



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 30, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are honored that you have chosen to partner with us in the Catholic education of your children. We welcomed many new families at an Ice Cream Social and look forward to welcoming all our students back on September 7. You will notice the beautiful new path between the Gym and main building. Our teachers are returning August 31 for professional development about Project-Based Learning by Defined Learning and on September 1 for Mass, professional development about Keeping Students Motivated, and CPR.

Schools in the Diocese of Metuchen will comply with Governor Murphy's Executive Orders 251, 252, and 253. Exemptions for wearing masks will only be granted upon completion by a physician of the Physician's Certification Regarding Exceptions to Mask Rules form, which is attached. The exemption must be from a physician.

Please familiarize yourself with The Road Forward Plan, which has been posted on our website. If changes become necessary, you will be notified. Arrival and dismissal procedures are also in the plan. If a student arrives between 6:45-7:00 am, he/she should enter via door #6 for temperature check and screening and will remain in the hallway until 7:00 am, when he/she will be brought to the classroom. Other students should enter through the doors designated in The Road Forward Plan and will receive a temperature check, screening, and will hand sanitize before entering. Masks are currently mandated; please practice with your child before the start of school. Staff will be outside and at entrances in order to facilitate safe entry. The school nurse will contact parents/guardians of students requesting a copy of the student's proof of vaccination that can be used for contact tracing if necessary. Students who are vaccinated will not have to quarantine if exposed unless symptoms develop.

Dismissal procedures are also in The Road Forward Plan; please refer to the diagram. No one should park in the first row. After School Care students will be dismissed by class first. Bus riders will be dismissed next. Car riders will then be dismissed, K-4 students first followed by 5-8 grade students. Students will be led out by teachers to the designated area in the parking lot. Parents/guardians of students in Grades K-4 should park to the right of the path when facing the building and Grades 5-8 to the left of the path. One parent/guardian should pick up the student. For the safety of our students and staff, please do not exit the parking lot until directed to do so. Park on the side of your youngest child.

***The mission of St. Bartholomew School is to love, educate and inspire
our children to live the teachings of Jesus Christ.***

Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers will let parents/guardians know their back-to-school schedule, back-to-school night information, and arrival and dismissal procedures. Please check teachers' websites and our school website for more information.

Please be mindful of the following:

- Family/Student Emergency Information Forms are due September 7.
- Read and sign the forms in the Parent/Guardian/Student Handbook, which is posted on our website.
- Please provide me with custody information, which 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. No food may be shared during this time. Students may continue to dress out of uniform for their birthdays or half-birthdays. Follow the guidelines in the Handbook.
- Snack and lunch must be brought to school each day. Lunch is not available for purchase.
- Please notify your child's homeroom teacher in writing the way your child will travel home from school. If the situation changes on any given day, please notify the teacher in writing. Please limit calls to the office about changes in dismissal. Dismissal procedures are in The Road Forward Plan.
- The playgrounds may not be used after school during this time.
- Students in Grades K-8 should not arrive before 6:45 am and Pre-K not before 7:00 am for Before Care. Under no circumstances are students to be in the building or on school grounds in an unsupervised capacity. Refer to The Road Forward Plan for entrance procedures.
- Students should bring their own water bottles each day. Water fountains may not be used at this time.
- Prayers, Pledge of Allegiance, birthdays, and announcements will begin at 7:40 am over the intercom.
- Only students and staff are permitted to enter the building at this time.
- Please ensure that students arrive on time. The first class begins promptly at 7:45 am. Unexcused lateness impacts the flow of the classroom and interrupts learning.
- Students will only be dismissed to a parent/guardian or person designated in writing by parent/guardian.
- See the Handbook for cell phone policy.
- Teachers use our website to post announcements and homework. Please read the biweekly Communication Envelope and Newsletter, which may be found on our website.
- Parents/guardians of students in grades K-8 need Power School accounts. If your child is new to the school, access codes and registration instructions will be sent home.

On behalf of Fr. Thomas, Fr. James, the faculty, and staff, we are looking forward to a wonderful partnership with you to live our mission: *To love, educate, and inspire our children to live the teachings of Jesus Christ.*

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



DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

PHYSICIAN'S CERTIFICATION REGARDING EXCEPTIONS TO MASK RULES

Name of School: _____
Name of Student: _____
Name of Parent(s): _____

Governor Murphy has issued an executive order (No. 251) which requires mandatory use of face masks in elementary and secondary schools, with limited exceptions. Medical exceptions are as follows:

- a. When doing so would inhibit the individual's health;
- b. When the individual has trouble breathing or other respiratory issues or is otherwise unable to remove a face mask without assistance;
- c. When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face mask;

This section is to be completed by the student's physician:

1. Does the student have a medical or other condition that would impede his/her ability to wear a mask in school?
_____ YES _____ NO
2. Is the student under your care for a medical condition which prevents the student from wearing a mask in school? _____ YES _____ NO
3. Under what circumstances does the student need to remove the mask? _____

4. If the student requires periodic breaks from wearing a mask, please explain:
 - a. The frequency of the breaks _____
 - b. The duration of the breaks _____

Physician Name (Please Print)

Date

Physician Signature