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

October 1, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

**HAPPY FRIDAY!!!** This is the day the Lord has made and we are truly blessed to rejoice in it. Today, our celebration is twofold. We celebrate the **SUCCESSFUL** completion of our first **MONTH** of school and turn our calendar page to the month of **OCTOBER!** Great things continue to happen at Saint Raphael School. Fr. Gene reminded us at Mass this morning that the month of October is **VERY** special as it is the month dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary ... created to honor the Blessed Mother in gratitude for Her presence in our lives and the protection She provides to the Church and to the faithful who pray the Rosary. In addition, it is **RESPECT LIFE** month ... a month where we are called to reflect more deeply on the value and dignity of every human life. We call upon St. Joseph ... the faithful protector of the Blessed Mother and Jesus ... to guide and inspire us to imitate his faithful trust and courage. As we move through the month of October, we pray that we continue to be blessed with God's great love, grace, mercy and protection.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who attended our Virtual Back-To-School Nights. We were very happy to spend that important time with you as valuable information was shared. The teachers were grateful to have the opportunity to share their vision and plans for the 2021-2022 school year. As I state every year at Back-To-School Night, if you have a question, concern, or a wonderment ... **PLEASE** reach out to us. As Ms. Stafford

always says, “I have the BEST job in the whole world because I get to work with your children every day.” Ms. Stafford is 100% correct! I truly believe that God has brought us together for a SPECIAL reason. He has GREAT plans for all of us! We are forever blessed to be with your children on the journey. Communication is CRITICAL to creating and maintaining a successful partnership. Please know that we are here for your child/your children. We are here for you.

We held our first Fire Drill of the 2021-2022 school year this week. The children were well prepared and everything went very smoothly. We will continue to hold our safety drills on a monthly basis.

During the month of October, students in **grades 2 – 8** will be participating in the first round of the **Renaissance STAR Assessments** for the 2021-2022 school year. 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.

**Please mark your calendars:**

- **Wednesday, October 6, 2021: STAR MATH**
- **Thursday, October 7, 2021: STAR READING**
- **Friday, October 8, 2021: School Mass time moves to 8:30 am**
- **Friday, October 8, 2021: Trimester I Progress Reports** will be distributed.
- **Wednesday, October 13, 2021: Lifetouch Fall Picture Day**

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

God Bless.

Mrs. Cwirko