



MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL

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December 4, 2020

Dear Mount Carmel School Families,

“In the month of December...we anticipate many good things, many blessings.” So writes Most Reverend Ryan P. Jimenez, DD, Bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa in his recent Pastoral Message for Advent 2020. It is in this Advent spirit of anticipation that we share some important updates and information with you, which are bulleted below for your quick review.

- We urge you to make the time to read and reflect on Bishop Ryan Jimenez’s Pastoral Message for Advent 2020, “Times and Seasons”.
- We will not have face-to-face classes on Tuesday, December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and CNMI Constitution Day.
- Remember that you can save money, help the school, and spread Christmas joy with our Holiday Coupon Fundraiser.
- We invite you to three school-sponsored shows to celebrate the Christmas season.
- We will hold office hours during the upcoming Christmas Break.
- Remember to make dashboard signs or placards for after-school pick-up.
- We are planning to increase face-to-face classes for 7th through 12th grade students beginning in the 3rd quarter in January.
- Remember that tech support is available.
- Stay safe, stay vigilant, and stay healthy!

“TIMES AND SEASONS”

In his Pastoral Message for Advent 2020, Most Reverend Ryan P. Jimenez, DD, Bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, acknowledges that these “are extraordinary times of human suffering and concern, and I know most of us are dealing with the effects of the pandemic in multiple ways...Nonetheless, we are God’s Faithful People in the midst of this, and it is clear to me that God wants his mission and works to grow, despite our present suffering.” Indeed, Bishop Ryan’s message of hope is a timely call to action for all of us to have faith and put that faith into action. We thus invite you to read and reflect on his pastoral message, linked here for your reference: <https://rcdck.org/2020/11/times-and-seasons/?fbclid=IwAR3dP4q3KeUgPFczPEP54bOhv5gDMUrkrR-vzqev9rQnT3wEw039IGNLtXM>

NO FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

In celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and in observance of CNMI Constitution Day, Mount Carmel School will not have face-to-face nor online synchronous classes on Tuesday, December 8. While this day is normally set aside for the school family to join the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa in celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, out of concern for the safety and in compliance with COVID-19 mitigation guidelines, the school will not participate this year. However, to reinforce our school’s Catholic identity, we remind all Catholics that the Feast is a holy day of obligation on which we must celebrate the Eucharist with our respective parishes. Note also that while 7th—12th grade Cohorts B and C will lose one day of face-to-face instruction, due to other events planned for next week, we will not offset that loss by holding an additional day of face-to-face instruction.

Our mission is to educate the whole person to see with Christ’s eyes.

HOLIDAY COUPON FUNDRAISER

Save money, help the school, and spread Christmas joy! We are excited to announce the launch of our first-ever Holiday Coupon Fundraiser! Each coupon booklet costs only \$50 and is filled with coupons valued up to \$400 from your favorite local establishments, including Fishing Tackle, Hermans Bakery, Kensington Hotel, T Bar, Tribe Marianas, Bubba Gump, and more. It's the perfect way to save money while you get everything you need for your Thanksgiving meal, shop for Christmas gifts for the family, or prepare for the many holidays ahead. Proceeds from the fundraiser will aid our academic programs and services, infrastructural improvements, and COVID-19 mitigation efforts. To purchase a booklet, visit the Business Office and for more information, visit <https://mountcarmelsaipan.com/mcs-holiday-coupon-fundraiser>. Lastly, with only 200 booklets available, be sure to get your booklets before they run out!



CHRISTMAS SHOWS

Despite the challenges of this pandemic, we are excited to announce three shows to help all of us celebrate Christmas, all the while, of course, following COVID-19 mitigation guidelines.

Mount Carmel School Band 3rd Annual Christmas Concert

Mount Carmel School presents the MCS Band's 3rd Annual Christmas Concert featuring Maestro Julian Greening and the Su-San Band on Saturday, December 12, at Mount Carmel Cathedral. Doors open at 4:00 p. m. and the concert will start at 4:30 p. m. The concert will also be streamed on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mtcarmelcnmi. To comply with COVID-19 mitigation guidelines, this is a ticketed event with limited seats available. For more information, visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com or email galvin.deleonguerrero@gmail.com.

Mount Carmel Theatre Club Family Movie Night

Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club presents a Family Movie Night on Thursday, December 17, at 7:00 pm featuring holidays shorts and a special screening of its epic teen-age romantic comedy from 2011: *Zero to Hero*. The movies will be screened in the school quad (or in the auditorium in the event of rain). \$5.00 tickets will be available in the Business Office. To comply with COVID-19 mitigation guidelines, this is a ticketed event with limited seats available. For more information, visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com or email galvin.deleonguerrero@gmail.com.

