



St. Bartholomew School
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Reverend Thomas J. Walsh, M.Div.
Pastor

Mrs. Ann Wierzbicki, R.N., M.A.E./Ed.S.
Principal

August 10, 2019

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Parishioners,

We are honored that you have chosen to partner with us in the Catholic education of your children. As we begin this 55th year in St. Bartholomew School history, we have reasons to be both grateful and hopeful as we look to continue the legacy of outstanding education at our beloved school. School opens on September 4. Dismissal on September 4 and 5 is at 11:30 am and September 6 is the first full day of school.

This summer, we have been able to accomplish much through the generosity of your time, talent, and treasure. Our teachers are attending an Opening School Mass on August 27, which will be celebrated by Bishop Checchio. A keynote speaker will address us about the New Evangelization. On August 28, teachers will receive professional development, one workshop on developing young mathematicians and a second on writing across the curriculum. Additionally, we will attend workshops during the school year as we continue to integrate STEM and Project-Based Learning.

This year, the Diocese of Metuchen has adopted Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) for our standardized testing. MAP is an adaptive assessment given three times a year to students in Grades 1-8 and measures student progress in order to differentiate instruction. Teachers are attending workshops about the MAP testing and analyzing the data.

Installation is complete on the new video security surveillance system, with the addition of 32 cameras throughout the campus. All classrooms are receiving new blackout shades on windows and classroom door safety shades. Additional iPads have been purchased and we are purchasing Microsoft Surface Pros for use in middle school. A new server has been installed. The stage in the auditorium is being remodeled and updated. Our sixth grade Math and Science classroom will be outfitted with new furniture with an insightful design in order to support an active, learning-centered approach to learning.

We look forward to welcoming our many new families to a picnic, which will be held in the auditorium from 6:00-8:00 pm. The Uniform Sale will take place at this time.

Please be mindful of the following:

- Continue summer reading assignments and summer reading challenge. Reading logs are due September 9.

- Volunteers must complete the volunteer application and must attend Virtus Protecting God's Children training and have electronic fingerprinting if they have not already done so. Virtus training is being held at St. Bartholomew School on September 25 at 6:00 pm in the auditorium.
- Please consider volunteering for lunch duty. Contact the school office.
- Family/Student Emergency Information Forms must be completed and returned prior to the start of school. Immunization records are due before the start of school.
- Please read and sign the forms in the Parent/Guardian/Student Handbook (which will be posted on the website shortly) and return to the school office by September 6.
- Sign on to the Honeywell Instant Alert System and update your information. The directions may be found on the website.
- Please notify me of any custody information. This must be provided each year.
- We are a peanut and tree nut-free facility. Please read all ingredient labels carefully. Any item with the warning *may contain traces of nuts or manufactured on equipment that also processes peanuts or tree nuts* is not permitted in school.
- Small, nut-free snacks may be sent in for birthdays with permission from the teacher. Pizza parties are not permitted. Students may "dress down" on their birthday, following the guidelines in the Handbook.
- Please pack a nutritious, nut-free snack for your children each day.
- Hot lunch may be purchased beginning September 6. Please see details on the website.
- Please notify your child's homeroom teacher in writing, not email, about the way your child will travel home from school. If the situation changes on any given day, the homeroom teacher should be notified in writing. Please limit calls to the school office about change in dismissal. After School Care students will be escorted to the cafeteria. Bus students will be escorted down the path to buses where the assigned teacher will take attendance. Car riders will be led down the path by the teachers. *Children will remain with the teachers until the parents/guardians meet their children on the path. For the safety of our students, students will not be permitted to walk unescorted through the parking lot. Cars should begin parking behind the buses.* Be mindful of the 5 mph speed limit.
- Children may not be unattended on the playground.
- Students in Grades K-8 should not arrive at school before 6:45 am. The school's responsibility for supervision begins at 6:45 am in the cafeteria and ends at dismissal. Students should be in the cafeteria for prayers and announcements no later than 7:30 am and remain there until dismissed with teachers to the classrooms. Under no circumstances shall students be in the building or on the grounds in an unsupervised capacity. If a student has an appointment with a staff member, the student must notify the teacher who is supervising.
- Students in Grades K-8 enter the school through the parking lot entrance across from the Gym. A staff member will open the door. Parents/guardians who drive their children should drive to the path and let the children exit on the passenger side. Students should walk down the path and follow the directions of the teacher on duty.

Drivers should stay in the flow of traffic and proceed out of the parking lot with caution. See the parking lot diagram attached to this letter. If walking your child up the path, please park behind the bus lanes and walk down the path to the door. All bus students will enter the school through the parking lot entrance across from the Gym, and should follow the directions of the teacher on duty. Doors are kept locked and a monitor supervises the entrance.

