

August 23, 2020

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; 1st Day of Classes Monday, August 24; Carpool; Classroom and Landscaping Renovations; MAP Testing; Never Pick Up List; and Health and Safety of Our Community.

Thoughts for the week: A prayer for the first day or last day and any day in between. *“Dear Lord, as my children leave for school, I pray that you will keep them in your care. Send your Spirit to open their minds to all that is true and beautiful and good. Help them to see the gifts and talents you have given them and to use them well. Help them to grow in knowledge and wisdom. Help them to be kind to others and lead others to be kind to them. Give their teachers patience and understanding and help them teach what is just and true. Send your angels to guide and guard my children and to keep them from all harm. Open their young hearts to your presence and enfold them in your peace and protection. Hold them in the palm of your hand and bring them home safely at day's end. Amen.”* ~ On behalf of the faculty and staff, we would like to thank you for choosing Saint Joseph Catholic School to educate your child(ren). With your continued support and prayers, we will have a successful year. We look forward to meeting each and every one of you and developing a wonderful partnership that will continue to make Saint Joseph Catholic School a great place to learn, worship and grow.

1st Day of Classes Monday, August 24: First day of school for students. Faculty is on duty at 7:30 a.m. School hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Students must be in their classrooms when the 8:00 a.m. bell rings. Please respect our school hours and have your child to school on time and refrain from picking your child up early whenever possible.

Carpool: Arrive and depart via carpool.

- Carpooling with other families is discouraged but not prohibited.
- All families should utilize the car line.
- SJCS will operate two (2) car lines in the morning and afternoon. Grades 2-6 will be dropped off and picked up on the blacktop loop off Blossom Street. Grades 4K-1 will be dropped off and picked up in the front loop off Devine Street. If you have multiple children in your car, go to the drop off spot for the YOUNGEST child.
- Upon arrival (7:30-8:00 a.m.), please pull to the front of the line. Roll down your window. A school employee will take each student's temperature before they may exit the car. Any child with a temperature of 100.4 or greater is not allowed to attend school. Students will wear a mask while traveling to their classrooms.
- You should allow extra time for these procedures.
- Parents are not permitted in the building or classrooms.
- In the afternoon (3:00 p.m.), proceed to your car line (4K-1 students in front, 2-6 students in back, use the location for the youngest child in your car). A school employee will walk your student(s) to the car. Students will wear a mask during carpool. The walkup gate on Blossom Street is also a pickup option. If you are using the walkup gate, parents and students must maintain proper distancing and wear a mask as they approach the school.

- Students who ride daycare buses will meet outside the main office. A school employee will walk students to the church loop.
- If your student is late to school (excused or unexcused), please pull up in the front car loop, remain in your car, and call the front office. Roll down your window. A school employee will meet you at your car, take your student's temperature, and walk your student into the building. Students may not exit the vehicle until their temperature is taken.
- If it is necessary to sign your student out early please pull up in the front car loop, remain in your car, and call the front office. A school employee will sign your student out and walk him/her to your car.
- You should allow extra time for these procedures.
- All excused and unexcused tardies will be recorded as such.

Classroom and Landscaping Renovations: The classroom renovations are 99% complete and look fantastic! Landscaping is 80% complete and will be finished by Monday. The final stage of the renovation project will be finished in mid-October when our new monument sign is installed on Devine St. The parish and school are committed to providing new classrooms, but this project requires the support of our school families. We, as parents, need to support this project with our pledges. Pledges are not due immediately; you may spread your contributions over five years. We ask that you prayerfully consider supporting this important project for our school. Follow the link to donate or a pledge to the Bicentennial campaign <https://www.stjosephcolumbia.org/bicentennial-campaign>.

MAP Testing: Grades 4, 5 and 6 will test this week. Please see the full schedule attached to this email. Here are a few things students and parents can do to prepare for MAP testing:

Please refrain from scheduling any appointments for students during testing. Students who are late will not be able to take the test with their class and will need to make up the test on Friday.

Make sure your students ***get plenty of sleep***. Going to bed a little earlier can help ensure a good night's sleep. Being well rested will give your children an extra boost of energy for test day.

Provide a nutritious breakfast. Eating protein (eggs, meat, cheese, etc.), rather than a sugary donut, will help students perform better. (Too much food can make them feel sleepy, so do not overdo it!)

Be sure your child gets some ***exercise after school*** to keep their energy up.

Remind children to ***double-check their work on the test***. They can catch mistakes if they take time to proofread answers carefully.

Encourage your children to do their very best, but do not place too much emphasis on the test.

Please contact the school if you have questions about MAP testing.

Never Pick Up List: If there is someone who may NEVER pick up your child(ren), please email Mrs. Seezen with that information. Rseezen@stjosdevine.com

Health and Safety of Our Community: The teachers, administration and taskforce committee have put a lot of time and effort into our reopening plan and feel strongly that we have thorough procedures that will mitigate risk for our students and our faculty. However, we do ask that our families also engage in best practices at home for the health of the whole school. Thank you for your support of Saint Joseph Catholic School.

It is the little things we do that show how God is in us, with us, and working through us - “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves”~ Philippians 2:3. Have a blessed week!

Sincerely,

Donavan F. Yarnall, Ed. S
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