



311 Flower City Park  
Rochester, NY 14615  
P: 585.458.3786  
F: 585.647.8717  
info@nazarethschools.org  
www.nazarethschools.org

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January 6, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year!

As we come together again after the holidays, we are quickly reminded that this is a school year unlike any other. We remain in the midst of a pandemic and the Monroe County area continues to have an extremely high rate of positive COVID cases.

Because of this, it is more important than ever that you inform the school and preferably the school nurse of the reason for any absence. It may be that the child simply overslept or needed a day for an appointment. However, it might also be that the child is ill. Without hearing from you, we cannot know one way or the other.

We are asking all parents and guardians to remain vigilant in reporting any illness, symptoms, or positive COVID-19 test result to our nurse's office. In short, it is important that we know whether the student was absent because of illness. This will allow us to make certain that the necessary assessment and documentation is done to allow a safe return to school and to do all we can to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at Nazareth Elementary and in the larger community.

When we don't hear from you, one of the nurses is required to contact you by phone or email to determine the cause of the absence. These contacts are not intended to be intrusive, but are needed to determine the information we need to help maintain the health of our student body. We ask that if you receive a call or email, you respond in a timely fashion in order to help us take any necessary steps to decrease the spread of illness.

Again, we thank you for all that you have done this year to make this school year safe and life giving for our students. And we look forward to 2021 as a year of positive growth and health for all of us.

Sincerely,

Sister Marlene Pape, SSJ  
School Nurse

Sister Margaret Mancuso, SSJ  
Principal