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**Inspired by Faith Empowered by Knowledge United by Community**

November 17, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The health, safety and well-being of every member of the Saint Raphael School community has and will remain my **HIGHEST** priority. We are continuing to work closely with Hamilton Township public health officials. Guidelines 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. We know, without question, that we have taken every precaution and done everything humanly possible as a school family to mitigate the risk of the transmission of this virus ... and yet we have a member of the school community recently testing positive for COVID-19. Now, more than ever before, we **MUST** be **VIGILANT!** We must **ALWAYS** wear our masks ... over the nose and under the chin, social distance consistently, and wash our hands regularly. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Our behavior choices outside of school should be **NO** different than if we were in the school building.

**Per the Hamilton Township Health Department, it has been STRONGLY recommended that we ... as a SCHOOL FAMILY ... stay home, isolate, and follow all COVID-19 protocols from now until [Wednesday, November 25, 2020](#).**

**Per the Hamilton Township Health Department, it has been STRONGLY recommended that we celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with the members of your IMMEDIATE family ... the people who currently live in your home ... ONLY.**

Again, I cannot tell you how to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. I would never presume to do so. With that said... **it is the expectation that if you do travel out of the state and/or come in close contact with family/friends that you are not usually in contact with (aka your IMMEDIATE family), you, as a member of the Saint Raphael School community, have the personal responsibility of FULL and COMPLETE DISCLOSURE with this information and elect remote instruction for the established quarantine period of 14 days.**

**Per the Hamilton Township Health Department,** it has been advised to continue to monitor your child/children for any symptoms and notify us **immediately** if there is a **change** in your child/children's health. It is important to monitor everyone's health for the next 2 weeks to ensure an anticipated return to school on **Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**

I truly believe that God is with us in ALL things ... especially now as it relates to the timing of all of this. When we look at the total picture ... we are only looking at **4 and ½ days** that we need to navigate through ... just 4 and ½ days of remote instruction and then we have Thanksgiving break. **We can ABSOLUTELY do this!**

As I stated in yesterday's communication, we will be moving to remote instruction beginning **Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>**. Please look for an email from your child/children's teacher with any and all instructions.

- **Wednesday, November 18, 2020 through Monday, November 23, 2020**
  - Regular bell schedule ~ **8:00 am – 2:45 pm**
- **Tuesday, November 24, 2020**
  - Half day bell schedule ~ **8:00 am – 12:30 pm**

- **Wednesday, November 25, 2020 through Friday, November 27, 2020**
  - Thanksgiving Break
  
- **Monday, November 30, 2020**
  - Students return to Saint Raphael School

I am exceptionally grateful 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](mailto:ann.cwirko@srsnj.org).

May God continue to bless and protect us.

I wish you God's peace.

God Bless.

Mrs. Cwirko