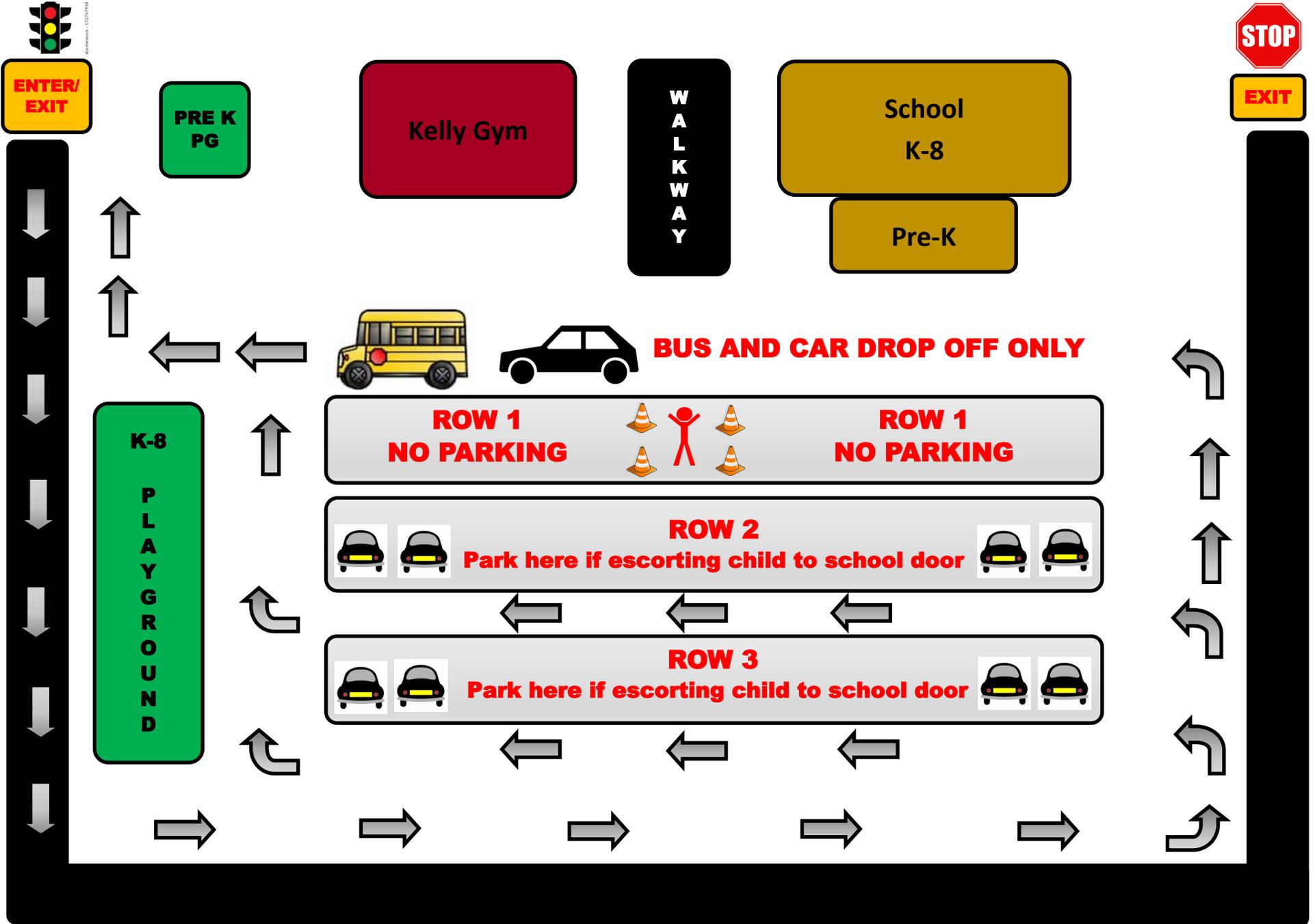
- Parents/guardians may not remain in the hallway or cafeteria. Please do not approach the Kindergarten teachers as they are supervising their students.
- Students who are not in the classroom by 7:45 am are late and need to report to the office before entering the classroom. Unexcused lateness impacts the flow of the classroom and interrupts learning. Unexcused lateness makes students ineligible for Perfect Attendance Awards.
- Pre-K students should be walked to the Pre-K doors where students will be greeted by a staff member. Pre-K students will only be dismissed to a parent/guardian or person designated in writing by the parent/guardian.
- Please note that cell phones are not permitted to be used during school, including the cafeteria, prior to the start of school and at dismissal. See the Handbook for the cell phone policy.
- Teachers use our website to post announcements and homework. Students also write homework in planners, which are provided.
- Parents/guardians of students in Grades K-8 must have PowerSchool accounts. If your child is new to the school, access codes and registration instructions will be sent home.
- Pre-K and Kindergarten students will receive a letter from their teachers about Orientation.
- Back-to-School Night for parents/guardians of Pre-K and Kindergarten students will be held on September 5 at 7:00 pm, beginning in the cafeteria.
- Back-to-School Night for parents/guardians of students in Grades 1-8 will begin in the Church at 7:00 pm on September 18. Parents/guardians will then visit their students' classrooms for important information. Parents/guardians of eighth grade students should attend the eighth grade session first. Please meet in the auditorium at 6:30 pm for Home School Association, sports-related, and extracurricular information.

