



# MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL

Post Office Box 500006 • Saipan, MP 96950

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[www.mountcarmelsaipan.com](http://www.mountcarmelsaipan.com) • [www.facebook.com/mtcarmelcnmi](https://www.facebook.com/mtcarmelcnmi)

Dear Mount Carmel School Families,

May the Peace of Christ be with you! Three weeks into the 2021-2022 school year, we all continue to adapt to the “new normal” of our world. We are grateful to be able to share our September Updates with you, and hope you enjoy reading updates from our classroom teachers and from our office.

I want to acknowledge the incredible work our teachers and staff has done and the untiring support of you parents to get us to this point. Living in a pandemic is not what any of us expected in our lifetimes. Their willingness to work in these uncertain times and provide meaningful learning opportunities for students despite the health and safety guidelines is greatly appreciated.

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 2021-2022 Face-to-Face Learning**
- **School meals for the 2021-2022 school year.**
- **Student Council and Parent Council**
- **Faculty & Staff Health and Wellness Workshop (Sept. 03, 2021)**
- **School Photos (Sept. 13-17)**
- **Mid-Quarter Progress Report (September 14, 2021)**
- **ASVAB Testing: 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade (Sept. 21-23)**
- **Student Retreat (Beginning September 30, 2021)**
- **After school pick-up**

## ➤ **FACE-TO-FACE LEARNING:**

At MCS, we recognize the critical importance of having children in school and will maintain as many health and safety precautions as necessary to maintain our face-to-face learning. This school year we will continue to do our best and follow COVID-19 guidelines that will keep everyone safe. In light of all the turmoil and stress from this pandemic, however, the students have done what kids do—they have listened, trusted, and adapted to all of it without incident. Being in school with the students has been incredibly fulfilling; the benefits of being in-person are too many to list.

Thank you for doing your part to help keep everyone safe and healthy by following our school's COVID-19 mitigation guidelines.

*Since 1952, a Legacy of Faith, Excellence, and Success*



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## ➤ SCHOOL MEALS FOR SY 2021-2022

Mount Carmel School is working with the CNMI Public School System (PSS) Child Nutrition Program (CNP) to safely provide meals to students on campus for face-to-face learning. Our food caterer for this year is LSG. Since meals will be delivered to campus, all meals need to be paid in advance 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. Should you need assistance or more information about this program, please call 664-3901 or 664-3902.

Please pick up a free meal application at our office or visit the school's website for the application if you haven't filled one out. Deadline for the thirty (30) days grace period is September 10.

## ➤ 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.

For the 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.

In addition to holding its own activities, the president of each council serves on the school's Leadership Team, which meets twice a month to deliberate on numerous issues and plan various school initiatives.

## ➤ MCS Faculty & Staff Health and Wellness Workshop:

One of our main goals at MCS is to take care of our school family. Several ways to help our faculty and staff deal with the stress of everyday situations and the pandemic is to offer workshops to learn strategies and cope with daily stress.

This **Friday, September 03**, is the MCS Faculty & Staff Health and Wellness Workshop. Please note that there is **no school** on this day. Monday is a holiday, Labor Day. No school on Monday, Sept. 06.

## ➤ School Photos (Sept. 13-17)

Say, "Cheese!" It's that time of the year again. School photo for MCS begins September 13 thru Sept. 17. Teachers have provided students with the envelope for this event. If you do not have the form, please let your child's teacher know and we will gladly give your child a form.



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## ➤ **Mid-Quarter Progress Report (September 14, 2021)**

We are in our third week of classes this school year. Progress reports will be going home via email on Sept. 14. If you wish to meet with your child or children's teachers, please email them and schedule the date and time. If you have issues or concerns, this is the time to address those.

## ➤ **ASVAB Testing: 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade (Sept. 21-23)**

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test is scheduled for Sept. 21-23. This test is administered by the United States Military Entrance Processing Command to determine qualification for enlistment in the United States Armed Forces. Please make sure your child gets enough sleep and eat breakfast on their scheduled date.

September 21, 2021: 10<sup>th</sup> Grade (8AM-11:30 AM)

September 22, 2021: 11<sup>th</sup> Grade (8AM-11:30 AM)

September 23, 2021: 12<sup>th</sup> Grade (8AM-11:30 AM)

## ➤ **Student Spiritual Retreat**

Spiritual retreats are an integral part of Mount Carmel School's mission and philosophy. Because we are a Catholic school, it is mandatory that all students in grades 6-12 participate in at least one retreat during the school year. The retreat is a graduation requirement for both 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

This school year, we are reinstating the Student Spiritual Retreat for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades only. We will be sending home permission slip for this event. More information on student transportation will be given at a later time.

September 30, 2021: Ms. Carmen Agulto – 6A

Homeroom.

October 07, 2021: Ms. Alyssa Palattao – 6B Homeroom

## ➤ **Off-Island Trips: (Vacation Time)**

This is an urgent matter that needs to be addressed. "As a matter of regulation, Mount Carmel School discourages parents/guardians from removing their children from classes to attend off-island trips/vacation during the school year. Additionally, **it is a policy of the school that should a student be absent for more than ten (10) days in a semester that student will not receive credit for the semester.**"



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“A fee is assessed for all end-of-the-quarter trips, which preclude a student from taking examinations at the regularly scheduled time and date. This regulation is to accommodate the student and at the same time provide just compensation to teachers for the additional time and effort required in developing individualized examinations at an especially busy time of the school year.”

“Mount Carmel School also recognizes the parent’s/guardian’s right to make their own decisions regarding the best interests of their children. Parents/Guardians who remove their children from school for off-island trips are required to acknowledge the above-stated policy by signing and submitting an Off-island Trip Form attached with the trip’s itinerary.”

A fee of \$200 dollars will be charged for early exams.

➤ **After School Pick-up Procedure:**

This is just a reminder to all parents of the after school procedure for pick-up. As mentioned during the orientation, parents are not to get down from their vehicle to pick up students. In accordance with our COVID-19 guidelines and for safety purposes, all parents must get in line in their vehicle, submit your child/ children’s names to the after school submitter, and then proceed to the gate to pick up your child/children. We kindly ask for your support, patience, and understanding during these difficult times.

As we work our way through September and the rest of the school year, let us work together to embrace, support, and celebrate the changes we encounter. Thank you for your effort, support, patience, and understanding. Happy September.

Sincerely in Christ,

Frances Taimanao  
Principal/Acting President