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Inspired by Faith Empowered by Knowledge United by Community

December 4, 2020



HOPE ... is the light that leads us to find the mystery of His love wrapped in mercy, bound in grace, and sent in peace.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy Advent! As we journey together in faith during this season of Advent, we lift our voices to God ... our LIGHT and our HOPE. We pray that He look upon us in LOVE and fill us with the Spirit of Christ Jesus. We pray that God continues to protect us, provide us with the strength and the grace to remain steadfast in our faith, and keep us ever watchful as we await the birthday of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

As the month of December continues to unfold, we remain steadfast in our desire to ensure the health, safety and well-being of every member of the Saint Raphael School community. This is an exceptionally challenging task as COVID numbers continue to rise especially after the Thanksgiving holiday. We know that COVID exposures are happening within our community. This is why now, more than ever before, we **MUST** work together in **PARTNERSHIP** to combat this deadly virus. We are not here to pass judgement. We need everyone's FULL and COMPLETE COOPERATION.

Guidelines ... that we all KNOW BY HEART ... are in place to **protect** ALL of us. Regardless of where we are ... be it inside the walls of Saint Raphael School or in your individual homes ... it is absolutely IMPERATIVE that everyone follow the protocols. We know, without question, that **we** have taken **EVERY** possible precaution and done everything humanly possible as a school to mitigate the risk of the transmission of this virus **in this school building so that our school can remain OPEN**. You must do your due diligence at home.

Communication is PARAMOUNT. If there has been an exposure to 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 Guideline.
 - Your child/children will then be moved to Remote Instruction.
- If a COVID-19 test is required, we must have formal, written documentation of a NEGATIVE COVID result before a child/children may return to school.

As I have stated before ... I know that God is with us in ALL things! When we look at the total picture as of today ... we have **ELEVEN school days** that we need to navigate through until we break for Christmas vacation. **We can ABSOLUTELY do this!**

Please take note of the following CALENDAR UPDATES:

- ❖ **Monday, December 7, 2020 – Lifetouch Picture Retake Day**
- ❖ **Tuesday, December 8, 2020 – NO SCHOOL**
 - The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- ❖ **Tuesday, December 22, 2020 – Last Day of School before Christmas vacation.**
 - 3:00 pm Dismissal Day

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