



October 9, 2020

Dear Families,

Well, here we go! Grades 2-5 come back to campus to join PK-1 on Monday! We're as ready as we can be and everyone here is excited to give it a go. What follows are a few of the things we'll all want to remember:

- **Grades 6-8 will remain online until the infection rates drop further.** Right now, we are targeting a return on November 2, but as we have all come to know, things change rapidly. We'll make sure you have a good week to plan ahead of any changes.
- As far as changes, **attendance back on campus for ANY grade is conditioned by local rates of infection.** If the rates continue to rise as they have these past two weeks and we find we are once again back above the high threshold, we may be looking at a return to remote instruction. Fingers crossed on that.
- As previously announced, we have instituted a [calendar change for all grades beginning October 16](#). That Friday was already scheduled for a staff retreat with no school and we'll be sticking to that plan. (The staff will be working offsite this day as the water will be shut off to our building for City work.) Each Friday following, through Friday, December 11, will be a day of NO CLASSES to allow for teacher planning and campus disinfecting. Friday, December 18 remains as a schedule Noon Dismissal to kick off the Christmas holidays. We're really hoping we can return to the normal five-day schedule come January.
- **Families returning to school this coming Monday may want to arrive early for a few days** to allow some extra time for check in. We'll begin admitting students into the building at 8:10am and I'm pretty sure it will take us all a few days to get the routine down. You'll REALLY want to have the [SYMPTOM RELEASE Form](#) signed and on file in the office to avoid needing to walk your child to the door each and every day.

A lot of **information about returning to school** has been sent out these past few weeks. You may want to review the [CARPOOL PATTERN, Q&A SHEETS and PAST FAMILY LETTERS](#). They are all on our website and can be found at the links above.

- Speaking of the **October 16 faculty retreat**, as part of our Catholic Identity ministerial responsibility, every staff member participates in regular spiritual retreats and formative instruction in the ways of handing on our faith. This ongoing coursework and discernment can often be a refreshing step back from the daily routine, but is also a required part of our continued employment in the archdiocese. The retreats are always scheduled in mid-October and February. The continuing education coursework is most often offered online throughout the year – a task Catholic educators accept on top of all the other additional professional development requirements for state certification.

The foundational retreat format rotates each year between the six Tasks of Catechesis outlined in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: *Knowledge of the Faith, Liturgical Education, Moral Formation, Learning to Pray, Education for Community Life, and Education for Mission.*

This year, the archdiocese has chosen our retreat topic to coincide with *Moral Formation* and we will be breaking open the timely United States Bishops' pastoral letter, [*Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*](#), their 2018 pastoral message against racism. The power of this document (and its accompanying study guide) is obviously extremely poignant at this time in our shared history.

On the 16th, we will have the time to reflect on the entirety of the letter but also dig into the accompanying class lessons developed for each grade, with an eye toward incorporating these into class time this coming Advent. We are looking forward to the opportunity and the challenge!

- With our lower and intermediate school students back on site, I'll be adjusting my **Monday Morning Video** to speak more directly to our older students still working remotely. I appreciate their patience these past few weeks as I've written those to speak more directly to our younger friends. You can find those past and future videos [HERE](#).
- Please **don't forget to return any of the borrowed chrome books**. Now that we are back, we'll really need them here for instruction.
- October brings with it the annual **Safe Environment lesson** for each grade. The second of the two lessons required by the Archdiocese is usually presented in April. More information about the lessons can be found [HERE](#). If you prefer your child DOES NOT attend that lesson, we MUST have a signed opt-out letter on file each time. That letter can be found [HERE](#). Your child's homeroom teacher will send home more information prior to the lesson being taught this month.
- The annual **Fulcrum Tuition Grant** window for 2021-22 is open. Our applications are accepted until December 18. If you have received one in the past, we require you to apply again for the coming year before we can begin processing any additional tuition reductions during re-registration. Manny Ovena will be in touch to make sure you have

begun the process online. If your financial situation had dramatically changed and you may now be eligible, we'll contact you as well. The online application can be found [HERE](#).

- REMEMBER - **No classes will be held for ANY GRADE on Friday, October 16** for a previously scheduled teacher retreat day.

Have a great weekend – and get those uniforms ready, Grades 2-5!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'D' followed by a smaller, cursive name.