



St. Ann School

800 W. 13TH ST • CADILLAC, MICHIGAN 49601 • 231.775.1301 • FAX: 231.775.5433

November 20, 2020

Dear St. Ann School Parents and Staff Members,

I am sending you this update via email so it doesn't get overlooked amongst all the other information contained in the school newsletter! I knew, as of the end of the school day today, that this information would be very important as we approach Thanksgiving.

First of all, I want to thank all of you for the great job you have all done trying to keep yourselves, your children/students, and family members healthy and safe! These are very challenging times but I appreciate your efforts to follow all of our protocols so we can continue to enjoy Face to Face Learning!

Having said that, we have recently experienced some positive cases which have led to some of our school parents and students having to quarantine. We knew that if we followed all of our protocols, we had a very good opportunity to continue Face to Face Learning (which we know is the most effective way to educate our students)! We have managed to continue educating all of our students, even those in quarantine, in utilizing Google Classroom Meets and/or materials that the classroom teachers have sent home. I assure you that in any, and all, of these situations we have followed our Return to School Protocols, and followed the orders and/or the plans of our local Health Department! It is very important, moving forward, for our school parents and staff members to remain 100% transparent in notifying St. Ann School office staff of any vital information (informing us that you are being and/or have been tested, positive test results, etc.). Your transparency will enable us to make the very best decisions that will benefit everyone!

I want to assure all of you that I am seeking information daily from the Health Department, the Diocese of Gaylord, State of Michigan, Cadillac Area Public Schools, etc., so I can make the very best decision in regards to St. Ann School remaining in Face to Face Learning or transitioning to Virtual Learning. I am hoping and praying that will be able to remain doing what we love to do, educating children, in the best setting possible, Face to Face Learning! We will continue moving forward, for how long I don't know, as long as we can do it safely, knowing we may have some students and or staff who are not able to attend due to the necessity to quarantine. The Health Department, along with the other contacts I have made, believe we may continue, especially with the knowledge that Elementary and Middle School students are least likely to have a positive diagnosis! Please understand that what I want and what I must do may change within 24 hours! However, I will keep you informed if any change needs to take place!

We have been informed that because of the licensing we have for our preschool and After School programs, we are allowed to offer our school families the opportunity to continue having their child attend the Preschool program and/or attend a Child Care Program (preschool - 6th grade students) even if we are in a Distance Learning Phase! We are continuing to learn what this will look like but it appears that our After School Program would become a Day Care Program available Monday through Friday, 7:30am-5:30pm, for St. Ann students registered in Preschool through 6th grade. These student's parents would need to be working parents who would need to sign up their child(ren) for a minimum of two days (3 year old's) or 3 days (4 year old's through 6th grade). Parents would have the option of half or full day, with the cost of \$15 for a half of day and \$24 for a full day. Please let us know next week if you are interested in signing up your child(ren) for this program, have questions about this program, etc. We are trying to be proactive in sharing this information with you but we are hoping that we delay using this program as long as we can!

We will keep you informed of any other new developments or recommendations that we are aware of. Please contact us if you have any questions or if you are not sure of what your responsibilities are. We are in this together as a team to do what is right to keep all of us safe and healthy! You are all in my thoughts and prayers, and together we will do the right things, at the right time, for the good of all our students, parents and staff of St. Ann School!

In Christ,

Robert G. Kellogg
Principal