

August 14, 2020



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Summer days are quickly passing and before we know it, school will be starting again! I hope that you and your family are experiencing healthy and refreshing days.

Due to COVID-19, this back-to-school letter will be different in most aspects from ones you have received other years. My welcome, however, comes with the same warmth. Whether you and your children are returning, or are new to Nazareth, we are so happy you will be with us! Thank you for entrusting your children to our care, even in these unprecedented times in education and in life. Every family is a vital part of our school community and helps create a beautiful tapestry.

Our theme from the Scripture passage in Micah remains our overall guide. These simple, yet challenging, words mean even more during these troubling times.

*“This is what God asks of you:
To act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God.”*

Each one of us is called to live out these inspiring words in our everyday lives.

Important Information for the Opening of School:

- **Tour** - Unfortunately, we cannot hold a Preschool/Kindergarten Orientation or “Meet the Teacher” day this year. However, we are planning a **Video Tour** of the school once classrooms are set up at the end of this month so your children can see their rooms before we open. Our hope is that this video will ease some of the anxiety if everyone sees the school ahead of opening day. We also hope it will create excitement in the children.
- **Faculty/Staff Meetings** - I will be meeting with the faculty and staff several times over the next few weeks in preparation for the reopening of school. Throughout the summer, I have been meeting with individuals and small groups of teachers and staff as well. We are anticipating, discussing, and planning every phase of reopening possible.
- **First Day of School – Wednesday, September 9, 2020.** More details to come.
- **Enrollment:** Our class sizes have to be smaller due to social distancing requirements. There will be waiting lists when classes reach capacity. A few of the classes are already full. *If you have not sent in your registration papers yet, your child may not have a spot in September.* Please let us hear from you.



Staff Changes – It is always with mixed emotions that we say good-bye to staff members for they are a part of our school family. We will truly miss Mrs. Strowe, Sr. Melissa, Mr. Hinds, Sr. Mary Jo, and Miss Brown. We are so grateful for their presence among us, their years of service

and dedication, and for the gifts they shared with everyone at Nazareth. May many blessings be theirs in the years ahead.

Welcome

We are very happy to welcome back **Sr. Marlene Pape**. She will be our lead nurse and with us full days Wednesday through Friday. Mrs. Kathy Knope will continue with us on Mondays and Tuesdays, and we are so happy she is returning for another year.

We welcome Mrs. Kaitlyn Sadwick as one of our new second grade teachers! I still need to hire one more 2nd grade teacher. Mrs. Sadwick is very enthusiastic about teaching and delighted to be joining the Nazareth community. She is a 2013 graduate of Aquinas, received her BS from SUNY Brockport and her MS in Education from Nazareth College. Her graduate fieldwork provided her with a variety of K-2 teaching experiences in rural, city, and suburban settings. We wish her much joy at Nazareth!

To Come:

- **Q&A** in response to all of your good questions.
- **Zoom Invites** – I will hold several parent zoom meetings next week after you have had time to review the Q & A. Watch for the invite.
- **Information on Arrival and Dismissal Procedures**
- **September Breakfast and Lunch Menu**
- **ECP Update and Registration**

Uniforms (Kdg-6) - Nazareth has a clear uniform dress code. A uniform gives a child a sense of belonging and pride in their school. It also lessens any competition with peers regarding dress.

Please make sure your child is in the proper uniform when leaving for school each day. This includes shoes and uniform color socks. Only the Nazareth Elementary logo is to be on uniforms – vests, sweaters, PE clothes. Check our website if you have misplaced the uniform dress code policy, or you are unsure where uniforms can be purchased.

We do have a uniform exchange program at Nazareth. If you would like to check our inventory before purchasing new uniforms, please give our main office a call. One of our office staff will direct you to the uniform room. Masks must be worn and hand sanitizer used when you enter the building. There are jumpers, blouses, shirts, pants, and walking shorts, especially for the younger students.



We know God will continue to guide us and bless our school. We have been receiving some unexpected donations from friends of Nazareth who already gave earlier this year, but know this

is a hard time for the school and for families. These donors help to make a Nazareth education possible for all who seek it.

We are confident that God is walking with us on this journey. A wonderful year awaits all of us and blessings will come from these challenging times. The face of education is definitely changing, but it is exciting that we can all help shape the future!

May August bring you and your family graces and blessings. Together, we will help each child grow in faith, wisdom, and love!

Peace,

Sr. Margaret Mancuso, SSJ
Sister Margaret Mancuso, SSJ
Principal

Nazareth Elementary – Where Faith, Love and Learning Thrive!