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Inspired by Faith Empowered by Knowledge United by Community

October 18, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are now at the mid-point of the month of October AND the mid-point of the first trimester of the 2021-2022 school year. We are beginning to enjoy all things we associate with one of my favorite seasons of the year, the season of fall. The temperature is becoming crisper. The colors that surround us are moving to gorgeous shades of yellow, orange and red. God is inviting us to pay attention to the beauty that surrounds us. We must be mindful to pause and take note of all that God has created.

I feel it imperative at this time to remind everyone of our [Illness Policy](#) and all things related to [COVID 19](#). Much to our dismay, COVID 19 continues to significantly impact our daily lives. As much as it causes people to be upset, frustrated, and yes ... even ANGRY, the protocols and policies that have kept us safe and COVID 19 out of the school building exist for just that purpose ... they exist for our PROTECTION.

As stated many times in previous communications, we have and will continue to follow all protocols and procedures as provided to us by the [CDC](#) and the [NJ Department of Health](#). Please note ...we did NOT create these protocols but we ARE trusting the medical professionals who have. We are expected to follow ALL of the protocols and policies ... not just the ones that are palatable for today or a short period of time ... we, as a school community, are expected to follow ALL of them. Challenging us ... arguing with us ... or dare I say... yelling at us ... when you do NOT agree with what a COVID 19 policy states per the CDC and the NJ Department of Health is NOT going to change the policy NOR will it change our adherence to it.

Please take special note of the following:

- For counting purposes ...PER THE CDC ... the day of EXPOSURE counts as **DAY 0**.
- For counting purposes ...PER THE CDC ... the day of TESTING for COVID 19 counts as **DAY 0**.
- For counting purposes ... PER THE CDC ... if a person is required to quarantine for a 14 day period, he/she must quarantine for **DAYS 1 - 14** and then may return to school on **DAY 15**.
- If someone in your house was EXPOSED to COVID 19, we should be notified IMMEDIATELY.
- If someone in your house is being TESTED for COVID 19, we should be notified IMMEDIATELY.
 - If someone in your house is awaiting COVID 19 test results, your child/children may NOT return to school until the test results have been received.
- If your child/children are being tested for COVID 19, we should be notified IMMEDIATELY.
 - You child/children may NOT return to school until a NEGATIVE result has been received and a copy of the test results have been provided to the school.
 - If there are siblings in the school, they must follow the same policy.
- If a child is sent home due to illness, the child must remain home for a **full 24 hours**.
- With families with multiple siblings in the school:
 - if one sibling goes home from school sick, all remaining sibling must go home as well.
 - if one sibling is absent from school due to illness, all remaining sibling must remain home as well.

FOR YOUR REFERENCE:

❖ Saint Raphael School Illness Policy:

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

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.

❖ 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 20, 2021**
 - 1:00 – 5:00 pm
- **Thursday, October 21, 2021**
 - 1:00 – 4:00 pm
 - 5:00 – 7:00 pm

You will be contacted shortly via email to set up your conference time.

❖ **Halloween 2021 ~ Black and Orange Dress Down Day**

We will be having a **Black and Orange Dress Down Day** on [Friday, October 29th](#).

Students, faculty and staff are invited to come to school dressed in all things BLACK and ORANGE.

- Please note that the children may **NOT** alter their hair color on this day.

❖ **Mark your calendars:**

- **Wednesday, October 20, 2021**

- 12:30 Dismissal Day
- Virtual Parent-Teacher Conferences – 1:00 – 5:00 pm
- **NO After School Care Program today.**

- **Thursday, October 21, 2021**

- 12:30 Dismissal Day
- Virtual Parent-Teacher Conferences – 1:00 – 4:00 pm **and** 5:00 – 7:00 pm
- **NO After School Care Program today.**

- **Friday, October 22, 2021**

- **NO Classes today**
- **Teachers Professional Development Day**

I wish you God's peace.

God Bless.

Mrs. Cwirko