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Inspired by Faith Empowered by Knowledge United by Community

December 11, 2020



“Advent is a journey toward Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man (Pope Francis).”

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy Friday!!! During this, the second week of our Advent journey, we lit the Bethlehem Candle ... the candle that symbolizes **FAITH** and reminds us of Mary and Joseph’s journey to an ordinary little town ... the town of Bethlehem. Jesus was born in that ordinary little town, in a stable filled with animals. Jesus comes to us in ordinary places, among ordinary people. And just as God set his star above Bethlehem that night, He fills our lives with His light. This incredibly precious Gift was given to us with the intention for us to share it ... and in doing so ... we make the world a better place.

As I stated in last week’s communication, **we have and will continue to remain steadfast** in our desire to ensure the health, safety and well-being of every member of the Saint Raphael School community. As each day passes, COVID-19 numbers continue to rise **EXPONENTIALLY**. Exposures ... **outside of this building** ...continue

to occur. People that we know ... whether it be family and/or friends ... have contracted COVID-19 and are sick. **The ONLY way that we can keep it out of our school building is NOT to bring it in!** It is absolutely **IMPERATIVE** that **EVERYONE** follow the protocols ... **CONSISTENTLY** both in school **AND** at home. It is the **ONLY** way that we will be able to remain **OPEN** for in-person instruction. I am trying to keep everyone ... students, teachers, and staff **SAFE**. I cannot make it any simpler for everyone. Respectfully ... there is a **MARKED** difference between COVID-19 entering our building despite following **EVERY** protocol **AND** this deadly virus entering our building due to a **COMPLETE LACK OF TRANSPARENCY** and **FULL DISCLOSURE**.

Communication is **PARAMOUNT** to maintain the safety of **EVERY** member of our school community.

- **If your child is sick, keep the child home.**
- **If there has been an exposure to OR someone has tested POSITIVE for COVID-19 in your family:**
 - Notify me **as soon as you have been made aware**.
 - Keep your child/children home for the required quarantine period following the CDC Guidelines.
 - Your child/children will then be moved to Remote Instruction and this IS okay.
- **If anyone in your household or someone you have been in close contact with requires a COVID-19 test, we MUST be notified AND have formal, written documentation of a NEGATIVE COVID result BEFORE your child/children may return to school.**

As I have stated before ... and I will state it again. God IS with us in ALL things! When we look at the total picture as of today, December 11th ... we only have **SEVEN school days** that we need to navigate through until we break for Christmas vacation. **With your help ... We can ABSOLUTELY do this!**



2020 – 2021
Honor Roll ~ Trimester I

These students have earned no grade lower than an **85%** in their **academic subject** and no grade lower than a **3** in their **Enrichment classes**.

Grade 6

Preston Bahani
Christian Barber
Brian Le
Darlene McAnaney
Kayla Pearson
Selorm Tweneboah
Lena Williams
Luca Witzel
Ariana Zomparelli

Grade 7

Joseph Barber
Lexi Dailey
Joaquin Gutierrez
Ayana Jackson
Mary Kerwick
Christopher Nunziato
Brookelyn Prester
Jamie Werdal

Grade 8

Marissa Bercy
Kylie Cole
Jailynn Jenkins
Julia Jenkins
Mia Palumbo
Kyla Spruill



2020 – 2021
First Honors ~ Trimester I

These students have earned no grade lower than a **93%** in their **academic subjects** and no grade lower than a **3** in their **Enrichment classes**.

Grade 6

Sophia Clugston
Ashlynn Ferrara
Matthew Hollendonner
Patrick Verde

Grade 7

Shane Gorman
Josh Klena

Grade 8

Faith Figueroa
Rebecca Guglielmo

We congratulate these students on this tremendous accomplishment!

Please take note of the following CALENDAR UPDATES:

- ❖ **Monday, December 14, 2020 ~ Virtual Christmas Sing-A-Long at 6:15 pm**
- ❖ **Wednesday, December 16, 2020 ~ “Baby Jesus, We Love You” Virtual Christmas Play Presentation featuring our amazingly talented students in Pre-K through Grade 4 at 7:00 pm**
- ❖ **Tuesday, December 22, 2020 – Last Day of School before Christmas vacation.**
 - **3:00 pm Dismissal Day**

Again, I thank you again to you for your patience, understanding and cooperation during these trying times.

If you have any questions, please contact me at ann.cwirko@srsnj.org.

May God continue to bless and protect us.

I wish you God’s peace.

God Bless.

Mrs. Cwirko