



Dear Parents,

As you know we are preparing for the reopening of school in September. A Committee of teacher and I are working on the documents the Archdiocese of Philadelphia sent to us with guidelines for reopening. These guidelines were sent to you on July 1st. They are also available on the Archdiocesan website.

These guidelines will be sent to you again with the specifics for GSC. We are planning to be here 5 days a week for in person instruction; we are also planning for remote learning and hybrid learning if needed. We all know things can change in a flash, so please remember that many things can change, even once we open. Thank you for your continued patience.

This coming year will certainly offer many opportunities to strengthen our partnership in providing a safe environment for our students and staff. We will be asking parents to complete a little check list including taking your child's temperature each day. If your child has a temperature or is not feeling well, please keep them at home. Please report your child's absence to school as usual.

Our arrival will be almost the same as last year. Children coming by car may be dropped off in the Church parking lot. The Crossing Guard will be there to direct the children crossing North Hills Avenue. We will not be lining up in the schoolyard. Students will come into school. If they are having breakfast they will go to the cafeteria. (Social Distancing will be enforced.) Students not having breakfast will go to the classroom.

I would like to share a few items with you now so you can also prepare for September. You may want to purchase some of these items now. In addition to the regular school supplies the children will need:

- Hand sanitizer and wipes for their personal use.
- Bottled water (water fountains will not be used)
- Plastic bags (sandwich size or quart size)
- Mask- will be worn into school. Each child will need to have a plastic bag with an extra mask in case they need to change the one they wore to school. They will also need a bag with tissues, if needed and a plastic bag for disposing of tissues and wipes, etc.
- A kitchen towel or a cloth napkin to cover their desk at lunchtime. Children will eat in the classroom.
- Personal school supplies - Materials may not be shared with others

NDS will continue to provide Breakfast and Lunch for our children. The menu items will be different since everything must be individually wrapped. If you are packing a lunch, please make sure your child can open the packaging.

I have applied for a \$10,000 grant from the state. Please pray we receive this grant. It would ease the financial burden of purchasing some of the big items we will need for keeping everything sanitized and safe for everyone.

I want to thank our Home and School Association for their financial support. They are purchasing some of the things we will need for September: no touch hand sanitizing machines for hallways and bathrooms, plastic containers for students book, etc.

At this time our opening schedule is:

- Wednesday, September 9 Grades 1 – 8 Dismissal at noon
- Thursday, September 10 Grades 1 – 8 Full Day
- Thursday, September 10 Kindergarten orientation
- Friday, September 11 Kindergarten – 8 Full Day
- Monday, September 14 PreK – 8 Breakfast and Lunch Program begins

I will continue to be in contact with you throughout the summer months. Our School Committee will continue to meet and I continue to attend the Principals weekly meetings with the Office of Catholic Education. Know that everyone is working to provide a safe environment for all. The Archdiocese continues to give guidance in accordance with the guidelines from the CDC and the state of Pennsylvania.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer!

God Bless and protect us!

Sister Helen