



**151 Gropp Avenue Hamilton, NJ 08610**

**Phone: 609-585-7733**

**[www.srsnj.org](http://www.srsnj.org)**

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

October 2, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

**HAPPY FRIDAY!!!** This is the day the Lord has made and we are truly blessed to rejoice in it. Today, we celebrate the **SUCCESSFUL** completion of our first **MONTH** of school! Great things are happening! During Morning Arrival this week, a question was posed among the members of the **“SRS Morning Crew”** ... Mr. Cruz, Ms. Stafford, Ms. McCarthy, Mr. F. and I ... “What have you noticed about the children as they arrived to school today?” “They are **HAPPY!!!**” was the resounding response. It is true ... the children **ARE** happy. To be greeted with a **BIG** smile and a joy-filled “Good morning!” is not only a great beginning to our day both individually and collectively, it’s energizing. As we move through the month of October, we pray that we continue to be blessed with God’s grace, mercy and protection.

Beginning on **Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**, students in **grades 2 – 8** will be participating in the first round of the Renaissance STAR Assessments in the areas of Reading and Mathematics. The STAR Assessments are standardized assessments administered in all Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Trenton in the Fall, Winter, and Spring of a given school year. Taken on a computer or Chromebook, these assessments, each approximately 20-40 minutes in length, are computer adaptive and adjust to an individual student’s skill level and adapt to his/her areas of strength and areas of growth needed using various classes of questions. The STAR assessments provide

immediate information for teachers, administrators and parents regarding student performance. At-Home/remote learners will be expected to take these assessments at home. Parents of remote learners will receive very specific, detailed directions regarding the STAR Assessments on **Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**.

### **Return-To-School Task Force Update**

#### **Illness Policy Clarification:**

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 if they are 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](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/RecommendationsForLocalHealthDepts_K12Schools.pdf)

Please note ... 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
	New loss of smell
	New loss of taste

If your child is absent from school for **three or more** days due to **illness**, a doctor's note is **REQUIRED** to return to school. If a COVID test was done, Saint Raphael School **MUST** receive written documentation indicating the student's test result is **COVID NEGATIVE** before returning back to school.

**DISMISSAL PROCEDURES:**

Afternoon dismissal procedures are designed to ensure the **SAFETY** of all members of the Saint Raphael School community. We know that it is a painstaking process and have been able to dismiss all students safely by 3:17 pm at the latest to date. We are currently looking at how to best facilitate this process and determine what improvements can be made. Further updates will be shared with you next week. Thank you for your continued understanding and patience.

I wish you and your family God's peace and a wonderful weekend!!

God Bless.

Mrs. Cwirko