

Holy Cross School

240 NORTH BISHOP AVENUE

SPRINGFIELD, PA 19064

610-626-1709

610-626-1859

Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

I am going to begin my letter with the Pope’s Prayer for an end to COVID-19. This virus has changed the way we do things, but we will survive this with God by our side.

Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our

hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful.

But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: “Do

not be afraid” (Mt 28:5). And we, together with Peter, “cast all our anxieties

onto you, for you care about us” (1 Pet 5:7).

-Pope Francis

Strong in the Face of Tribulation:

A Sure Support in Time of Trial

This year it is most important that we work together as a team. Please take your child(ren)’s temperatures in the morning. If there are any signs of COVID 19 such as fever, chills, shortness of breath, etc., please DO NOT send them to school. We are not taking temperatures as children enter the building. The teachers will be assessing children throughout the day to look for signs of sickness.

Please make sure they we have several working telephone numbers and that cell phone mailboxes are not full. This is **IMPERATIVE**, especially with COV-19, that we are able to reach a responsible party. Children can no longer stay at school for long periods of time if they are sick. You need to come and get them as soon as possible.

I know that news travels fast among parents. My goal is to keep you informed of any changes in our school, but sometimes, I have to wait until all of the information is correct. We have had several teachers resign this year due to personal issues. I have hired all of the new teachers we needed to complete our faculty. There will no longer be an Honors Math teacher. There are not enough students to warrant that position. We now have a resource teacher. She will be working with the advanced math students and she will work with students who may need help in particular area.

**FACULTY AND STAFF 2020-2021**

Pre-K 3 Miss Alexandra Leicht Aide Mrs. Sue Ottaviano

Pre-K 4 Miss Shannon Whalen Aide Miss Stephanie Fuller

Pre-K 4 Mrs. Deidre Hines Aide Mrs. Susan Reitano

K Mrs. Meghan Haney Aide & lunch Mrs. Diana Oropeza0

K Mrs. Daniele McGuigan Aide & lunch Miss Mary Kate Moeller

1 Miss Michelle Ronayne Aide Mrs. Sheila Moeller

1 Mrs. Stephanie Price

2 Miss Kelly Arnold

2 Miss Rebecca Woodland

3 Miss Morgan DiChiacchio

4 Mrs. Winnie Daciw

5 Mrs. Nicole McNichol

6 Mrs. Lori Williams

7 Mr. Mark Hager

8 Miss Alexis O’Toole

Technology Mrs. Stephanie Eisenman

Art Miss Sage Favuzzi

Music Mr. Evan Campbell

Gym Mr. Ciavarelli

Resource Teacher Miss Marlena Prisco

Administrative Assistant Mrs. Ellen Spurrier

Maintenance Mr. Ron Gardner

Cleaning Mr. Mike Thompson

**If you did not pick up your children’s books, etc. from the last school year, we have no choice but to toss them. School begins next week and we have to have the vestibule cleaned and sanitized.**

I am sending home a new tentative school calendar. I had to change some dates that were incorrect. The monthly calendar is also included. Info on COVID 19 from the nurse.

School will begin in person and virtual, on **Tuesday, September 1** for grades 1-8. There will be a noon dismissal. The same for **September 2 and 3rd**, with noon dismissal. The Pre-K, K will have a visitation day that week. You should have received a letter from the teacher giving you specific times. The entire school, in-person and virtual, will be return to school on **Tuesday, September 8, 2020**, full day.

A video will be coming home showing you how to log on for the virtual Google classroom, and how to get into Option C, etc. This should be going out on **Monday, August 31st.**

The new uniform list is on our website. This year is a transition year. If your children have the old uniform and it fits, they may wear it. Next year, all students must wear the new uniform. All uniforms are to be purchased at Flynn and O’Hara, including the gym uniform. I wanted to make it one stop shopping for you so you don’t have to go to too many stores.

If you are driving your children to school, please come in the last gate on the property closest to the houses on Bishop Avenue. It is the same gate as last year. Go straight and then make a left. Go to the middle doors where the children are dropped off. In the past, the teachers use to open the doors and help the Pre-K children exit the car. They cannot do that anymore. You will have to help your children out of the car if they cannot get out themselves. If they are having an issue, please pull up toward the main entrance of the school to get them out. After drop-off, please proceed to the exit. Be aware that the buses may be entering when you are leaving**. Please yield to the buses.** Bus children will be dropped off at the gym doors like last year.

