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August 9, 2019

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 have had refreshing days and August will provide more of the same.

Since this is a short summer, our core staff is working harder than ever to prepare for the new school year. It is inspiring to witness the commitment of those in our administrative office, business office, and on the maintenance staff. They are the best!

Welcome to all of you, whether returning or new to Nazareth! Thank you for entrusting your children to our care. Please know that you are a vital part of our school community and we are delighted to be on this educational journey with you.

Our theme from the Scripture passage in Micah remains our overall guide. These simple, yet challenging words guide us in our words and actions.

*“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. I invite you to discuss them as a family and share ways they can be put into practice.

Important Information for the Opening of School:

- **Preschool & Kindergarten Orientation – Thursday, August 29, 10:00-11:00am** – Parents and children will gather in the school hall at 10:00am for a brief presentation. From there, all will move to the classrooms for time with the teachers. It is also an opportunity to meet some new classmates. Following the orientation, staff will be available to give tours from 11:00-11:45am if anyone is interested. *(If you are unable to make this orientation, please call our school office at 458-3786.)*
- **“Meet the Teacher” – Tuesday, September 3 -** Parents and students are welcome to stop by any time **between 10:30am and 12:30pm**. We know this may not be possible for everyone, but for those who can come, it will provide a chance for students and parents to find classrooms, meet teachers, bring in school supplies, and take care of any last minute details with the main office or business office. *(Those in PK and Kdg who attend the orientation on August 29 do not need to visit again on September 3. If you cannot make August 29, however, you are most welcome on the 3rd.)*

Meet Your
TEACHER



- **First Day of School – Wednesday, September 4, 2019 –**
This is a full day session for PK-Grade 6.

(Over)

▪ **Arrival and Dismissal**

○ **Car Students** – Arrival Time is **7:45-8:15am**; dismissal *begins* at **2:45pm**.

- **Arrival:** You can either pull forward in the car line in the parking lot to drop your child/ren off at the sidewalk where a staff member will be waiting OR park in the school lot and come to the front center door of the school. In the morning, a staff member will be there to greet your child.

- **Please DO NOT park in the car line if you choose to bring your child into the school. Park in the school lot only.**

- After 8:15am, a late slip is needed from the Main Office. You must park in the school lot, buzz in at the front door, and come into the school office to sign in your child/ren.



- **Dismissal:** At dismissal time, teachers will be with the students on the sidewalk along the side of the school - parking lot side. They will escort each one to your car. **Stay in the car line** and just slowly pull ahead where the teachers will be waiting with each child. *Please be patient the first days of school until everyone adjusts to the timing and flow of traffic. The safety of each child is our top priority. Cars can arrive between 2:40pm and 2:55pm. This will help the congestion and flow of traffic.*

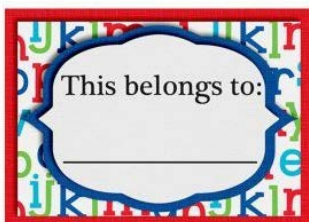
- **Only if necessary (for appointments, etc.), should a student be picked up before dismissal time.**
- **All car students must be picked up in the car line, no exceptions.**

○ **Bus Students** – In the morning, buses drop off students on Flower City Park. A staff member will be on the walk to greet students as they arrive. A second staff member will be at the door watching students as they come up the walk and will let them in. A third staff member will check in each student as they enter the school. *The safety of all is our top priority.*

○ **Extended Care Program** – Arrival is **7:00-7:45am**. Come to the left side door by the parking lot. In the morning, you will be greeted by a staff member at the door who will escort your child to the ECP room. In the afternoon, please park in a *non-reserved* space, come to the same door, and ring the buzzer. A staff member will verify your identity and buzz you into the building. Proceed up the stairs to the ECP Rooms and sign out your child/ren. Dismissal options are on the enclosed ECP information sheet.

▪ **Identification**

- PK to Grade 2 - Please make sure your child/ren has attached to their backpack/s the ID tag you will be given at Orientation Day or “Meet the Teacher Day” for at least 2 weeks. If you are unable to attend this day, put a clear, visible ID on your child/s backpack with **name, school and dismissal type (Car; ECP; Bus, including bus number)**.



- All PK to Grade 6 Students – *Please* mark your child’s name on **articles of clothing (such as sweatshirts & sweaters), backpacks, and lunch bags**. No matter the age, things land in “Lost & Found” quite easily. We can quickly return the items to their owners if they are clearly marked. We appreciate your help with this.



