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Inspired by Faith Empowered by Knowledge United by Community

October 16, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy Friday!!! We rejoice as family as we have now SUCCESSFULLY completed SIX weeks of school!!! We praise and thank God for his continued presence and celebrate all that is gift, grace and blessing.

Please take special note of the following information.

❖ Illness Policy Clarification (Return To School Task Force Update: 10/16/2020)

Signs and symptoms of COVID-19 in children may be similar to those of common viral respiratory infections or other childhood illnesses. The overlap between COVID-19 symptoms and other common illnesses mean that many people with symptoms of COVID-19 may actually be ill with something else. This is even more likely in young children, who typically have multiple viral illnesses each year. Individuals with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild to severe illness. There is not a single symptom that is uniquely predictive of a COVID-19 diagnosis so if suspected, **a viral test is the only way to confirm that someone has a current COVID-19 infection.** Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus and include the following:

- Fever (100.4 or greater) or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;

- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting or diarrhea

Parents should not send students to school sick. Below is a clarification based on the **MOST CURRENT** recommendations from the NJDOH.

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/RecommendationsForLocalHealthDepts_K12Schools.pdf

If **TWO OR MORE** of the fields in **Column A** are checked off **OR** **AT LEAST ONE** field in **Column B** is checked off, your child is to stay **HOME**.

Column A

	Chills
	Rigors (shivers)
	Myalgias (Muscle aches)
	Headache
	Sore Throat
	Nausea or Vomiting
	Diarrhea
	Fatigue
	Congestion or running nose

Column B

	Fever 100.4 or greater
	Cough
	Shortness of Breath
	Difficulty Breathing
	New loss of smell
	New loss of taste

Please note the following:

If a child develops symptoms while **in school**. The same criteria would be used. If **TWO OR MORE** of the fields in **Column A** are checked off **OR AT LEAST ONE** in **Column B** is checked off, your child will be sent **HOME**. If there are siblings in the school, erring on the side of caution, they will be sent home as well. **The siblings will have the ability to continue the day's instruction remotely.**

If a child is sent home due to illness, the child must remain home for **a full 24hrs.**

If your child is absent for **3 days or more due to illness**, a doctor's note is required to return back to school.

If a **COVID-19** test was done, Saint Raphael School **MUST** receive written documentation indicating that the student's test was **NEGATIVE** before returning back to school. If there are siblings in the school, they are to follow the same policy.

If students or staff test **POSITIVE** for COVID-19, the local health department is notified and further communication and action will be directed by the Mercer County Division of Public Health.

❖ PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES:

Our goal is to provide curriculum and instruction that is relevant to the 21st century learner; one that provides our students with knowledge, understanding, and skills to become literate, reflective, critical thinkers, creative problem solvers, active decision makers, and socially and morally responsible global citizens.

Our students are meant to leave Saint Raphael School as not merely learned, but inquisitive; not merely knowledgeable, but capable of using their education for good ends; not merely skilled technically, but with the appropriate habits of mind.

As we are now at the mid-point of the first trimester, we will be holding Parent-Teacher Conferences **remotely** on:

- **Wednesday, October 21, 2020**
 - 1:00 – 5:00 pm
- **Thursday, October 22, 2020**
 - 1:00 – 4:00 pm
 - 5:00 – 7:00 pm

The teachers will be contacting you shortly via email to set up your conference time.

❖ COGNIA SURVEYS 2020 Reminder:

The Office of Catholic Education is working with all of the schools in the Diocese of Trenton as we begin our reaccreditation process. Part of this process is to survey the key stakeholders of the Saint Raphael School community; the faculty and staff, the students and the parents. As a key stakeholder, your input is valued and valuable as the data it provides will assist in guiding our practices and enable us to continue to ensure student achievement and success.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and the gift of your time to complete this important part of the process. All surveys must be completed by **Monday, October 19, 2020**. Please click on the links below to complete the surveys.

1.) Parent Survey for Schools:

<https://eprovesurveys.advanc-ed.org/surveys/#/action/144331/35230>

2.) Family Engagement Survey:

<https://eprovesurveys.advanc-ed.org/surveys/#/action/144327/35230>

3.) Climate and Culture Parent Survey:

<https://eprovesurveys.advanc-ed.org/surveys/#/action/144333/35230>

❖ Halloween 2020 ~ Black and Orange Dress Down Day

As it is our greatest desire to continue to ensure the safety and well-being of the Saint Raphael School community while navigating through a GLOBAL PANDEMIC, our traditional Trunk-or-Treat and classroom Halloween celebrations have been cancelled. We will however, be having an **SRS Black and Orange Dress Down Day** on **Friday, October 30th**. Students, faculty and staff are invited to come dressed in all things BLACK and ORANGE. Please note that the children may **NOT** alter their hair color on this day.

❖ **Fall Temperatures and Uniforms**

As we are now well into the season of Fall and our days are becoming much cooler and, for air circulation purposes, we are keeping the classroom window open, students are strongly encouraged to wear their SRS sweatshirts and sweatpants to school.

Have a great weekend! I wish you God's peace.

God Bless.

Mrs. Cwirko