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

August 19, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Good afternoon. My hope and prayer is that you and your families are safe and healthy. **The Return-To-School Task Force (RTSTF)** continues to meet on a consistent basis to continue the critical work that must be done to prepare for upcoming school year.

Here is today's update:

❖ **Local Public School District Reopening Plans, EXECUTIVE ORDER 175, and our Return to School in September 2020:**

- Many public school districts have just announced their reopening plans based on Governor Murphy's recent announcement allowing school districts to apply for opening with full remote instruction.
- Governor Murphy signed **Executive Order 175**, which directed the following for school districts:
  - **Governor Murphy**: Districts that can meet the health and safety protocols shall open to students for in-person instruction in the fall.
  - **Our Response**: As we have specific health and safety protocols in place to ensure the safety and well-being of the students, teachers and staff, Saint Raphael School **WILL** open as planned with 5 days In-Person instruction on **Tuesday September 8, 2020**.

- **Governor Murphy:** Even if school buildings are open for in-person instruction on the first day of the 2020-2021 school year, districts must provide a remote learning option for parents or guardians who request it for their children.
- **Our Response:** As indicated in the RTSTF communication sent on **July 23, 2020 ...**
  - Saint Raphael School cares deeply about every student. We understand that a child may need to stay out of the physical classroom. We offer our parents/guardians **TWO** options.
    - **In-School Instruction**
    - **At-Home Instruction**

❖ **THE AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM**

- We know that this is a VITAL program to our families.
- At the current time, we do **NOT** have the adequate staffing that the AFTER SCHOOL CARE Program requires to maintain safe cohorts and honor all social distancing protocols.
- The AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM is temporarily suspended to ensure everyone's safety and maintain the integrity of our program.
- We will revisit this at the end of September.

❖ **PLEXIGLASS DESK SHIELDS:**

- The plexiglass desk shields arrived today!
- I am looking to have them installed on every student's desk over the course of the next week and one half. This is going to be a very labor intensive process. **We are looking for volunteers.** If you are interested in helping with the very important task, please contact **Frank Petrino** at [frank\\_petrino@hotmail.com](mailto:frank_petrino@hotmail.com)

❖ **UNIFORMS:**

- Given the specific situation related to COVID-19 and our desire to ensure that everyone is comfortable, students will have the **OPTION** to wear their regular Saint Raphael School uniform **OR** their Gym uniform to school every day.

I wish you God's peace.

God Bless.

Mrs. Cwirko