

September 12, 2021

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; Student Council Officers; Early Dismissal; MAP Testing; Homebound Services; Charleston Wrap Fundraiser; and PTO Updates.

Thoughts for the week: 9/11 Prayer of Remembrance and Hope:

Dear God, we remember before you today those whose lives were lost in the catastrophic events of September 11, 2001, and for all those whom we love but no longer see. We give thanks to you for the selfless courage of those brave souls who ran into burning buildings and who labored in the rubble; may their courage be to us a witness of what is possible when we are guided by love and dedication to our fellow human beings.

We pray today for the continued healing of all those suffering emotional and physical scars. May your spirit breathe new breath into clouded lungs, new life into troubled minds, and new warmth into broken hearts, so that all may feel wrapped in your loving embrace. May we move from suffering to hope, from brokenness to wholeness, from anxiety to courage, from death to life, from fear to love, and from despair to hope.

Guide our feet into the way of peace. Inspire us with hope. May we receive this gift, so that we might become instruments of your peace in this world, knowing all people as equally loved, lovingly created, children of God. Amen.

Early Dismissal: We will have a 2:00 dismissal Monday, September 13th. Extended Care will be open until 6:00 pm.

Student Council Officers: Congratulations to our newly elected Student Council Officers: President, Will Sexton; Vice President, Alexander Yarnall; Secretary, Watson Dupree; Treasurer, Dylan Williams; and Service Chair, Eliza Davis.

MAP Testing: 4th, 3rd and 2nd grades will test this week. 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 the 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.

Homebound services: Here is some information that will help you determine if your student(s) will receive homebound services in the event they are required to quarantine due to exposure:

Students who elect to take the shortened quarantine will not have homebound services – we will provide them work at home as if they were sick. Only students on 10+ day quarantines will get homebound services. The student's 1st day in the homebound protocol will be the day the school receives official word of the positive test or quarantine. We will use noon as our cut-off time. Any reports of a positive test made after 12N will be considered for the next day. The days the student is out waiting for test results are days that the classroom teacher will send homework – the same procedure we follow if a student is home sick (non-Covid). The school nurse/principal will notify the classroom teacher(s) and the homebound teacher once a student enters the COVID protocol.

The 1st day the school gets official notice of a positive test: The school Nurse/Principal will notify the classroom teacher and homebound teacher of a student entering the protocol. The classroom teacher will send an email to the family and provide activities to be completed for the next two days in all relevant subjects.

The 2nd day after the positive test: The classroom teacher will begin organizing all relevant subjects for the extended absence. These assignments may be sent day-by-day or for several days at a time over the course of the absence. The homebound and classroom teachers will communicate by phone and/or email about the background and key skills that must be included.

The 3rd day after the positive test: The homebound teacher will contact the family and lay out the schedule and learning plan. The classroom teacher will send all subject work directly to the student/parent and copy the homebound teacher on the email by the end of the school day. This email should include any links or resources that will be needed. If applicable, the classroom teacher may need to leave work, books, etc. in the foyer by the front doors for the parent to pick up while the student is out.

The 4th day after the positive test until the student's return: Homebound teacher will start to have a daily 30-minute touchpoint with each student. The homebound teacher will serve as a tutor for the student and a liaison between parent and classroom teacher when necessary. The homebound teacher will reteach or assist the student with specific content. A 2nd session may be scheduled in the afternoon for refinement as determined by the homebound teacher and classroom teacher.

Charleston Wrap: Our Charleston Wraps fundraiser is in full swing! Thank you to all that have already registered their child and shopped! We encourage you to spread the word and invite family and friends to shop online with your student's participant code. Please register your student at www.charlestonwrapstore.com. Our organization ID is 15787. We want this fundraiser to be a HUGE success!

Everyone LOVES a dress down day so **we have decided to award the class with the highest participation a dress down day!** Thank you again for your support! Happy Selling!

PTO Update: The school Auction has been moved to February 4th – please mark your calendars to join this great event. Look for information in the coming weeks on this event.

It is the little things we do that show how God is in us, with us, and working through us - "Blessed are we". Have a great week!

Sincerely,

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