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

August 28, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I have always looked at the beginning of a new school year with tremendous excitement as it is such a joyful time filled with anticipation and promise. This year is no exception! As people of faith, we recognize and celebrate each day as a gift; one that provides us with an opportunity to learn, to grow, and to passionately witness our love of God to the world. Our theme this year is **Saint Raphael School ... Rooted in Faith. United in Love.**

The **Return-To-School Task Force** and the teachers and staff have been working tirelessly to prepare Saint Raphael School for the 2020 – 2021 school year. It is my greatest JOY to watch the school building come back to life. I anxiously await the return of the children. Their individual and collective spirits have been GREATLY missed.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce and welcome the newest member of the Saint Raphael School faculty ... **Ms. Gabriella Hollendonner**. Ms. Hollendonner is returning HOME to the school she loved as a student as our new Kindergarten teacher and eagerly awaits the opportunity to work with her Kindergarten angels and their families.

As the month of August quickly draws to a close, I would like to remind you again of the following information:

- **Monday, August 31, 2020**
  - Blessing of the Classrooms with Fr. Gene, Mrs. Cwirko and the teachers via Livestream.
    - More details to follow
- **Wednesday, September 2, 2020**
  - Preschool 3 Meet & Greet with Mrs. Chiariello at 9:30 am
  - Preschool 4 Meet & Greet with Ms. Sandmeyer at 10:30 am
  - Kindergarten Meet & Greet with Ms. Hollendonner at 11:30 am
  - We will gather in the APR and then move to the classrooms at the specified time.
  - We will be following all CDC, WHO and NJDOE protocols.
  - Everyone is required to wear a mask.
- **Monday, September 7, 2020**
  - **Labor Day ~ NO SCHOOL**
- **Tuesday, September 8, 2020**
  - **Opening Day**
  - 12:30 pm Dismissal
  - Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- **Wednesday, September 9, 2020**
  - 12:30 pm Dismissal
- **Thursday, September 10, 2020**
  - **First FULL day of school**
  - Preschool begins ~ per your child's schedule
  - Everyone brings a **disposable bag lunch** from home
- **Friday, September 11, 2020**
  - **Second FULL day of school**
  - Everyone brings a **disposable bag lunch** from home

**The Return-To-School Task Force (RTSTF)** meets on a consistent basis to continue the critical work that must be done to prepare for the upcoming school year. Here is today's update:

❖ **SAINT RAPHAEL SCHOOL PARTNERS WITH PENN MEDICINE ~  
PRINCETON HEALTH**

- Saint Raphael School is **INCREDIBLY BLESSED** to partner with **Penn Medicine Princeton Health** for the 2020-2021 school year. **Healthcare professionals employed by Penn Medicine will be on site every day to conduct daily non-contact temperature checks and COVID-19 screenings for our students, teachers and staff.**
- Penn Medicine Princeton Health is one of the most comprehensive healthcare systems in New Jersey, providing acute care hospital services through Princeton Medical Center; behavioral healthcare through Princeton House Behavioral Health; in-home nursing, rehabilitation and hospice care; primary and specialty care through Princeton Medicine Physicians; ambulatory surgery and wellness services. For more information, visit [www.princetonhcs.org](http://www.princetonhcs.org).

❖ **MORNING ARRIVAL PROCEDURES**

- Morning arrival procedures are designed to ensure the safety of all members of the Saint Raphael School community.
- As this is a **new** process and procedure, **PATIENCE** is required.
- ALL students are to arrive at school wearing a **MASK**.
- All cars will proceed to the designated drop off site located at the **Parish Center** following the path that will be clearly marked.
- This screening process will be conducted every day beginning at **7:15 am**. Our goal is to have the teachers and students moving to their respective homerooms by **7:45 am**.
  - Please note ... we will evaluate the timeframe for this process to make any necessary adjustments during the **first week** of school.

- Procedures for **Preschool Morning Arrival** will be discussed at the Preschool Meet & Greets on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### ❖ AUDIO-TACTILE TECHNOLOGY TOOL KIT AND TECHNOLOGY DEVICE INSURANCE

- Each student will be issued a device **AND** an Audio-Tactile Technology Tool Kit for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Each device comes with technical support and is insured against accidental damage and/or theft.
- The cost per student for the Audio-Tactile Technology Tool Kit (ATTTK) **AND** the insurance for the device for the 2020-2021 school year is **\$65.00.**
- Parents are asked to remit payment for the ATTTK and the insurance on or before **Friday, September 18, 2020**. Checks should be made payable to Saint Raphael School.
- **For returning students ...please bring your Saint Raphael School issued Chromebook and case with you to school on September 8<sup>th</sup>.**

#### ❖ SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- All school supplies needed for In-Person Instruction will be provided by Saint Raphael School.
- A list of supplies needed for At-Home Remote Instruction will be sent to the families next week.

#### ❖ FACE COVERINGS

- **MASKS** are **REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES** for **everyone** while in the school building.
- After much research, it has been determined that **GAITORS** do not provide adequate protection. As a result, **GAITORS** are **NOT** an acceptable face covering for anyone at Saint Raphael School.

❖ **TRAVEL OVER LABOR DAY WEEKEND 2020**

- We know that many families are making plans to celebrate Labor Day Weekend 2020.
  - Please note ... if your family elects to travel out of New Jersey to a state listed on the NJ Travel Advisory, **you are required to self-quarantine for 14 days.**
    - <https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/travel-and-transportation/which-states-are-on-the-travel-advisory-list-are-there-travel-restrictions-to-or-from-new-jersey>

❖ **THE AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM REMINDER**

- 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.

❖ **UNIFORM REMINDER:**

- 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