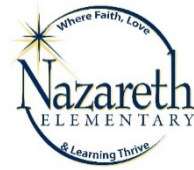


Memo to: Parents and Guardians
Memo from: Sr. Margaret Mancuso
August 5, 2020
Re: School Planning for September



Updates

➤ Reopening Plans:

We did it! We submitted our School Reopening Plan on Friday to the NYSED and the NYSDOH. We do feel confident that we can safely reopen in September. Now we wait for approval and Gov. Cuomo's decision this week for all schools.

You will find the Plan on our Nazareth website. It will take several reads to comprehend the changes, so do not panic. Please know that we still have several details to work out. *This Plan is a living, fluid document that will change as we work on those details and as we receive further information from NYS and Monroe County authorities.*

There will be many questions, but be assured that every decision made will have the health and safety of our students, staff, and families as the top priority. With faith and trust, we will continue to work together to ensure a safe, happy, and quality academic experience during the '20-'21 school year for our children.

Our Core Committee will continue to meet and work on various aspects of the plan. I am extremely grateful for their time commitment and hard work since May. Some of the faculty have continued to help on subcommittees as needed. There is still much work to do if we are able to open. We will need assistance and expertise as we move through August.

Next Steps:

- ✓ *Send in your questions about reopening* this week to Laurie Plyem, or next week to Melissa Kunz, in our Main Office. We will put together a Q & A for you that we will update as additional questions come in.
- ✓ I would like to arrange a *Zoom meeting* with parents of each class later next week or the week of August 17. This would certainly be optional, but it would give those of you who still have questions the opportunity to ask those questions, hear the reasoning behind decisions, and get greater clarification as needed.





➤ **Cleaning and Preparing the School:**

Vinko and Michel have been cleaning rooms, making repairs, and moving furniture these past several weeks. They have remained on top of disinfecting to keep it safe for some of us working in the building every day.

We are moving several rooms to meet the safety requirements for social distancing: the nurse's office, bigger kids' ECP room, music room, instrumental room, PK3, and Kindergarten. We are also planning extra space for staff lunchrooms and moving the PR office.

We have ordered PPE, cleaning and disinfecting supplies. Decals for the hall floors and signs for the stairs and bathrooms are ordered. We are in the process of getting table dividers and shields. We still need to order a few more items, such as hand-sanitizing stations for the halls. We will have cute bathroom passes for every child, designed by our Art teacher, Mrs. Killackey-Jones.

➤ **Enrollment:**

We have a small number of '19-'20 families who still need to indicate their plans for the fall. There is a good chance some may lose a spot for their child if they wait any longer to send in registration papers. We have been getting calls from parents wanting to transfer to Nazareth. We have two grades that have already reached capacity, and one more is very close. With the six-foot social distancing requirement, we will not be able to go over capacity. Children, current or new, will be placed on waiting lists as classes reach allowed capacity.



➤ **Grade and Staff Changes:**

Grade 2 – At this time, we are splitting Grade 2 into two classes since the enrollment number is over capacity with the new requirements. It was a large class last year, and we are thrilled that so many chose to stay with us. These two smaller classes will also allow us to take in new students who want to attend Nazareth.

Preschool – The number for PK3 is small and the number of children enrolled for PK4 does not fill a class, so we are going to have a combined PK3 and PK4 early childhood room. The teacher will be Mrs. Hierlwimmer who has taught this combination in the past. Instead of one aide, there will be two assisting her. We have moved the Kindergarten room and opened up the sliding wall between the current Kindergarten and PK4 room to make one very large room that will house the preschoolers. With three adults, this will be very manageable and ensure that each age group will learn at its own developmental level.



➤ Staffing:

- **Grade 2** – As we communicated in June, Sr. Melissa Gernon has moved on to full-time study in art therapy at Nazareth College. I offered the position to one teacher and am in the process of hiring the other Second Grade teacher.
- **AIS** – Mrs. Strowe retired in June. Mrs. Switalski, formerly First Grade teacher, will take over the AIS teacher position for Grades K-2. **Grade 1** – Mrs. Adkins, who taught PK3, will move to the First Grade.
- **Nurses** – Sr. Mary Jo Flynn has moved on to a new ministry. We are delighted that Sr. Marlene Pape will return for three days per week. Ms. Knope will continue for two days with us. Both of these nurses will be full days.
- **Instrumental Program** – Ms. Brown received a fellowship with the Memphis Tennessee Symphony Orchestra that she could not pass up. We will be seeking a new PT instrumental teacher.
- **Extended Care** – Mr. Hinds resigned his position at Nazareth to take advantage of an opportunity at Wegmans. I will be looking for a new coordinator of the afterschool ECP program and a supervisor for the cafeteria.

We express deep gratitude to these five wonderful staff members who have given a total of almost 50 years of service to Nazareth's children and families! All of us will greatly miss their presence among us. We feel so blessed that their lives have touched ours. We wish them much happiness and good health in the next chapter of their lives.

Uniforms

Nazareth has a clear uniform dress code for K-6. 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 for the uniform dress code policy.

Passantino's, a local uniform store that was been around a long time, closed abruptly during this past year. We do still have **Stitchworks** locally. Laurie Plyem did some research online with **French Toast** that still carries our uniform. She also added Nazareth to the **Land's End** website. We wanted to give parents more options.

We will still have the uniform exchange room, but with stricter regulations. If you want to come in to look for uniforms for your children, please call the office ahead and set a time. We can't have two families looking at the same time. We will ask that every uniform coming in be washed and bagged, and if you take any home, you wash the clothes as a double precaution.

On Lands' End site, Laurie added:

- Plaid pleated and A-line skirts
- Navy pleated and A-line skirts
- Navy stretch skirt
- White knee socks
- Microfiber tights
- New style girls jumper
- Plaid necktie

French Toast has added two plaid skirts and two navy skirts to their options as well. Instructions for online ordering from French Toast and Land's End can be found on our website.

Preparing for School

Schedules - We will not be able to hold the PK/K orientation this year or Meet the Teacher Day because of the Coronavirus. More details to come later on opening day schedules.

Masks – As August moves along, we suggest that children practice wearing their masks for brief periods at home to get more used to wearing them. There will be mask breaks during the day, but they will be wearing masks more in school than they are used to doing at home right now.

As August gets closer to September, it would be helpful to adjust bedtime, too. Children have been used to staying up later since March, so getting into the school routine of bedtime and wake-up time will be an adjustment.



*May August bring you and your family many blessings.
We look forward to working with you, the primary educators of your children,
so that together we will help each child grow in faith, wisdom, and love!*

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