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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Although I do not have any answers yet, I wanted to address the update yesterday from Gov. Cuomo for areas of NYS in the yellow zones. Most of Monroe County is in the yellow zone. The newest expectations for COVID safety have raised questions in everyone's minds. County Executive Adam Bello and Dr. Michael Mendoza held a brief press conference yesterday to speak about the Governor's requirements that included schools. At this time, I know little more than you do other than to say the testing will be simple and rapid. We will be working with BOCES and the Monroe County Department of Health (MCDOH).

The MCDOH met yesterday with the public school superintendents. The non-public/private schools operate differently and independently, and so it is important that we have information directly from the DOH as well. At this time, we are awaiting word for a meeting between the MCDOH administration and the administrators of the non-public/private schools. We want to plan responsibly in light of the new requirements. I will keep you updated as I receive more information.

One comforting piece: Dr. Mendoza said publicly that the schools are the safest places to be right now. The community-at-large needs to take greater responsibility in following the COVID mandates so the schools can remain safe. Please keep this in your prayers. If everyone in Monroe County is vigilant about masks and social distancing, we will see the number of cases decrease quickly. I thank you for your great efforts at home for they have definitely kept us safe at school, and I promise you that we will remain very careful at school so you and your families are safe at home.

Peace to all,

*Sr. Margaret Marocco, S.S.J.*

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