



# MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL

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September 2, 2020

Dear Mount Carmel School Families,

May the Peace of Christ be with you! Three weeks into the 2020-2021 school year, we all continue to adapt to the “new normal” of our world. As we adapt and persist, we wanted to share some important information and updates with you, all of which are summarized in these bullet points and followed by a more detailed set of announcements:

- The SY 2020-2021 Face-to-Face Learning Orientation will be held today at 5:00 pm.
- We have important information about school meals for the 2020-2021 school year.
- We invite students and parents to get more involved with the school’s Student Council and Parent Council.
- Join us online this Friday at 4:00 pm for our NEHS and NJHS induction ceremonies.
- The TED-Ed Club will hold its SY 2020-2021 Launch Meeting online this Friday at 1:00 pm
- Remember that we have two teachers available to offer tech support.

## **FACE-TO-FACE LEARNING ORIENTATION TODAY AT 5:00 PM**

As you know, two weeks ago, in response to two recent cases of community spread of COVID-19, Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres issued amendments to the CNMI COVID-19 Emergency Directives. Among those amendments, one specifically stated that “all public and private schools shall remain closed for in-person instruction and activities until further notice.” Indeed, we applaud and support Governor Torres, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, and the Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force for all that they have done to keep our community safe.

Since those amendments were to be effective through September 6 and there have been no new reported cases of community spread since the amendments were issued, we anticipate that schools may be allowed to reopen for in-person instruction and activities on September 8, the day after Labor Day. To ensure that we are all prepared for the possibility of offering in-person instruction, Mount Carmel School will hold an orientation session for Face-to-Face learning today at 5:00 pm on the school’s Facebook page. The orientation will cover steps the school has taken to retrofit its facilities, safety procedures expected of all stakeholders, and traffic patterns for morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. The orientation session will also be recorded and posted on the school’s YouTube channel.

However, note that the school will only reopen for face-to-face classes should Governor Torres allow schools to do so. As such, please stay posted to our school's website, all our social media platforms, and correspondence like this. We will do our best to keep you informed and notified in a timely manner.

### **SCHOOL MEALS FOR SY 2020-2021**

Mount Carmel School is working with the CNMI Public School System (PSS) Child Nutrition Program (CNP) to safely provide meals to students that will be on campus for face-to-face learning. Since meals will be delivered to campus, all meals need to be pre-ordered and paid with students' teachers the day before at a cost of \$.50 for breakfast and \$.75 for lunch. However, your child may qualify for free meals under the PSS CNP USDA Nutrition Assistance Grant using the attached application. Should you need assistance or more information about this program, please call 664-3901 or 664-3902.

### **STUDENT AND PARENT COUNCILS**

Mount Carmel School values the input, participation, and engagement of all our stakeholders, especially our students and parents. That is why we invite students and parents to get more involved with the school's Student Council and Parent Council. In addition to holding its own activities, the president of each council serves on the school's Leadership Team, which meets every week to deliberate on numerous issues and plan various school initiatives.

For Student Council, five at-large positions are up for election: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and moderator. Campaign materials for all candidates are due by this Friday, September 4, and elections will be held from September 9 through September 11. For campaign guidelines and more information, contact me at [galvin.deleonguerrero@mcsknights.com](mailto:galvin.deleonguerrero@mcsknights.com).

For Parent Council, each grade level may have one or two representatives and together with other grade level representatives, they elect their respective officers. To sign up, please notify your child's teacher. For more information, contact Parent Council President Tina Tudela at [tbcrisostimo@gmail.com](mailto:tbcrisostimo@gmail.com).

### **NEHS & NJHS INDUCTION CEREMONIES THIS FRIDAY**

We are honored to welcome the newest members of the Father Arnold Bendowski Chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society and the Immaculate Heart Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. These students were selected by teachers because they demonstrated a commitment to the societies' qualities of scholarship, service, leadership, character, citizenship, and responsibility. We will celebrate their accomplishment in a joint induction ceremony this Friday, September 4, at 4:00 pm. To ensure safety and compliance with COVID-19 mitigation measures, in-person participation will be limited to inductees, two family members with approved tickets, and a few school officials. However, everyone can still join us online as the event will be streamed on the school's Facebook page.

## TED-ED CLUB LAUNCH MEETING THIS FRIDAY

Mount Carmel School's TED-Ed Club invites students from all grade levels to join in its SY 2020-2021 this Friday, September 4, at 1:00 pm. Open to students of all grades, the school's TED-Ed Club is the only one of its kind in our entire region and it aims to engage students in exploring and developing ideas as their own TED Talks that are shared with the world on TED's renown online platforms. Last year, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, ten Mount Carmel School students successfully prepared and shared their TED Talks on TED's official YouTube channel for student talks. We invite more students to do the same. To join the launch meeting, you must obtain the secure Zoom link by emailing me at [galvin.deleonguerrero@mcsknights.com](mailto:galvin.deleonguerrero@mcsknights.com).

## TECH SUPPORT

Mount Carmel School remains committed to providing a high-quality, meaningful, and engaging online experience. To help make that happen, Ms. Filmah Buenaflor and Ms. Randee-Jo Barcinas-Manglona are available to offer tech support to students and family members that need additional help with online learning. You can reach them at the following addresses:

- Filmah Buenaflor: [filmah.buenaflor@mcsknights.com](mailto:filmah.buenaflor@mcsknights.com)
- Randee-Jo Barcinas-Manglona: [rb.manglona@mcsknights.com](mailto:rb.manglona@mcsknights.com)

As we have shared many times before, this is a dynamic situation that changes on a daily 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. With **FAITH** in our Lord, **HOPE** for a better tomorrow, and **LOVE** for each other, we will get through this together. We are **KNIGHT STRONG**. We are **MARIANAS STRONG**. To see an example of this for yourself, check out the Mount Carmel School Concert Band's recent Virtual Concert, which was conducted and prepared by Maestro Julian Greening. You can catch the concert on the school's YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/c/MountCarmelSchool](http://www.youtube.com/c/MountCarmelSchool).

Sincerely in Christ,



Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD  
President