



ST. ROSE OF LIMA SCHOOL

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August 27, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The 2020-2021 school year is right around the corner! The 2020-2021 school year will open with all of us full of hope and prayer that we can have a normal school year. All of our families are living with different levels of anxiety and worries associated with the pandemic. The staff and their families also have many concerns as we start the new school year in the middle of the communities dealing with the developments of the Coronavirus. St. Rose of Lima faculty and staff has been working very hard to plan for a successful opening of the school year.

There are precautions due to the pandemic that we have to follow to give confidence and peace to the students, parents and the school staff. The details of the re-opening plan have been sent to all the families and are posted on the school's web page.

I am always very excited to start a new school year with the anticipation of new opportunities, spiritual growth and academic challenges.

We are looking forward to building a school community that focuses on the development and strengthening of the student academically, socially and spiritually. With the right amount of academic rigor, relevance and relationship, the student's cognitive ability will surprise the students, parents and teachers.

The spiritual culture of St. Rose of Lima Catholic School is very significant and vital for the students, families and teachers. It is stated in the **Catechism of the Catholic Church - 1701**:

"It is in Christ, the image of the invisible God, that man has been created in the image and likeness of the Creator."

The most significant aspect of a Catholic School is that we recognize that every person that enters the building is made in the image and likeness of the Creator. If we just take a minute and contemplate how essential that is to a child's development, we would focus all of our energies and abilities to make sure that the child has all he or she needs. Saint Mother Teresa stated, ***"I see Jesus in every human being." I say to myself, this is hungry Jesus, I must feed him. This is sick Jesus. This one has leprosy or gangrene; I must wash him and tend to him. I serve because I love Jesus.*** It is my hope to have a school culture that is focused on the presence of Jesus Christ in everyone.

I would like to make you aware of a few important aspects for the coming school year. Enrollment has increased for the 2020-2021 school year but we are ensuring that we are not overcrowded and we are following steps to make sure social distancing is in every classroom. This is a wonderful blessing for the St. Rose School Community.

The school has a new roof in place. The school electrical service was updated for the 2020-2021 school year. As a result of the upgrades to the electrical system and the donations from our school community, we have been able to purchase air conditioners for the classrooms. Again, I would like to thank all the families for their generosity.

The Gym and the Cafeteria also had upgrades to the air conditioning. The new system will also have a heat element to it that will allow the school furnace not to be utilized as much.

We would like to thank all of our generous donors to our Laps for Learning event this year. With the funds raised, we will have the ability to continue upgrading our technology for our students by purchasing and helping with school related academic programs and also by purchasing additional Chromebooks. We also are using some of the funds to support the purchase of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for the students.

Our lunch program will continue with Duke Catering this year. They pride themselves on providing fresh food for our students and pre-ordering lunch for your child helps them with this process. Please read the parent letter from Duke as they give important information about ordering lunch for your child. The parent letter, September menu, lunch ticket order form and birthday treat flyer can all be found on the school website under Lunch Program.

Communication with our families is a vital part to keeping our parents informed about the school. We use two forms of communication with our school families. **Constant Contact** is an email system which we will use to send out our bi-monthly Blue/Gold memos and to send out weekly school updates. **School Messenger** is a phone and email system which we will use to send out timely phone messages and emails for important happenings at the school (including school closings). We also post information on our school Facebook page: **St. Rose of Lima School and Alumni Association**. Please make sure your phone and email are current in the school office so you receive all of the messages.

Students will be arriving between 7:45am and 8:10am and will report directly to their classrooms.

The parents will be asked to take their children's temperature and answer a few questions on ParentsWeb by 7:45 am each morning. That list will be printed and checked every morning. You will need to complete the process every morning and you will be called if you do not follow the process. If the process is not completed your child will have to come home for the day.

All students will be required to wear a mask to school and have it on as soon as they arrive on school property.

Parents are asked to stay outside the perimeter of the school fence. Please do not enter in the area on the inside of the fence to reduce the number of people that the students will be coming into contact with.

The students will have their temperature taken as they come into the school building. If the temperature is above the acceptable range they will be sent to the nurse for a second temperature reading. The nurse will make the decision if the student will have to go home.

Students arriving after 8:10 will be considered tardy, and must report directly to the main office for a pass.

The students in Kindergarten through 4th grade will enter at the main entrance on Kings Highway. If a student is bringing her /his younger sibling, they will also be permitted to use this entrance.

Students in grades 5 through 8 will enter through the door next to the rectory and behind the church. All students will go to their classrooms upon arrival to the school.

On the first day of school, we are asking parents to please take your first day of school photos at home this year so we do not have groups gathering for photos outside of school. We appreciate your understanding with this request.

We are happy to announce our new staff members who will be joining the St. Rose family in September.

- **Mrs. Adriane Foley** - will be our new Kindergarten Teacher.
- **Mrs. Sally Knapp** – will be our new Art Teacher.
- **Mrs. Kathleen Bacon** – will be our new First Grade Aide.
- **Mrs. Victoria Gould** – will be our new Kindergarten Aide
- **Mrs. Nancy Linso** – will be our new Spanish Teacher

Enjoy the remaining days of summer!

God Bless,



Deacon Joe Rafferty

Principal

St. Rose of Lima School