

Nazareth Elementary School  
311 Flower City Park  
Rochester, NY 14615



August 12, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Although we are still enjoying August, it is time to think ahead! September 7 will be here soon and the school building will be alive with the sounds of children once again! I hope and pray that you and your family have had some refreshing summer days and the rest of August will provide more of the same.

It was a busy July as five teachers tutored students each morning for three weeks. We loved having these children back with us! Also in July, our core staff and a few volunteers were working hard to close this past year and prepare for 2022-2023.

I warmly welcome 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 and honored to be able to share 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 all we do.

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

Each one of us strives to live out these inspiring words in our everyday lives. I invite you to discuss them as a family and share ways Micah can come alive for you.

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

- **Preschool & Kindergarten Orientation – Thursday, September 1 – 10:00-11:00**  
Parents and children will gather in the school hall at 10:00am for a brief presentation. From there, all will move to the Preschool and Kindergarten classrooms for time with Mrs. Hierlwimmer our PK teacher and her aide Mrs. Muratore, and with Mrs. Gotham our Kdg teacher and her aide Mrs. Cosentino. It is also an opportunity for our youngest ones to meet some of their new classmates. Following the orientation, staff will be available to give tours from 11-11:45 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 6** - Parents and students are welcome to stop by for a brief visit any time **between 8:30am and Noon**. *We have spread the visit time out so, hopefully, we will avoid crowds in the classrooms. We are still being cautious with COVID.*

We know this day may not be possible for everyone, and that is understandable. 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 do not need to visit again on September 6. If you cannot make September 1 however, you are most welcome on the 6<sup>th</sup>.)*

- **First Day of School – Wednesday, September 7, 2022** – This is a full day session for all children in **PK-Grade 6**.
- **Arrival and Dismissal**
  - **Car Students** – Arrival is **7:45-8:15am**; dismissal is **2:45pm-3:00pm**. (Please make every effort to get your children to school on time so they do not start the day rushed or missing important instruction.) *Arrival:* 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. Two staff will be there to meet your child at the car and take him/her to the door. *Dismissal:* It will be the same procedure in the afternoon between 2:45 and 3:00. Stay in the car line and a teacher will bring your child to your car. This is for the safety of students and staff.
  - **Buses** arrive **between 7:45 and 8:15** and depart **between 2:45 and 3:00**. (Buses do tend to run more slowly on opening days.) Buses arrive in front of school and faculty greet the students as they leave the buses and enter the school. Faculty members guide students to the buses at the end of the day as well.
- **September Breakfast and Lunch Menu** – to be posted on our web site – All meals are free for those who wish them and will start on September 7.

**Uniforms (Kdg-6)** – Nazareth has a clear uniform dress code. A uniform gives children a sense of belonging and pride in their school. It also lessens any competition among peers regarding dress. *Please make sure your child is in the proper uniform when leaving for school each day. This includes ties, shoes and uniform color socks.* Only the Nazareth Elementary logo is to be on uniforms – vests, sweaters, PE clothes. We advise you not to wait until the end of August to purchase uniforms for stores may not have them in stock. All K-6 children will wear their uniforms starting September 7.

We have a uniform exchange program at Nazareth. Parents send in washed uniforms in good condition that their children have outgrown for our exchange closet. If you would like to check our inventory before purchasing new uniforms, or if you would like a second set for your child, please stop by school any Monday through Thursday between 8:30 and 2:30 and one of our office staff will direct you to the uniform room.

There are jumpers, blouses, shirts, pants, and walking shorts (optional for Sept. and June). We have a small number of PE uniforms. Note: We do not have any boys' ties available. We also have several new donated *backpacks* available. Let us know if you would like one for your child.

**Enrollment** – Enrollment of new students has been slower than usual. WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please think of a family whether a relative, colleague, or neighbor whose children would benefit from a Nazareth education. Encourage them to give us a call or to check out our website. We do have a **Refer a Family** Program. You can receive a **\$300 credit** off tuition starting in January for each family you bring in that stays with us for at least the first half of the year.

If you have not re-registered yet, please do so asap or your child may not have books or transportation in time for the start of school. Kdg and Grade 4 are closed at this time.

### What is Ahead for 2022-2023?

We look forward to another wonderful, grace-filled, exciting year!

In the area of *Curriculum*:

- We will continue with an advanced math class for 6<sup>th</sup> graders who excel and have purchased a new Mathematics series this year for all grades that looks excellent.
- The Accelerated Reader program will be available for various grade levels.
- Teachers will continue to focus on the Next Generation Learning Standards and more STEM lessons. All will integrate hand-on learning in their lessons. Watch for projects during the year in the various subject areas.
- All students will again have the use of a Chromebook in the classroom and K-6 students will receive a technology lesson in our lab weekly.
- The faculty will continue professional development in many areas, but especially on Social Emotional Learning.
- Teachers hope to bring back some of our popular clubs afterschool this year if COVID remains quiet.
- We look forward to presenting our amazing Christmas and spring concerts again as long as it is safe to do so.

