



Inspired by Faith Empowered by Knowledge United by Community

January 1, 2022

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year!!! Today ... we as a faith community... celebrate the **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God** ... a day where we recognize and celebrate Mary's role as the mother of Jesus Christ. Mary placed her faith and trust in God and His promise. When called to do God's will ... a call that would bring Her great joy ... a call that would require tremendous grace, courage, and incredible sacrifice ... a call that would bring immeasurable pain and suffering ... Mary responded "YES". Mary's grace and "YES" brought Jesus to all of us. Today ... we have been invited to follow Mary's example. May we have the grace, the courage, and faith that Mary had to respond "YES" to whatever God is calling us to do or to be.

It is my hope and prayer that you and your families have had a blessed and Merry Christmas. I know that many families gathered to celebrate and many families traveled during our time off. I was incredibly blessed to share this Christmas ... his **FIRST** Christmas ... with my beautiful grandson, Mac. To say that my life has been **FOREVER** changed is an understatement. I wish everyone could experience such complete and total **JOY!!!** God is **SO GOOD!!!**

I also know that COVID numbers continue to rise exponentially and this is of great concern to me. It is important to note that we continue to monitor the number of **identified** POSITIVE COVID cases **VERY** closely and have been in contact with the Hamilton Township Health Department. I am also aware of the most recent changes to COVID guidelines which indicate a shortened isolation and quarantine period. Please note, that these new guidelines have **NOT** yet been adopted by the NJDOH and applied to schools. To ensure the health, safety, and well-being of everyone at Saint Raphael School, we will continue to follow our established protocols.

Moving forward, please note the following:

- Our plan is to return to school for In-Person Instruction on **Monday, January 3, 2022**.

- Your honesty, transparency and adherence to our COVID policy is **EXPECTED**. The health, safety and well-being of 200 + people are at risk. It also significantly impacts our ability to remain open.
- **With all situations, PLEASE notify us immediately. We will calculate the OFFICAL timeline that will include allowable dates for testing and return to school.**
- If anyone in your family has an **outstanding** PCR test and you are awaiting those results, please contact us immediately. A **NEGATIVE** test result is required and a copy of the test results must be provided to us in order to return for In-Person instruction on January 3rd.
- If there is an exposure to someone who has tested POSITIVE for COVID, and you are UNVACCINATED, you must quarantine for 10 days. You may test out between Day 5 – Day 7 and return to school on Day 8 with a **NEGATIVE** COVID test result.
- If someone tests POSITIVE for COVID, you are required to quarantine for 10 days. There is NO test out option.
- If there is an In-House COVID exposure, regardless of vaccination status, you must isolate for 10 days followed by a 10 day quarantine period. You may test out on Days 15 – Day 17 and return to school with a NEGATIVE test result on Day 18.
- **Travel Quarantine Protocols** remain the same.
 - If you traveled outside of the state, excluding travel to NY, PA, and DE, you **MUST** quarantine for 10 FULL days AFTER your return date.
 - Please contact us with your travel plans so that we can calculate the official timeline that will include the allowable dates for testing and return to school.
 - Quarantine may be shortened if you test on Days 5 through Day 7. You may return to school on Day 8 with a NEGATIVE test result.
 - NJDOH recommends testing on Day 7 for GREATER accuracy.
 - For VACCINATED domestic travelers, NO quarantine is required. We ask that you monitor for symptoms and get tested if any symptoms develop.

- Remote Instruction is NOT available for those traveling or going on vacation. All work will be made up when your child/children return to school.
- Remote Instruction is ONLY available for confirmed POSITIVE exposures and POSITIVE test results.

As we are all fully aware ... this situation ... however unfortunate ... remains very fluid and can change at a moment's notice. I thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation during this challenging time.

I wish you God's peace.

God Bless.

Mrs. Cwirko