



**Memo To:** Parents and Guardians  
**From:** Sr. Margaret Mancuso, Principal  
**Date:** September 14, 2020



### An Awesome Beginning!

Reopening finally happened! We have waited a long time to be together again, so were thrilled to welcome our students back on September 9 and 10! The faculty, staff, and I could not have been more excited, perhaps even more so than the students! How great it was to see the students walk into school! What struck me immediately was how much the children have grown in six months!

Behind the cute, creative masks, we could see smiling eyes looking about as students checked out the school they had not seen since March 13. For those attending Nazareth for the first time, everything was new and fresh to them! By the end of their first days, as I asked some heading out at dismissal how their day went, I heard words such as grand, super, great, awesome, fun! Some of those who phased in Wednesday were upset they could not return on Thursday. I knew we were off to a wonderful start!

I thank all of you for helping to make the transition back to school such a smooth one. By Friday, the children had settled in nicely, were adjusting to the new procedures and protocols, and even reminding each other to keep the distance on the paw prints in the halls. It felt like there had never been a six-month lapse in time. Everyone was genuinely happy to be back with friends, and the new children were already building relationships with classmates.

As I visited classrooms, it warmed my heart to see the children so engaged in class activities. Their eyes twinkled with delight. The desks being six feet apart did not seem to bother them at all. It was as if each had his/her own personal office space! I am so grateful to the teachers for making their classrooms so welcoming and to the entire staff for their assistance with arrivals, dismissals, transition times, and meals. Our office staff kept everything flowing, and we all knew by the end of Friday that all of our hard work had been so worth it!

For those who are remaining at home for remote learning this quarter, teachers will be connecting via Zoom and Google Classroom. We are with you in spirit and hold you in our hearts.

## Some Important Information and Reminders

- **Important Forms** – Have you turned in an ECP form if you are using Extended Care and HIPPA and Health Examination forms, if required? **NOTE:** All children must have up-to-date vaccinations in order to be in school. Call our school nurse if you have questions.
- **Student Emergency Forms** – We will be sending home Student Emergency Forms for you to verify within the next few days. Please check them over carefully and return the signed copy as soon as possible.
- **Uniforms** – All students K-6 are to wear the proper school uniform each day. This includes ties and acceptable shoes and socks as indicated on the **uniform policy**. Teachers will let you know what days the students should wear the PE uniform. Please check our website for the uniform code.

## Coming and Going



### ➤ Arrival:

The arrival of students by buses and cars went very well the first week. We thank you for your patience, especially with the car line as students had their temperatures taken once inside the school and you waited for a thumbs up confirmation that all was fine before leaving. This will be the daily procedure.

Those arriving by car came in Door 2. Those coming by bus came in the front door, checked in, and had temperatures taken in the front foyer. The children did a good job of remaining spaced out as they checked in and then headed to classrooms and breakfast.

### ➤ Dismissal:

We appreciate your help and support at dismissal time, too, and again we thank you for your patience in the car line. If you are driving your child home, for the safety of all, please *stay in your car* and pull up as directed by the teachers in charge. Only when it is time for a teacher to bring your child to your car, can you get out to help your child into a car seat. We want everyone to be safe.

### ➤ Important Car Procedures:

- **All parents picking up their children should come into the parking lot.** *Do not come into school early or come along the walk on the side of the building for your child.* Teachers need to check off each child as he/she leaves.
- Enter the driveway farthest from the school and exit by the driveway closest to school.
- Stay in your cars and pull up as directed by our staff. We will bring your child/ren to you when you stop near the center area where the children are waiting with teachers.

- *Please be patient.* If your child is already in your car, but the car ahead is still settling children into seats, **stay in line. NEVER PASS** a car in the line. An extra minute of patience could save lives. Proceed out of the parking lot when the car/s ahead pull out.
- If you are walking your child home, please go to the center of the waiting area where the lead teachers are putting children in cars. Wait for one of them to call for your child. *Do not ask your child to come to you.* We need to know when a child is leaving and with whom.
- **The street in front of school on Flower City Park is for buses only.**
- *If you do not want to wait too long in line, come about 2:50 p.m. or 2:55 p.m. Dismissal is 2:45-3 p.m.*

*The safety of all is of utmost importance and our first priority.  
Thank you for your cooperation!*

### Prayers Requested

As we deal with these unsettling and troubling times in our city, country, and world, one of our school families is having its own very serious struggle. Bentley Vega, one of our First Graders, is in Golisano Children’s Hospital. For those of you who are new to Nazareth, Bentley spent eight months of his Kindergarten year in and out of the hospital receiving aggressive treatments for leukemia. He was in our preschool for two years before that, so Nazareth is home to him. His parents learned in the spring that he was in remission and we all rejoiced with them.

Now, however, things have changed. We learned a little over a week ago that Bentley has had a relapse. He began treatments at Strong so could not start school last week as he had hoped. Let us once again join in prayer and send positive thoughts to Bentley and his parents. We know prayer can work miracles.

### Latest Staff Additions

We welcome the following as the newest members of our Nazareth staff:

- ☺ *Ms. Jenna Ehmann* – ECP Coordinator and supervisor of the cafeteria during the four lunch shifts
- ☺ *Mrs. Linda Kosko* – assistant to Ms. Ehmann in the cafeteria each day
- ☺ *Mr. Paul Gotham* – part-time maintenance staff to disinfect the building after school each day with the electrostatic spray
- ☺ *Mrs. Catherine Accordo* – Special Ed Teacher from RCSD to service our children who have IEPs

☺ *Ms. Holly Place* – Speech/Language Therapist from RCSD to service those who have that therapy required on their IEPs

*We wish all of these newest members of our school community much happiness at Nazareth!*

### Many Thanks

We are grateful to the following for their donations of PPE supplies. We have purchased many of the needed supplies ourselves, but these donations will help us greatly as the year progresses.

- Monroe County – numerous supplies, including masks, shields, gloves, thermometers
- French Toast Uniform online company – donated children’s masks
- Monroe County BOCES – N95 masks for our nurses

### Thoughts for the Week....

At our opening Staff meeting on September 1, one of our prayers was the song, *Be a Light*, by Thomas Rhett. The words give us hope and call us to action.

“In a world full of hate, be a light...in a place that needs change, make a difference...”

We are called to shine for others, to be the light of Christ bringing hope, compassion, and goodness to others, wherever we are. Please know we will be a light for your children this year.

**Thank you for being a part of our Nazareth family!**

**On behalf of our entire faculty and staff, I welcome you!**

**It is going to be a great year!**

**May God bless each of us  
as we help our children grow in wisdom, faith, and love.**



*“I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot;  
together we can do great things.”  
Mother Teresa – St. Teresa of Calcutta*