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

July 20, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Good morning to all. The members of the **Return-To-School Task Force** met again this morning and had another very productive meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincerest appreciation and gratitude to this team for sharing the gifts of their time and expertise as we work together to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone at Saint Raphael School.

As we continue on our journey of all things COVID-19, extensive research is being conducted and collaborative conversations are happening to ensure that Saint Raphael School is prepared, to the best of our ability, for every situation. Our challenge remains ... this situation is FLUID and ... as it did on Friday, March 13, 2020 ... the situation can change at a moment's notice.

As community, we are called to work TOGETHER, with Christ at the CENTER of ALL things. As a parent, teacher, and administrator I know that SERIOUS concerns exist regarding COVID-19 and our return to school. I know they exist because I have them too. My prayer would be to be able to say with all certainty that I have successfully **eliminated ALL** risk. I cannot say that. What I can and will say is that the Task Force and I are working **to reduce risk to the greatest degree humanly possible.**

Please note, policies are currently being developed **regarding year long In-Person AND Remote Instruction.**

As community, we must be able to have HONEST conversations with one another if we are going to continue to grow and thrive. If you have a question, concern, wonderment, worry, or fear ... **SHARE THEM** with me ... with us. This is the **BEST** and most productive way to ensure that everyone's voices are heard, clarity provided, and understanding reached. To help facilitate this, we have created a **RTS Task Force link** at <https://hipaa.jotform.com/201994919778073> that will **allow you to indicate your desired preference for the 2020-2021 school year.** This link will also provide you with the ability to ask questions, express concerns, and share your suggestions. ALL are welcome.

The Task Force is adhering to a template provided by the Office of Catholic Education to guide our discussions and planning to safely reopen our school in September. The following areas are being addressed:

- Guiding Principles
  - Employee and student Safety Measures
  - Health Guidelines
  - Support for Families
- Catholic Identity
- Visitor Restrictions
- Health Protocol and Screenings
  - Employees
  - Students
- Social Distancing
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Classrooms and Common Spaces
- Facilities Cleaning
- Signage
- Bus Protocols

- Restroom Usage During the School Day
- Recess, Physical Education, and Lockers
- Visitors on Campus
- Cafeteria and Meal Periods
- Communication with Families
- Academics and Home-Based Learning
- Grading and Attendance Policies
- Remote Learning
- Online Instruction
- Extracurricular activities – Before and Aftercare Programs.

Please stay tuned as another update containing further details will be sent out after the next Return-To-School Task Force meeting on **Wednesday, July 22, 2020**.

I wish you God's peace.

Mrs. Cwirko