Mount Carmel School's 68th Annual Christmas Program

Mount Carmel School proudly presents its 68th Annual Christmas Program on Friday, December 18, at 7:00 pm, in the school quad (or in the auditorium in the event of rain). The Christmas Program is a cherished tradition that dates back to the school's founding year 1952, making it the longest continuously running performing arts program on island. To ensure everyone's safety and to comply with COVID-19 mitigation guidelines, this year's program will be a hybrid show, featuring both videos of each grade level performing Christmas songs and live performances from members of the Knight family. After the program, all performances will be uploaded on the school's YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/c/MountCarmelSchool. Note that this is a ticketed event with limited seats available. Tickets will be available with students' teachers. For more information, email galvin.deleonguerrero@gmail.com.

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CHRISTMAS BREAK OFFICE HOURS

Note that Mount Carmel School's Christmas break will run from Saturday, December 19, through Sunday, January 3, with classes resuming on Monday, January 4. Over the break, we will have these office hours:

Monday 12/21 8:00—11:00 am 1:00—4:00 pm	Tuesday, 12/22 8:00—11:00 am 1:00—4:00 pm	Wednesday, 12/23 8:00—11:00 am 1:00—4:00 pm	Thursday, 12/24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> CLOSED	Friday, 12/25 <i>Christmas</i> CLOSED
Monday, 12/28 8:00—11:00 am 1:00—4:00 pm	Tuesday, 12/29 8:00—11:00 am 1:00—4:00 pm	Wednesday, 12/30 8:00—11:00 am 1:00—4:00 pm	Thursday, 12/31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> 8:00—11:00 am	Friday, 1/1 <i>New Year's Day</i> CLOSED

HELP US WITH AFTER-SCHOOL PICK-UP WITH DASHBOARD SIGNS

We want to thank everyone for their patience, understanding, and cooperation with our after-school pick-up procedures. We are doing all that we can to improve and streamline the process to make it safe yet convenient for our families. You can help by preparing a sign or a placard that has your child's grade level and first and last name printed in large letters, and then hold up the sign or placard when driving up. This will not only speed up by the process, but it will help avoid "wrong" orders from being placed. Thank you in advance for your help in this.

MORE FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES ON THE WAY FOR 7TH THROUGH 12TH GRADES

We also want to thank all of you for your patience and understanding as we have done our best to comply with COVID-19 guidelines, keep our school safe, and support the learning and growth of our students. As part of our efforts, we are committed to increasing face-to-face classes for 7th through 12th grades when we launch the 3rd quarter in January. More details will be provided sometime in December.

TECH SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE

Please remember that we have two dedicated teachers ready to offer tech support to parents and students as needed, Ms. Filmah Buenaflor and Ms. Randee-Jo Barcinas-Manglona. Ms. Buenaflor and Ms. RJ hold tech support office hours and can be reached by email at the following addresses:

- Filmah Buenaflor: filmah.buenaflor@mcsknights.com
- Randee-Jo Barcinas-Manglona: rb.manglona@mcsknights.com

STAY VIGILANT. STAY SAFE. STAY HEALTHY.

Our diligent and collective efforts as a community have kept the CNMI one of the safest places in the world with one of the lowest transmission rates in the nation. Likewise, here at the school, we thank all our families for working with us and cooperating with our COVID-19 mitigation efforts. Whether teaching your children proper hygiene, complying with our procedures and protocols, or following traffic safety procedures, you have helped our school safely conduct face-to-face classes. However, we must not become complacent. We must remain vigilant. As such, remember these three simple Ws:

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- **Watch your distance** by maintaining a physical distance of at least 6 feet between yourself and other people you don't live with.
- **Wear a mask** in public settings around people who don't live in your household.

As we have shared many times before, this new normal is a dynamic situation that changes on a regular basis. The school's Leadership Team, guided by Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez, Board Chairman Vicente "Ben" Babauta, and the school's Board of Directors, are making decisions based on the best and most accurate information available at any given time. Please be assured that no matter what we do, we will provide ample notification and information to all students, parents, teachers, and families via email, our website, all our social media outlets, and local media. In other words, you will definitely hear from us and know what to do.

Indeed, these are challenging times, but we have survived devastating typhoons, economic recessions, and many other tragedies. But, we're all in this together, and with **FAITH** in our Lord, **HOPE** for a better tomorrow, and **LOVE** for each other, we will get through this. We are **KNIGHT STRONG**. We are **MARIANAS STRONG**.

Sincerely in Christ,



Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD
President