- **Transportation Forms** (for Grades Kdg – 6) - If you have not yet turned in your district transportation form either to the school or to your district, please do so immediately. Otherwise, your child will not have busing on the first days/weeks of school.

- **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.

We have a uniform exchange program at Nazareth. If you would like to check our inventory before purchasing new uniforms, please stop by school any day (except August 23) between 8:30 and 2:30. There are jumpers, blouses, shirts, pants, and walking shorts, especially for the younger students. One of our office staff will direct you to the uniform room. *(Note: The offices will be closed on August 23 so first floor rooms and halls can be cleaned and waxed.)*

- **Free and Reduced Breakfast and Lunch Program** – We are approved for the Community Eligibility Program which provides breakfast and lunch at no cost for every student. We will continue to prepare all meals on site. Students may still choose to bring their own *healthy* packed lunch, if they wish. **Per the Child Nutrition Program, fast food is NOT ALLOWED in school.** Breakfast and lunch menus will be distributed on a monthly basis and included with this mailing is the September breakfast and lunch menu.



- **Forms to be Returned** – To be returned at PK/Kdg. Orientation on August 29, “Meet the Teacher” Day on September 3, or the First Day of School on September 4:
 - ECP (Extended Care Program) Registration Form, if using this program
 - Any updated Health Records

Enrollment – Enrollment of new students has been slower than usual. WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please think of a family – relative, colleague, neighbor – whose children would benefit from a Nazareth education. ***See the enclosed insert for updates to our Refer a Family Program.***

What’s Ahead for 2019-2020?

We look forward to another grace-filled, exciting year! In the area of *Curriculum*, we will continue with an advanced math class for sixth

graders who excel and with the Accelerated Reader program for various grade levels. There will be on-going efforts at integrating some classroom units of instruction with the Special Subject Areas.

Teachers will focus on the Next Generation Learning Standards and more STEAM lessons. We have purchased through Title Funds the CAMP Invention program that will lend itself nicely to increased hands-on science. The faculty will continue professional development in many areas, but especially in Social Emotional Learning. For the *extracurricular and social* aspects, teachers will once again offer a variety of clubs and the School Advisory Committee will be planning the calendar of events soon.

Community connections - We will continue to build connections with Sacred Heart Cathedral and their Knights of Columbus Council. The K of C remains committed to making Nazareth one of the recipients of their fund-raising efforts throughout the year. We will also continue our relationships with St. John Fisher College for its Service Scholars Program and with Aquinas for their student service program. Of



course, the Sisters of St. Joseph remain a vital support behind Nazareth, as do so many amazing donors. We have also made connections with St. Ann's Community, Saints Place, and Dixon Schwabl Advertising.

"Farewells" - These are a part of every school year. It is never easy to say good-bye when you have been part of a loving community. Along with those who retired in June, the summer brought a few surprises.



- After 39 years at Nazareth, *Miss Kuhn* has decided that it is time to begin a new phase in her life. She has taught so many kindergartners, preschoolers, and their families through these years. We are so grateful for all she has done and all she has given. We are also grateful for Miss Kuhn's many contributions as a Nazareth Hall / Nazareth Elementary faculty member. She will be greatly missed. We all wish her well as she sees what surprises God has in store for her.
- *Mrs. Pisano* who works as the assistant in our business office has taken a new job with a company in Henrietta. We are grateful for her years at Nazareth where she has served so many families. The children and parents will miss her presence in that office. We wish her the best in her new job.
- *Sr. Eileen Daly* was elected President of the Sisters of St. Joseph in July. We cannot thank her enough for ALL she has done for Nazareth in a few short years. She has touched the lives of our children, faculty, staff, and more. Her presence, her wisdom, and administrative support to me will be greatly missed.
- *Sr. Marlene Pape* has a new position that requires her to work 5 days/week. Therefore, she can no longer be our Friday nurse. We thoroughly enjoyed having Sr. Marlene with us and I know it was just as enjoyable for her. We also wish her the best.

We send these staff members off with God's blessings and wish them much happiness and fulfillment in the next chapter of their lives. We will always be grateful that their lives have blessed ours.



Let us all pray that God will continue to bless Nazareth with increased enrollment and new friends who through their generosity can 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! I am so glad you will be a part of creating and celebrating it!

Please do not hesitate to call our office if you have any questions about the opening of school - 458-3786. The members of our School Advisory Committee will be welcoming our many new families and they will be happy to answer your questions also.

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 can 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!