

Dear Parents of St. Michael School,

I want to share with you that we have several new people in our staff. Our new second-grade teacher is Mrs. Hillary Newell. Mrs. Newell has 15 years of experience teaching grades 1 & 2 and has transferred to us from SS Philip & James. She is a Golden Apple Teacher and a member of St. Michael Parish along with her husband, Derik, and two boys.

Our new 5th-grade teacher is Mrs. Sarah Sciarretti and has 6 years of teaching experience in grades 5 & 6 in Dover and New Philadelphia City schools. She and her husband, Joe, have four children who will be attending SMS.

Our nurse, who will be with us full time, is Lisa Santis. She has been an LPN for 27 years, lives in Alliance, and has four grown children.

Our new government clerk is Marie Solenthaler. She has two children and lives in North Canton. She has worked with Plain Local schools for over 20 years and is taking the place of Colleen Wirtz.

Please know that our first and foremost priority is the safety of our students and staff. As I wrote in my last letter, extreme cleaning and sanitization has been done in all areas of the school. The staff and I have met all week to make sure all guidelines from the CDC and the local health department have been followed.

We have made a few changes to our dress code for this year only. Students may wear their gym uniform all day on the day they have gym class to alleviate changing in the dressing rooms. The gym uniform has not changed for grades 4-8. There is no need for boys to wear ties and white shirts on mass days and students may wear shorts. Please keep in mind that if short shorts are worn we will have the student call home to bring a pair of slacks. Students are permitted to wear tennis shoes but no high tops, loud colors like red, purple, yellow, or flashing lights. etc. This will be strictly enforced and the student will be asked to wear different shoes the next day. Please make sure to wear socks that cover the ankle.

### **Masks**

The governor has required masks for all students K-8. As we all know this is so difficult for the younger students. It would be a good idea to practice wearing them at home for awhile. The teachers plan on “mask breaks” (especially our younger students) and taking them outside as much as possible. We have spaced the desks in each room 6 feet apart and have also ordered acrylic dividers for all student desks. The teachers have developed a schedule for taking the kids to the cafeteria so in most cases the students will go to the cafeteria on a rotating schedule. We do understand that it is difficult for a student

to be in a classroom all day. The teacher's plan breaks, walks and going outside. They are aware of how difficult it can be if they do not take breaks.

### **Wednesday School Mass**

In order to social distance our students, we will alternate three grade levels going to mass each Wednesday and the other grade levels will watch the live stream mass in the gym. There will be no mass on August 26 and our first school mass will be Wednesday, September 2 with grades 1,3,5, the next week 2,4,6, and the third week K, 7, 8. Kindergarten will be with their 8th-grade buddy. The students will be monitored in the gym sitting on the bleachers and chairs, 6 feet apart.

### **Arrival and Dismissal**

We have purchased 3 scanners for when the students arrive. It is imperative that you take your child's temperature before they come to school. If it's 100.0 he/she must stay home. We will have 3 points of arrival and exit with the scanners. The child will put his/her wrist to the scanner and it will show the temperature of the child. Each scanner will be monitored by a staff member. The teachers also have an infrared thermometer in their classroom and will take the temperature again in the afternoon. If a child has a temperature we require that this child be picked up within **30 minutes**. Please make arrangements with a family member or friend who may assist.

Our bus riders will be dropped off and picked up in front of the school building at door #1. This is a necessary change from prior years in order to easily stagger our students and keep a safe distance.

For our car riding students, those students whose last names begin with A-L will be dropped off and picked up at the bell tower/gym door #5. Students whose last names end in M-Z will be dropped off and picked up at carport (playground) door #3. For the safety of all students, **Carport students must be seated in the back seat behind the driver so they can exit safely on the driver's side.** Please see the diagram attached to this newsletter. Bus riders will be dismissed at 2:30, A-L car riding students will be dismissed at 2:35, and M-Z dismissed at 2:40. **It is imperative that you do not arrive for pick up before 2:20. This will help with traffic flow.** We will have staff on duty to assist with dismissal and keep the students socially distanced and for the dismissal to run smoothly. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated, and if our directions are followed we should be in good shape. Of course, these directions may need to be adjusted after the first week, we will reevaluate the process as needed. Mr. Bobby Street and Mr. Alan Harold will be at one point of entry to help the students exit their cars.

### **Vacations**

Although we understand that family vacations cannot be eliminated during the school year, we caution you against taking the students out of school. Our school policy is that the teacher is not required to give schoolwork ahead of time. It is extremely difficult for a teacher to know exactly what will be covered and taught while a student is on vacation. It also takes an enormous amount of time for the teacher to prepare this work for a child going on vacation. Please do your best to not schedule vacations during school time. It is also important to keep in mind that if your travel plans include areas of high infection rates, or “hot spots”, your child may be asked to quarantine at home for 14 days before returning to school.

### **Forgotten Lunches, books, assignments**

Once school has begun, dropping off the above articles is strongly discouraged. Please check that your student has his/her lunch and school items in the morning. We are trying to eliminate visitors in the building for the safety of staff and students. If the item forgotten is absolutely necessary, we will have a table located outside of our school office for drop-off. You are asked to label the item with your child’s name, room number, and teacher and place in a bag provided at the table. You will then call the school office 330-492-2657 so your child can be alerted.

### **New Families**

We welcome all the new families to our school. We hope you have been contacted by a mentor family. Instructions to log into our Student Information System which is called FACTS is attached to this email. Feel free to call the school office with any questions.

### **Class Assignments**

You will receive an email with your child’s teacher and class assignment. Much thought has gone into these class lists and no changes will be made once they are released.

### **Prescription Medication**

Please call the school office to drop off medication and to make an appointment with the nurse to sign the proper paperwork. She is here daily from 8:15 - 2:15 pm.

### **First Day Forms**

On the first day of school, you will receive a packet of “first day forms”, which need to be completed and returned to school by Friday, August 28. This includes an Emergency Medical Authorization card allowing for updated student information.

## **Aftercare**

Aftercare will be available beginning on the first day of school. A registration form and fee on file is required prior to attending. A form is attached.

## **Remote Learners**

Those students who are signed up for remote learning will receive a contract via email shortly after class lists are released. We ask that you please carefully review the terms and responsibilities contained in the contract and sign on the applicable line. After review, please contact the school office at 330-492-2657 to make arrangements to pick up your child's school books and/or technology, if needed, NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, AUGUST 21 by 1:00 p.m. These items will not be released until the contract is received.

Please pray for us as we begin this new school year.

Ms. Claire Gatti, St. Michael School Principal

[FACTS NEW FAMILY LOGIN INSTRUCTIONS](#)

[PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION FORM](#)

[AFTERCARE FORM](#)

[DISMISSAL/ARRIVAL MAP](#)