

September 8, 2020



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The opening of school is upon us! We are so excited for six months is a long time to go without that personal connection between a student and a teacher. We understand that some children cannot join us for a while longer, but we will look forward with the same excitement to the day when they can come back to school. In the meantime, teachers will be in touch in other ways.

If you have been reading all of our summer communications, you know how hard our administrative and maintenance staff as well as members of the Core Reopening Committee and subcommittees have been working to get ready for your children. It has been inspiring for me to work so closely with all of them. I am most grateful to them!

**Welcome** to all of you, whether returning or new to Nazareth!

Thank you for entrusting your children to our care, especially in these challenging times. Please know that we take your trust very seriously, and we will do all in our power to help your child grow in knowledge, faith, and love in a very safe, healthy, and happy environment. The school has been set up following NYSED and NYSDOH mandates, and protocols are in place for the safety and well-being of all staff and students.

#### **Important Information for the Opening of School:**

- **First Days - Wednesday, September 9, and Thursday, September 10** – We are phasing in the children so that it can be an easier transition for all.
- **Friday, September 11** – Full day for all children PK-6.
- **Arrival and Dismissal – Please note:** Procedures have changed to ensure greater social distancing.
  - **Arrival Time is 7:45-8:15am** – It is important for students to arrive at school on time. If OCCASIONALLY something comes up and your child is late, please park in the lot and bring your child to the office. Once we verify his/her temperature is okay, you may leave.
  - **All Bus Students** – Buses will arrive in front of school as usual and students will proceed with the guidance of staff to the front door. Once inside, there will be hand sanitizer and a temperature screening.
  - **All Car Students** – Parents will enter the parking lot following the one-way signs. We ask that all *stay in the car line* and pull up slowly as directed. Staff members will be there to help your child and guide them to door #2 (the door next to the ECP door). Our nurse, or one of our designated staff, will take students' temperatures once they are inside the school so temperatures are accurate and not impacted by weather or AC in the car. You will be given a thumbs up by the staff person at the door if your child is ok and you can leave. We ask for patience as we try this method out. Once temperatures are taken, other

staff members will bring the children, or guide them, to their rooms, depending on their ages.

Note: Parents will not be able to come into the school due to the strict safety requirements for social distancing. We know this will be very difficult, especially for the younger children's parents the first day. There will be pictures of classes taken during the opening days so you can see your children in their rooms. If you are worried about your little one, call our office during the day and one of us will check and let you know how he/she is doing. You are welcome to message your child's teacher later in the day, too.

Have you seen our latest **video**? If not, check our website. It was created so parents and students could see their rooms before opening day.

- **Identification** – Please put your **child's name** on all personal items, including backpacks, jackets, lunch boxes, etc. We will have ID badges for the younger children to put on their backpacks to help as well.

### **Support for Learning:**

- Put your child to bed early enough so that s/he gets enough sleep for his/her age and is refreshed and ready for learning. (This includes those who are home for remote learning.)
- Take electronics out of the bedroom or designate a time each night when they put them down.
- Lay out uniforms, shoes, assignments, etc. the night before.
- Set a good wake-up time so your child does not feel rushed getting ready for school.
- Designate a special work area at home where students can do homework and special assignments. Choose a spot free of many distractions.
- A separate letter is being sent to the families of children who have opted in for Remote Learning.

### **Enrollment:**

Our class sizes are smaller due to social distancing requirements. However, we do have openings still available in some classes, especially second grade for we split that class in two. If you know of anyone still looking for a school, please have them call our office.

*Remember:* If you refer a family and they remain with us through at least the first semester, you get a tuition discount on your January payment. Refer more families, and you can lower monthly payments beyond that. See our Refer a Family Program on our website.

**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 do have a uniform exchange program at Nazareth. If you would like to check our inventory, please connect with our main office. There are jumpers, blouses, shirts, pants, walking shorts, and PE uniforms.

Students may wear navy walking shorts in September and June for those are the warmer weather months.

We are enclosing a **Daily Health and Wellness Checklist** for you to follow each morning at home. You may want to post this on your refrigerator or somewhere easy to see.

The Scripture passage from Micah remains our overall theme.

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

These simple words continue to guide our speech and our actions. How important it is to take these words to heart personally and communally during these challenging times of COVID-19, racism and discrimination, disintegration of moral values, lack of respect for human life and all of creation, natural disasters, and more. Yet our faith grounds us and gives us strength. We can each make a difference in our own unique ways wherever we are each day. We can be the peacemakers and the agents of change. As the late John Lewis said: *“We have a mission and a mandate to be on the right side of history.”*

Let us all pray that God will continue to bless Nazareth. We have many special friends who through their generosity are helping to make a Nazareth education possible for all who seek it. Please keep them in your prayers of gratitude.

We are confident that God is walking with us on this unique journey. COVID-19 may have changed the way we do things, but it has not changed our spirit and our love. On behalf of our faculty and staff, I say:

*Welcome to a new year –  
a year of hope,  
a year of health,  
and a year of happiness!*

Peace, prayers, and blessings to you and your families...

  
Sister Margaret Mancuso, SSJ  
Principal

*Nazareth Elementary – Where Faith, Love and Learning Thrive!*