

St. Bartholomew School 470 Ryders Lane

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Reverend Thomas J. Walsh, M.Div. Pastor Mrs. Theresa Craig, M.Ed. Principal

September 27, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are looking forward to a successful, safe, and healthy school year. I have begun the school year with numerous tasks including renewal of medication orders and becoming familiar with the current medical needs of both the new and former students. It is essential that you communicate with me any changes or medical needs that may exist for your child. The health and well-being of the school community is of utmost importance to me.

As many of you know, we survived the Covid-19 pandemic, but continue to monitor the positivity levels throughout Middlesex County. Please be mindful that Covid is not an illness of the past and if your child is experiencing signs and symptoms of Covid (i.e., fever, cough, congestion, sore throat, loss of taste and smell), have your child tested and follow the CDC guidelines for returning to school. It is essential that we continue with superior health practices during the 2023-2024 school year. I ask that you please note and adhere to the following precautionary guidelines.

Please reinforce these healthy habits with your child:

- Wash hands frequently for a minimum of 20 seconds with soap and warm water
- Cover sneezes and coughs using tissues or the bend of your arm
- Turn away from another person when coughing or sneezing
- Maintain regular sleeping habits with seven to eight hours of sleep nightly
- Drink plenty of fluids
- Obtain the flu vaccine if deemed appropriate

In addition, it is sometimes difficult to determine if a child is ill enough to stay home. I ask that you consult your healthcare provider and do not send your child to school if any of the following symptoms exist:

- Fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.7 degrees Celsius)
- Frequent sneezing or coughing
- Fatigue or lethargy
- Sore throat
- Greenish/yellowish discharge from nose or throat
- Vomiting/diarrhea

As always, I thank you for your support and cooperation as we begin the new school year and I look forward to working with you in maintaining a healthy and safe school environment. I also encourage you to contact me should questions or concerns arise.

Sincerely, Mrs. Joella Terranova, B.S.N., R.N., C.E.N. School Nurse

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