Although we wrap up the school year this week, I know that many people have already shifted their thoughts to the fall. What will All Saints Academy look like for 2020-2021? The honest answer is that we just don't quite know exactly right now. That's not to say, however, that we haven't been thinking about and planning for the fall. Both Ms. Giroux and I have been in consultation with our pastors, board, diocesan leaders, and other great educators throughout the country. We have also been staying up to date with recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Kent County Health Department, and the Michigan Department of Education. All of these considerations will factor into making All Saints Academy a safe place where students can learn and grow.

It is our hope that school will begin with students in our buildings on Wednesday, August 19. With childcare opening last week, we are already ahead of the curve in our preparations for a plan for reentry for the rest of our students. It has been refreshing to have students back in the building these past few days. Kudos to our staff and parents for doing their best in keeping our little ones safe and healthy. At this moment, it seems that most of the procedures we have in place for summer will carry over to the fall.

- Temperature checks for entry into the building.
- Increase of hand washing and sanitizing.
- Closer attention to the movement of students to ensure social distancing.
- Masks for the appropriate individuals.
- Changes in how lunch is served and where it takes place.

We will continue to update you throughout the summer so that you have a clear picture as to what your child's educational experience will look like. No matter the circumstances, know that we will work tirelessly to provide your child with an education grounded in our core values of faith, learning, loving and serving.

Lastly, I wanted to recognize how awesome it was that we put our root beliefs into action during this time. I am in awe of the partnership we have with our parents as we came together as one. I am in awe of our students that chose to grow their hearts and their minds all while having their world turned upside down. I am in awe of the creativity and innovation of our teachers. I am in awe, but I am not surprised. All things are possible through Christ.

God Bless,

Mr. Michael Debri
Executive Director/Elementary Principal
616-447-2997, ext. 1202
mdebri@asagr.org

Miss Abby Giroux
Assistant Principal
616-363-7725, ext. 1105
agiroux@asagr.org

Our Community Partner/Sponsor of the week is: Bostwick Bakery



ASA Sponsors and Community Partners financially support All Saints Academy. Please patronize them whenever possible.