

Memo to: Parents and Guardians
Memo from: Sr. Margaret Mancuso
May 3, 2020



Peace Be with You!

We have the May Newsletter going out this week, but I wanted to share a few things here as well. For the newsletter, we could not report on events going on in school, so we decided to focus on the good news of the classrooms. You will enjoy reading some of the many things teachers have been doing through their Google Classrooms since mid- March. We hope that will give you peace of mind. Your children are still very much being taught, and they are growing in so many new and wonderful ways.

Checking In – Are you and your children doing ok? As the reality sets in regarding the closure of schools for the rest of the year, I know anxieties and tensions can increase. Please check out Mrs. Conrow’s Google Classroom for resources that might be helpful. Also, see the front page of our website. Please know that we are here to offer educational, emotional, and spiritual support. Don’t hesitate to tell us what we can do to help you through this time.

Teaching and Learning – Students and teachers are continuing to shine! I remain in awe of the creative lessons of teachers and the wonderful work of the students. We cannot thank you enough for your support at home! We fully recognize this is a difficult balancing act! Every person everywhere is feeling the stresses and tensions of this new way of learning and new way of living.

I hope you are finding ways to relieve stress that are best for you. Prayer and exercise can help. If your family can get out and walk together, great! That walk can count toward PE exercise, too! Just have your child report it to Mrs. Andolina. Take a look at nature sprouting and blossoming as you walk. That ties in with Religion and Science!

Teacher Appreciation Week and National School Nurse Day – Many parents have told me they have an even greater appreciation for teachers now! Please say a prayer of gratitude this week for our teachers and nurses who so lovingly care for your children. That would mean a lot to them. The teachers are working longer and harder now than ever. They have gone above and beyond for the good of your children and will continue to do so through June. ***This week we celebrate them!***

School Closure – While the decision by Gov. Cuomo to close schools through the rest of this year was not a surprise, it was still tough to hear. I can imagine the sadness in your homes for I know how we as a staff feel. However, we believe that this is the best decision for the safety and well-being of every student, staff member, and family. We would not want to return too soon and have anyone become ill. Let us walk together these next eight weeks offering support, encouragement, and prayers. We can do it together!



What does this decision mean for Nazareth?

- Teachers will continue to teach through distance learning until the end of June as on our yearly calendar.
- Children are still required to check in with their homeroom teachers for daily attendance. This is a critical piece of accountability and legal reporting. It does not matter what time of day they check in for we know some cannot until evening.
- We as a faculty understand that every home situation is different and not all students will be able to complete every assignment. However, teachers do need to see *effort* on a *regular basis* and assigned work submitted. The entire fourth quarter is virtual. No child can afford to miss a quarter of the school year, so hang in there.
- If someone needs more tech support, please let the homeroom teacher know. We will see what we can do to help.
- The teachers and I have faculty meetings on a weekly basis and we connect individually all the time. This will continue. I encourage you to keep the lines of communication open with the teachers. Email, DoJo, do what works best for you. They are here to help you and your child. I am here as well.

Planning ahead:

- We have already been brainstorming ways to celebrate our **Sixth Graders** in June, so do not worry. We will not be able to have the formal ceremony, but we have some ideas in mind to make their ending special. We are so sad to miss their final months in school for they are an exceptional class. We love each one of them!
- We will be thinking of other end-of-year possibilities, too.
- I will be putting together a core committee of staff to start planning before the end of this year what Nazareth will safely look like when we reopen. There are no manuals from the past to guide us, so we will be looking to the NYS nonpublic school association for guidance as we also closely follow directives and guidelines of state/local officials.

Planning for 2020-2021 – We can only plan if we know what our student population will be. **If you have not sent in your registration papers yet, please do so as soon as possible.** We are working on the budget this week and cannot project accurately without knowing enrollment. If the registration fee is holding you back, do not hesitate to contact Cathy Cerame. ccerame@nazarethschools.org Thank you to all who have been working with Cathy on tuition payments for the rest of this year. Email her if you need to make payment adjustments. She will work with you.

GREAT NEWS! - Bentley Vega, our kindergartner, is now in remission after eight long months of aggressive treatments and hospitalizations! Thank you, everyone, for your prayers, donations, and good wishes for Bentley and his family. This is truly a bright light and miracle in the midst of these difficult times. We pray for continued health for Bentley.

**The beauty of spring reveals God's faithfulness in making all things new.
Keep the faith. Keep hope alive! Be at peace!**

