

Dear Assumption Families,

It is almost time for the 2020-2021 school year to begin and what a year it will be! I hope you have all had a wonderful summer. We are ready to get back to school and are grateful to be able to welcome back your children and continue to educate them in faith and academics. I pray this school year brings back the joy and love that our campus is known to foster in our community.

As we begin making new memories together this school year, please join me in welcoming our newest staff members; Lolita Cortez, Melinda Saad, and Kelli Rennert. Lolita Cortez is joining our staff as our full-time bookkeeper, also handling Facts Tuition for our families. She was born in the Philippines and migrated to the US seven years ago. She has worked as a bookkeeper in a charter school in our district and is looking forward to serving in a Catholic environment. Melinda Saad, our new Art Teacher, graduated from Penn State University with a BA in Design. She worked for 12 years as an Art Director and Graphic Designer in New York City and Savannah, Georgia. In 2018, she moved to Jacksonville with her husband and daughter to be closer to family and continue her career in Art Education. She loves pizza, painting and making messy art with her students. Last, Kelli Rennert, our new School Counselor, joins us as an alumna of Assumption and Bishop Kenny High School. She received her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of North Florida as well as her master's degree in School Counseling. She has been a school counselor for seven years and is beyond excited to join the Assumption community. We are thrilled to add these new members to our Assumption family!

I am also happy to congratulate some familiar faces on their new positions. Kristin Spears will be rejoining our staff as our third, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher. The dedication and love she poured into the ECLC was remarkable, and I know she is overjoyed to get back into the classroom. Shirley Valbuena will also be rejoining our staff as the third, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher. Shirley has been a valuable member of the Assumption family for over three decades! After working in the ECLC, since it opened, we are blessed to have her back on the "big school" campus once again!

Each year, as we are looking for a new theme, it is always beautiful to see how Jesus guides us to exactly what we need! The new theme this year is "*So that they may all be ONE, as you, Father, are in me and I in you*" John 17:21. When we go outside of our Assumption bubble, there is so much going on in the world to separate us. We must not only remember but we must be walking examples of Jesus and His teachings. We are *ONE* body, *ONE* spirit of love.

In order to allow more time for our teachers and staff to prepare for the upcoming year and all of the changes it will bring, the diocese changed our start of school date to August 19<sup>th</sup>. Seven days had to be accounted for in this shift. The diocese was able to work with the state to change our 180-school day requirement to 177 days for this year only. The other days are made up in days the students would have had off in October, November, and March. However, **this will also impact our early release Wednesday schedule.** Based on the minutes/hours an elementary school is required to meet each school year, in losing those three days, we no longer have the "wobble room" with our Wednesdays and will now only have early release **EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY.** The first Early Release Wednesday will be August 27<sup>th</sup>. All dates of early release are included on a list at the bottom of our updated school calendar, which is attached to this email.

Below, I have included some important dates and helpful information to get the school year started. Please call the office if you have any further questions or you can email me at [mjimenez@assumptionjax.org](mailto:mjimenez@assumptionjax.org). You can also visit our website, [assumptionjax.org](http://assumptionjax.org), for more useful information, and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

I pray you all have a wonderful end to your summer and look forward to seeing everyone very soon!

God bless,  
Maryann Jimenez

### **Calendar of Events:**

#### **August 18<sup>th</sup>: Orientation Day – NEW FAMILIES ONLY (invites emailed separately)**

- NEW KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES – 8:00-10:00
- 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade NEW FAMILIES – 10:00-12:00
- RETURNING STUDENTS – Homeroom teachers will send a video introduction and short orientation of the classroom.

#### **August 19<sup>th</sup>: First Day of School, Grades K-8**

- **Changes to Morning Car Line:**
  - Student drop off is from 7:00AM-7:55AM. In accordance with our “Return to School” plan, students may only be dropped off in car line, no walk ups. Temperatures will be taken before students exit the car.
  - From 7:00-7:25, all cars turn on Kingman and then immediately turn right in front of the church to enter ONE car line.
  - From 7:25-7:55, we will have TWO car lines.
    - Those travelling towards downtown (West on Atlantic) will turn in at the back gate entrance right in between the school and church.
    - Those travelling from downtown, San Marco, I-95, etc. will turn left on Kingman and turn into campus BEHIND the church.
    - After temperatures are taken, the two car lines will converge to drive towards the gym, following the direction of the police officer (or staff member).
- **Back to School “Blessing of the Classrooms”**
  - As we will not be able to host our annual “Blessing of the Backpacks” Mass, Fr. Jason and Fr. Eric will visit classrooms on the first day of school to bless each room, the students, their backpacks, desks, supplies, etc. We know how important it is to start the year with such a blessing!
- **Dismissal Times (Early Release Wednesday dismissal times in parenthesis)**
  - Yellow, oldest child in 4<sup>th</sup> grade - 2:40 (1:30), in between Jordan Hall and the Church
  - Green, oldest child in 5<sup>th</sup> grade – 2:50 (1:35), in between Jordan Hall and the Church
  - Blue, oldest child in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade – 2:55 (1:35), enter behind the church, pick up by gym
- **Afterschool Care**
  - Begins at 3:10 (1:55 on Early Release Wednesdays) and ends at 6:00
  - Afterschool Care pickup office – side door of main school building, knock to enter
  - Visit our website and click on the “Student Life” tab and then “Aftercare” on our website for more information

**August 27<sup>th</sup>:** HSA Virtual Meeting, 8:00

**August 29<sup>th</sup>:** Back to School Virtual Night for 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**September 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Labor Day Holiday

**September 5<sup>th</sup>:** Back to School Virtual Night for K to 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

## **September 11<sup>th</sup>: Progress Reports**

### **Homeroom Placement:**

You will receive an email from your child's homeroom teacher on Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. If you do not receive this email, please call the office.

### **Distance Learning Option**

The Instructional Leadership Team is working to create a Distance Learning Handbook that will be utilized by students, parents and teachers. This handbook will be sent to families later next week.

### **Early Childhood Learning Center:**

Please remember, our preschool is a separate entity. If needed, contact the Director, Dianne Dodds, at [ddodds@assumptionjax.org](mailto:ddodds@assumptionjax.org) or call the main office at **518-4880** for any information needed for your children ages PreK-4 and under.

### **Summer Reading and Summer Math:**

Don't forget to complete your summer reading and math packets! Summer reading lists for Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup> grade can be found on our website, [assumptionjax.org](http://assumptionjax.org), under the "Academics" tab. Students needing to take AR tests can do so from their home computer. Summer Math packets are due the first day of school for 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade. Please stop by the office if you misplaced your summer math packet. Reminder - new students do not need to complete the Summer Math Packet but should complete Summer Reading.

### **Uniforms:**

Poindexter's Uniform Company is our uniform provider. Their store is located at 3730 Beach Blvd. just a short drive away from our school. You can also reach them at 661-1120 or [Poindextersuniformco@gmail.com](mailto:Poindextersuniformco@gmail.com). Our annual "Used Uniform Sale" will be held August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00-2:00 and August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00-1:00 in Jordan Hall. PE uniforms are required for 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade only and can be purchased from Coach Polster during Orientation Day in Jordan Hall from 12:00-2:00.

### **Home & School Association (HSA):**

We are looking for parents with flexible time to serve the school community to become part of the HSA Board. Please email Mrs. Jimenez at [mjimenez@assumptionjax.org](mailto:mjimenez@assumptionjax.org). if you are interested in joining the HSA Board.