



Memo To: Parents and Guardians
From: Sr. Margaret Mancuso, Principal
Date: September 11, 2023

A Wonderful Start!

A new year – a new beginning! There was great excitement as the 2023-2024 school year began!

On Tuesday, we were delighted that so many families were able to make “Meet the Teacher” Day. Opening day on Wednesday was full of joy! The faculty and staff had looked forward to greeting the children after many days of preparation. I am ever so appreciative of the energy and hard work our teachers, office personnel, maintenance staff and volunteers put forth to make the classrooms and school such a welcoming environment.

The students in K-6 looked so nice in their crisp new uniforms and the preschoolers were adorable in their cute outfits! It was fun to watch the students greeting each other and making new friends. Once again, we marveled at how much each child had grown over the summer!

Visit our web site and Facebook page for back-to-school pictures posted by Amy Rist, our new Development / Marketing Coordinator.

Throughout the first days, there was laughter coming from classrooms and students were fully engaged in new lessons already! Many were eager to be helpers around the school, and their smiles warmed our hearts each day!

Please know we are grateful for your help in making the transition back to school a smooth one. Thank you for spreading the word about Nazareth. We were delighted to welcome over 30 new students and their families to our school community. *It is going to be an amazing year together!*

Opening Day & Week

- ➡ **Busing** – If you registered late in the summer, your child may not receive busing for another week. Check with your district’s transportation office if you have questions. We do not receive start dates and pick up times from the districts.



- **Dismissal** – At the start of school, there is usually a larger group of children going home by car. That will change once all busing is in place. Thank you for your patience in the long car line. Opening days are always slow as parents and children get used to the process too.

Very important Information

Arrival and Dismissal

- **Arrival Time is 7:45-8:15am.** Please make sure your child arrives on time to settle in, have breakfast, and be ready to start the day. If a child is consistently late, s/he misses a calm start and the first lessons of the day.
- **All Bus Students** – Buses arrive in front of school. Students do not get off the buses until staff are there to meet them and take them in to school. Once inside, a staff person checks them in and another gives them a squirt of hand sanitizer.
- **All Car Students** – Parents must enter the parking lot and follow the one-way signs. **We ask that all *stay in the car line and pull up slowly as directed, morning and afternoon.***
 - **Morning** – Two staff members will meet your children at the cars and take them to the school door where they are checked in. Once inside, they receive a squirt of hand sanitizer and are directed to their classrooms. *Please do not park and walk your child to a classroom.* There are staff in the halls to guide children to their rooms.
 - **Afternoon – Dismissal is 2:40-3:00.**
 - **Please come through the car line.** *For the safety of every child and adult, parents may not walk up the sidewalk or across the parking lot and ask for a child.*
 - 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 the car, ex. if your child rides in a car seat. *We want everyone to be safe.*
 - *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 leave.
 - 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. One teacher is assigned to check off each child as s/he leaves.
 - We ask that you do not park by our staff cars and walk across the parking lot to get your child. That is not safe for you or your child.
 - If you do not want a long wait, it might be better to arrive closer to 2:55.

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

Identification

Please put your **child's name / initials** on all personal items - backpacks, jackets, sweaters, lunch boxes, water bottles, etc.

Uniforms (Kdg-6)

A uniform gives a child a sense of belonging and pride in their school. It 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 ties, shoes, and uniform color socks.*** Only the Nazareth Elementary logo is to be on uniforms – vests, sweaters, PE clothes. Check our web site for the uniform dress code policy. Teachers will let you know what days the students should wear the PE uniform. You can also check out our uniform exchange closet.

Water Bottles

Please send your child to school each day with a *filled* water bottle. Since COVID we do not use the drinking fountains. On very hot days, a staff member or two will go around and refill water bottles as needed.

Save the Dates...

- Thursday, **September 21** – Curriculum Night - 6:30-8:00pm
- Friday, **September 22** – Cookie Dough Sale Fundraiser begins
- Wednesday, **October 18** – School Picture Day
- Friday, **October 20** – Fall Festival – 6:00-7:30pm



More details to come...

Thought for the New Year –

At our opening Faculty/Staff meeting on August 31, music was part of our prayer together. One song was “How Great Thou Art” sung by people from over 150 nations. It reminded us that we are each a part of the global community, that we have been given so many blessings, and that God is always with us, even in the dark and challenging times. Our great God has called us to this special ministry at Nazareth and has blessed us with all of you and your families! May our hearts continue to sing *How Great Thou Art!*



***Join us in praying for a blessed and beautiful year.
Thank you for being a part of our Nazareth family!***