

July 17, 2020

Dear ASA Third Grade Parents,

Over the past few months we have learned that both challenges and opportunities will be presented when faced with something as substantial as dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. One such challenge we have been dealing with at the Elementary Campus is trying to figure out how to squeeze 25 first graders into a classroom in a safe and healthy way. Under normal circumstances there would be a more efficient way of going about this, but as we know, there is very little normal about anything we do these days. With the financial position of the school now in a healthy state, what seemed impossible just a month ago is now very much a reality. That is, being able to split first grade into two classrooms. Not only will this serve our number one priority of health and safety, but it will ultimately be better for students, especially coming off of their last two months of kindergarten in a remote setting.

This, however, is just one piece of the puzzle. Because we will now have two kindergarten classrooms, two first grade classrooms, and preschool taking up the rest of the building, **we will be moving the third grade to the Middle School Campus**. This decision was not made lightly, and is actually something we have been pondering the possibility of for a couple of years. Although there will be other benefits from having the third grade at the Middle School Campus, our focus now is health and safety and the way in which the students will be placed will bring better balance to the student body. With 20 students in third grade currently, and the possibility of an additional student, we will also be able to provide the third graders with a much bigger classroom, ensuring better distancing for the upcoming school year. The room also includes a sink for hand washing and a private bathroom.

With this background information we are excited to welcome the 2020-2021 third graders to the Middle School Campus. Under normal circumstances we would schedule a visit day with you and do a few other orientation events. Since that is not possible this year we have assembled a number of items here in digital form for you.

On Monday, July 20th at 6:00 pm, we invite you to a parent meeting via Google Meet. The link can be found here: meet.google.com/mwa-duez-bdy This will be a time you can ask any questions about how this will look.

You are welcome to check out a [virtual tour of the Middle School Campus](#) created by fourth and fifth grade in STEM class this past school year.

Although the specific plans for the fall are still being developed, we have also assembled some Middle School specific information to give you a snapshot of life and structures at the ASA Middle School Campus.

Attached/linked you will find:

- A [middle school brochure](#) with an overview of opportunities in 4th through 8th grade - we will be updating this information to include 3rd grade in the coming weeks.
- [General information about middle school class retreats](#)
- [A blog highlighting the middle school campus through the lens of our 4 Core Values](#)
- Some [background on our PBIS work](#), the Middle School [Be Like Christ expectations](#), and [aggressive behavior rubric](#)
- The [service hour expectations](#) and the [service hour reporting form](#)
- The [ASA Dress Code](#)
- An example of an old [Middle School general school day schedule](#) - there will be some minor updates to this in the next few weeks.
- The [Middle School car loop map](#) - Please note there will also be some changes to this for the 2020-2021 school year

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