We look forward with excitement as we welcome our new and returning students and guide them to experience the gift of a St. Bartholomew School education. I thank you for entrusting your children to us as we help establish a strong foundation that includes faith formation, academic achievement, and personal growth. The Catholic core values that permeate our school climate support the development of positive friendships and relationships that are essential. I am grateful for the support of our pastor, Fr. Thomas, and welcome Fr. James, who will be teaching eighth grade Religion. Enjoy the remainder of the summer.

God bless you,
Mrs. Ann Wierzbicki, R.N., M.A.E./Ed.S.
Principal

MORNING DROP OFF

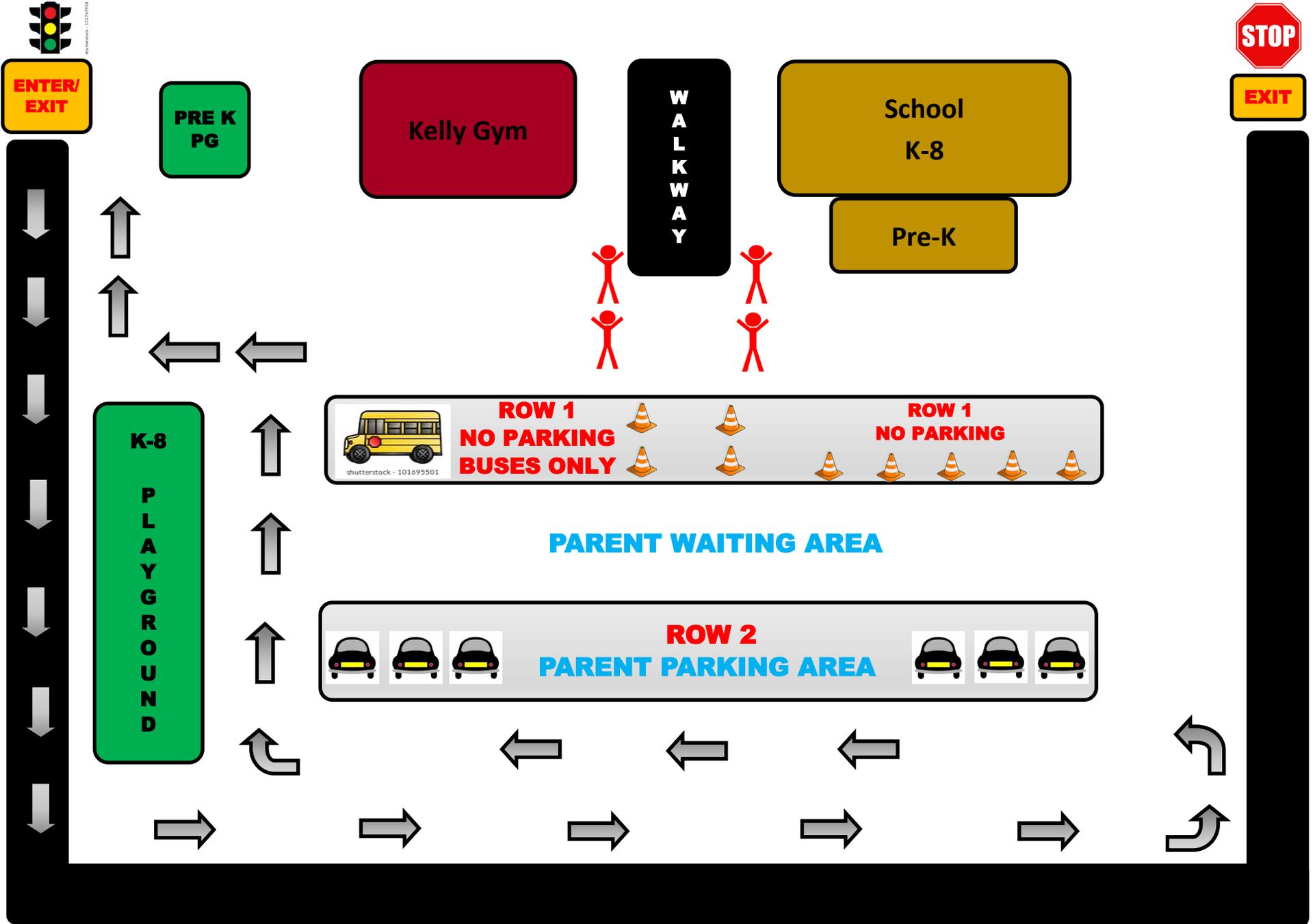
Ryders Lane



 = Teacher

DISMISSAL PICK UP

Ryders Lane



 = Teacher