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Inspired by Faith Empowered by Knowledge United by Community

July 23, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Good afternoon to all. The members of the **Return-To-School Task Force** met yesterday and again this morning. Please know that the **Return-To-School Task Force** is working **tirelessly** to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone at Saint Raphael School. As stated previously, we cannot eliminate ALL risk. **We are taking all necessary steps to reduce risk to the greatest degree humanly possible.**

As a community of faith, we are called to TRUST in God ... our God who is loving, compassionate and merciful. Jesus walks with us each and every day ... the days filled with joy and hope AND the days filled with wonderment and challenges. We can NOT lose sight of that. I am calling on all of my **PRAYER WARRIORS** to lift your voices in prayer to ensure that God, the Blessed Mother, and all of the angels and saints in heaven intercede on behalf of the Saint Raphael School family.

As I have stated previously ... and I repeat AGAIN ... **this situation is FLUID** and can change at a moment's notice. Updates are subject to change based upon the information and direction given to us from the **Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**, **Governor Murphy** and the **State of New Jersey's Department of Education** and the **Office of Catholic Education** in the **Diocese of Trenton.**

Return-To-School Task Force Update:

- ❖ Our planning and decision making processes are guided the protocols established by the **CDC**.
- ❖ **PROTECTIVE and TRANSPARENT DESK SHIELDS** have been purchased ... at **NO** COST to our families ... for **EVERY** child that attends Saint Raphael School.
- ❖ **MASKS** are recommended **AT ALL TIMES** for **everyone** while in the school building.
 - **For students in grades Pre K through Grade 4:**
 - Masks are recommended at **ALL** times.
 - Masks **WILL** be required indoors when students are **NOT** seated behind a plexiglass desk shield in the classroom.
 - While seated at their desks, behind a desk shield, students in Pre K through grade 4 may remove their masks.
 - Masks will **NOT** be required when students are outdoors **AND** maintaining **6 feet** of physical distance.
 - Effectively, students will have mask breaks when seated behind the plexiglass desk shield and when outdoors.
 - **For students in grades 5 through 8:**
 - Masks are required at **ALL** times.
 - Masks will **NOT** be required when students are outdoors **AND** maintaining **6 feet** of physical distance.
 - Masks breaks will be planned throughout the school day.

❖ **Saint Raphael School is planning SYNCHRONOUS instruction.**

- **Synchronous instruction** ~ teachers and students gather in real time, are **actively** in attendance, and interact either in a physical classroom or via video conferencing, screen sharing and monitoring applications.

❖ **Saint Raphael School is pleased to announce our NEW Remote Instruction/Distance Learning Program.**

We understand that distance learning in the spring of 2020 presented many challenges. Significant steps are being taken to provide all staff and students with the necessary policies and tools to provide effective and rigorous instruction both in the school building and at home, **SIMULTANEOUSLY**.

❖ **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 TWO options.**

- **In-School Instruction**
- **At-Home Instruction**

❖ **At-Home Instructions will be governed by the Remote Instruction/Distance Learning Policies and Requirements listed in a separate document that will be forthcoming**

- For safety and classroom management purposes, this option will **NOT** include alternating attendance from In-School Instruction to At-Home Instruction on a day-to-day or week-to-week basis.
- Once a parent selects the option to participate in our Remote Instruction/Distance Learning Program, that option is **FIXED** for a specific duration to be determined later. There will be limitations to our ability to make changes between In-School and At-Home instruction. Such changes may not be possible.
- The return of a student to In-School Instruction would be based on available space and other considerations to be decided by Mrs. Cwirko.

- ❖ Please note, in the event that a student would be unable to attend school in the physical building for a length of time greater than a few days, the administration will customize the **Remote Instruction/Distance Learning Program** on a case by case basis. Policies and requirements may be enforced or changed at that time by the Mrs. Cwirko

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents that responded to the **Return-To-School Task Force** link sent to you earlier this week. Your responses provided us with critical information.

Here is the link to the RTSTF Survey ~ <https://hipaa.jotform.com/201994919778073>

This link **allows you to indicate your desired preference for the 2020-2021 school year** and provides you with the ability to ask questions, express concerns, and share your suggestions. Even if you do not have any questions or concerns at this time, we still need to hear your voice. Please take a brief minute to respond to this important survey. Thank you in advance for your attention to and cooperation with this matter.

I wish you God's peace.

God Bless.

Mrs. Cwirko