

August 26, 2021

My dear St. Raphael School Parents,

Our staff is back! The building is coming to life, and color is popping up everywhere. This is an exciting time of preparation for the new year. We are ready! Hope you are as well, and I am trusting that your children are anxious to get started.

Anxious is the right word. Some of your little ones are missing their friends, and they are eager to meet their teachers and see what school will look like this year. Some of the “middle” ones are wondering about specials, lunch, and if we will have CYO. Middle School wants to know about the dress uniform, keeping breaks, and field trips. I guess you have a range of emotions at your house. We have a range of emotions here, too, but as I mentioned, the overriding feeling is excitement!

Lexi McClure is new this year, and as she made her way around the campus, she took a selfie stick and invited you to come, too. If you were new last year, you probably weren't in the school building much. We have lots of new families joining us for the 2021-2022 school year. So, hope this https://vimeo.com/590947826?embed_email_provider=gmailis will make you feel at home.



We are attaching a staff photo from our teacher work week. You will see lots of familiar faces and some new ones, too. We are excited to introduce them all to you next week. Attached I have included the latest Who's Who which includes Stephanie Balian. Stephanie has joined our Resource Team, and we are delighted to have her collaborating with Moly Nagel.

The last attachments are from the Catholic Schools Office. They are guidelines around COVID. In summary:

- Masks for everyone
- 3' with masks indoors
- 3-6' outside but masks are not required
- PLEASE keep your student home if not feeling well
- Daily temperature check and questionnaire must be submitted for each student before school
- In-person instruction 5 days a week

This weekend, we have our Kindergarten Meet and Greet Sunday afternoon, and we host our annual Middle School Pool Party Sunday night. The weather looks good, and I look forward to seeing many of you!

Monday, everyone is welcome to our 2021-2022 Kick-Off! Classrooms will be open from 1PM to 3PM. Students may come in PE uniforms or play clothes. Meet teachers and check out this year's location. Lockers can be decorated in upper grades. After you make your way through the building, the HSA has fun on the blacktop. Please be sure to have your mask on indoors and work to maintain social distance.

Monday night is our Back-to-School Night. Parents, adults only, are invited to start in the Trumpet Room at 7PM for a brief overview of the year, and then we will move to homerooms. Specials teachers will be on campus for you to connect. There will be 3 sessions 30 minutes each. Again, I thank you for joining us!

Tuesday, we begin with families in church for the 9AM Mass. Please spread around the church. At the conclusion of Mass, we will call for students to leave with teachers. They will move over to the school building. We have a 12:15PM dismissal from the carpool line.

For Tuesday's Mass: Cross Bearer: Damien Quesnel
Altar Server: Lucas Cardillo
Sienna Marshman
Gift Bearer: Isabella Colaianni
Alexandra Marshman
AJ Magafan
Matthew Canal

Wednesday is 8AM start in church. Please drop your student in front of church beginning at 7:40. Teachers will be there to greet them. We will do Morning Prayer together and then students will head to the school building for a full day (8-3 for Grades 1-8) and Kindergarten will be dismissed at 12:15.

Thursday is a repeat of Wednesday! Friday, everyone has a 12:15PM dismissal as we celebrate Labor Day weekend.

We brought in Chinese food for our staff this week, and they included cookies. My fortune read, "The real kindness comes from within you." Thank you for your kindness, your patience and cooperation as we pull things together. It will take a little while to feel comfortable, but every day will get better!

God bless our new year!

Teri Dwyer

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