For the afternoon pick-up, please line-up in the parking lot in the aisles marked with a cone. Since we will be calling each grade, we will have 2 lines for Pre-K, K, 2 lines for 1-4 and 2 lines for 5-8. Please park in the lines of your oldest child, since the students will be dismissed in grade order. Place your name placard in the window. **A video will be going out to show you the proper procedures for drop off and pick-up.**

Please have your children bring in water. The fountains are not allowed to be used. If your children attend CARES, please make sure they have a snack and a drink. Lunch can be purchased from McGillicuddy’s as we did last year. You go to the website, click on school lunches and proceed from there. The web address is https://jdmcgillicuddys.com/ It is all done online. Pretzels will be individually wrapped and will be sold in school. You will receive a form to pre-pay for the pretzels. We will order pretzels the first few weeks, then you will get the form to complete for the October order.

The children will need to wear a mask in school. Please make sure that their masks are appropriate for school. They will have mask breaks throughout the day. Please send in a brown bag for the students to keep their mask in when they have a break or are eating. They will eat lunch in their classrooms. Then they will go out for recess with their group. Teachers will be wearing a mask or a face shield. We are also getting large plexiglass shields for each classroom that will be on wheels, so the teachers can approach the children at their desks in a safe manor. Bathroom breaks will be scheduled to allow the proper number of students in the bathroom at the same time. All specials teachers will come to the classroom for instruction, except for gym. Gym will take place outside unless the weather is a problem, then it will be in the gym. Our gym is large enough to socially distance the children.

Any fundraising that the Home and School does will be done in a virtual way. We are trying to limit the number of people who come into the building. Any fundraiser that you can participate in is greatly appreciated.

Our New Parent Meeting, Back to School Night for all students except for Pre-K and K will be done virtually. Information will be coming home on that procedure.

I wanted to let you know that I was able through a grant, to purchase two sprayers and the spray to sanitize the desks after each school day. Each classroom will have a Purell hand sanitizer. The teachers will wipe down the desks, doorknobs and remotes during the day. The classrooms will be sprayed each night after the students leave. I have ordered the desk shields for each student. I was able to put them in a grant from the state, so there will be no charge to you.

The Delaware County Intermediate Unit will be coming into our building for Reading, Counseling, and Academic testing. They will wear a mask and social distance from the students. We are grateful that they are willing to come into school as we need their services.

I have just completed ordering the textbooks. If your child(ren) are virtual, I will let you know when the books arrive. Teachers will be assessing students in the beginning to see where they are academically. They will weave the new material in with any catch-up material that the students missed.

We were able to get our new network installed and our new PA system. We received funds from ERATE and this really helped us to put these two things in place. We could not have accomplished this without your support of our fundraisers and the work of the Home and School Association. They raised a significant amount of money to finance the PA system and the network in addition to ERATE. Each classroom has a telephone installed. This is a great security measure.

The bells and announcements will come through the phone.

If your child(ren) is/are going to be absent, please call 610-626-1709 and leave us a message. This is for the safety of your children. Especially in these days of COVID 19, we need to know if your child is sick. If you suspect COVID, you must notify us and we will contact the Chester County Health Department for further assistance.

Please remember to put your child(ren)’s names on coats, schoolbags, lunch bags, etc. No child(ren) will be allowed to share food or any school supplies. Please do not send in any snacks for birthdays this year. We will still celebrate, but with no food.

If you are going to use CARES, please complete the form at our website [www.hcscrusaders.com](http://www.hcscrusaders.com) and send it to school. We are asking that all parents complete a CARES application in the event that you are late picking up your child(ren) from school and they must be sent to CARES.

If you have an issue or concern, please contact the teacher first. He/She is the person who would know the answer to most of your inquiries. If you cannot resolve an issue with the teacher, then we will schedule a meeting with me and the teacher.

There are some dress code rules I want to reinforce:

* No students are allowed to have dyed hair. Girls or boys.
* No nail polish or fake nails are permitted.
* No hoop earring. A small set of studs are permitted. Only 1 pair is allowed.
* No fad haircuts for girls or boys.

Thank you for your cooperation with these rules.

This year, we did not ask for wipes or paper. If you wish to donate any of these items, you may drop them off in the vestibule or at Mrs. Spurrier’s window. Any help will be appreciated.

The student handbook has been updated and contains the safety plan. Please sign the form that you read the handbook with your child(ren). You also need to sign the Technology user agreement, as well as your child(ren). I am attaching the handbook/safety plan to this email.

The most important thing I can ask you is that you log in and read Option C for any communications. Each month, a monthly calendar will be posted on Option C. When Option C is open for you to see the grades, it is essential that you review them. This keep you aware of your child(ren)’s progress. I will also send a text to let you know there is an email.

I want to stress that there may be kinks that we will work out the first week or so of school. I ask for your patience and understanding in this situation. We must navigate the unchartered waters together. We will get through this. Our Pastor, Principal and Teachers are very committed to making this year a success for all of our students and with your help, we will accomplish this mission.

We will see the children in grades 1-8 on **Tuesday, September 1.** God bless you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Worrilow