In the area of *Community*:

- We will continue daily prayer together over the PA with every child having a turn to lead the prayer and pledge.
- We will hold our monthly assemblies together as a school as it is safe to do so.
- Our School Advisory Committee will be bringing back some family events, starting with the Fall Festival in October. We remain optimistic that COVID will remain at a minimum so we can gather safely throughout this year. How we have missed being together!

*Community Connections* - We will continue our relationship with St. John Fisher College and its Service Scholars Program, plus a new literacy program. We hope to be able to have Aquinas students back for their service program. The Sisters of St. Joseph remain a vital support behind Nazareth, as do so many kind and amazing donors. We have connections with St. Ann's Community and Saints Place, to name a few organizations, and we continue to seek grants.

**“Farewells”** - These are a part of every school year. It is never easy to say good-bye to friends who have been a part of our community. This was a year of many good-byes. Four staff members retired: Mrs. Plyem in the main office, Mrs. Switalski and Mrs. Strowe in our AIS program, and Mrs. Kosko in the cafeteria. Along with those who retired in June, others moved on for various reasons:

- ◆ *Mrs. Natalie Depew left our main office in June.*
- ◆ *Ms Reber – library/tech teacher – is going to Holley Central.*
- ◆ *Ms Bradley, Ms Lynn and Ms Aiello have all taken positions with RCSD.*
- ◆ *Mrs. Conrow - started a private practice and will no longer be doing school social work.*

*We wish these staff members God’s blessing, much happiness, and fulfillment in the next chapter of their lives. We will always be grateful for the gifts they shared with our Nazareth family.*

We have been interviewing a lot this summer and do have some positions filled, while others are still in process. Please say a prayer that God sends us the best candidates possible for our children and school. Our openings are posted on our website.



### **Changes and Additions:**

- ✓ Grade 1 - Ms Tina Lee will move from fifth grade to first – she was a first grade teacher for many years in NC before coming to Nazareth.
- ✓ Grade 2 – Mrs. Maureen Lloyd has been hired as our new second grade teacher.
- ✓ Grade 4 – The two third grades will become one fourth grade this coming year for we lost a few children from that level.
- ✓ Grade 5 - Mrs. Andrea Singletary is our new fifth grade teacher.
- ✓ Mrs. Hummel will continue to teach art three days and will now be our tech teacher for two days. She was the art and technology teacher at Nazareth Hall for several years.
- ✓ Mrs. Christine Smith will be our librarian two days a week.
- ✓ Mrs. Maria Blakey will be our AIS Coordinator (K-6) and AIS teacher for grades K-2.
- ✓ Mrs. Briana Parker is our new social worker.
- ✓ Mrs. Wendy Miller will be our new cafeteria supervisor.

We still need a PT teacher for the AIS program, and administrative assistants for the main office and business office. We continue to respond to resumes as they come in.

Please be patient as we manage the main office with volunteers. Three staff have been our helpers all summer and I am so grateful to them for their time and support. I hope and pray to have the administrative assistant position filled very soon.

### **Health and Safety Updates**

All staff at our back-to-school meeting will review the protocols we have in place. We will look at the status of COVID in our area at that time too.

**Help Us Help Your Child** - If families could narrow their bubble of contacts in the two weeks prior to school opening, and get the children used to using hand sanitizer and washing hands more frequently, we will all start the year safely.



### Protocol at this time for staff and students for the coming school year:

- ✓ **Masks** – We ask that every child bring two masks to be kept in school. Should there be a COVID case in a classroom or the spread of other illnesses, the class may be asked to wear a mask for a short period. Our nurses will closely monitor any situations.
- ✓ Drinking fountains - remain off limits. Please send you child to school each day with a filled water bottle. Please put his/her name or initials on it.
- ✓ Hand sanitizer - used when entering the school and during the day – staff and students
- ✓ Social distancing - wherever possible
- ✓ Tables and common surfaces - wiped down throughout the day
- ✓ Our maintenance staff will continue disinfecting bathrooms, railings and other common surfaces; electrostatic spraying will continue late in the day as needed.
- ✓ Table shields will remain in the art room, cafeteria, workstations, and offices.

COVID variants are around, so we cannot be too cautious. Sr. Marlene Pape, our main nurse, will keep you informed of the latest updates from the Monroe County and NYS Health Departments and of any changes necessary at school during the year.



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 and keep you well. 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, S.S.J.*

Sister Margaret Mancuso, SSJ  
Principal

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