



# St. Denis – St. Columba School

A Holy Ground of Loving and Learning

## Family Newsletter



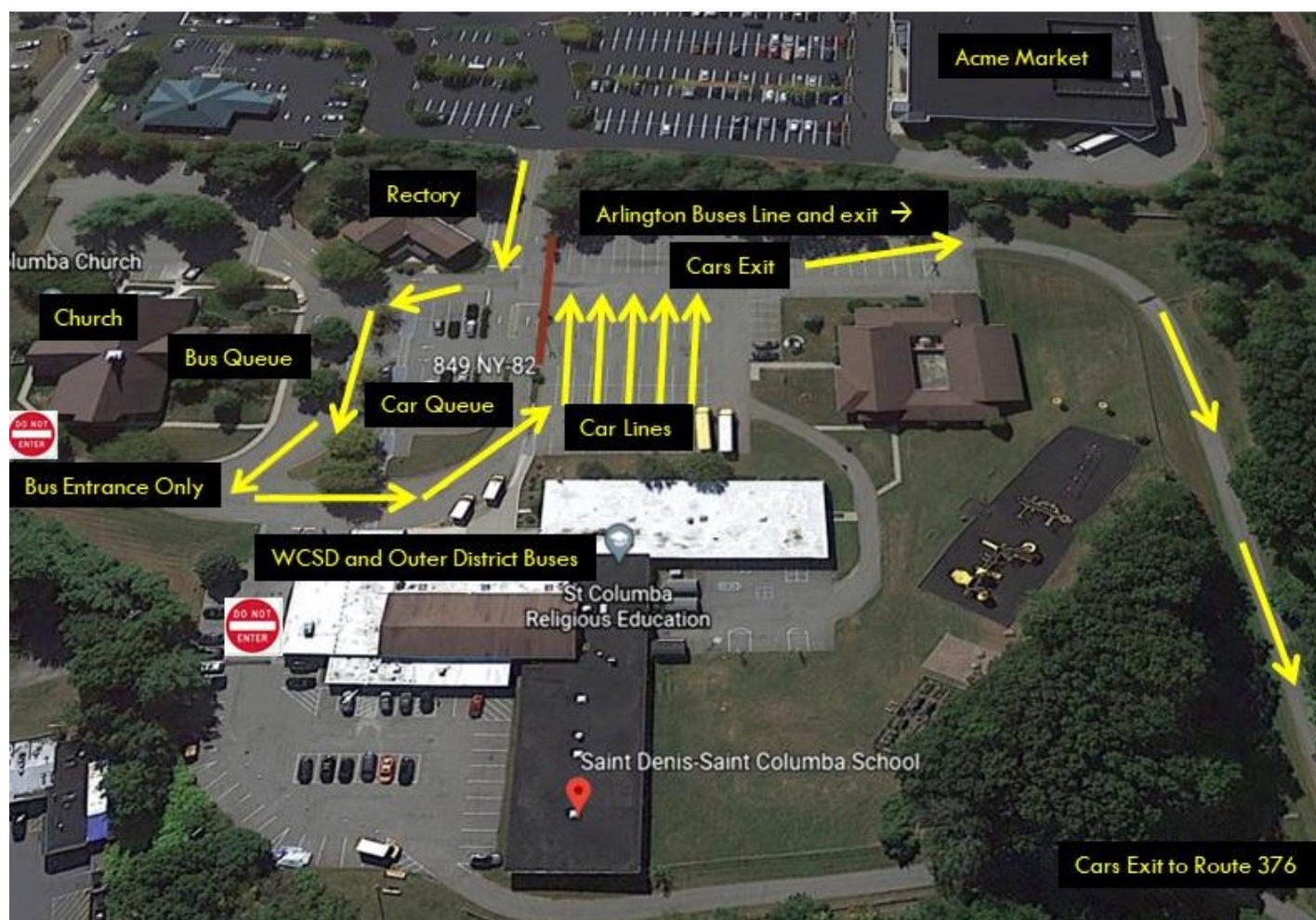
Sharing God's Blessings

September 20-24, 2021

### NEW Car Rider Dismissal Process

This past Thursday we tested a new dismissal process for car riders. It appears that it is faster, more efficient and enables us to respond more effectively to the inconsistent arrival times of school buses. We are going to adopt this new procedure and request that you review the notes below. Familiarize yourself with the attached diagram. Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we work together to safely dismiss our students!

- Car rider vehicles will park in straight rows in the large parking lot in front of the convent and adjacent to the school. Your vehicle should be facing the white fence.
- Fill a line completely! Do **not** start a new pick-up line unless instructed to do so. Do **not** change pick-up lines. A **LARGE POSTER SIZE SIGN** with the student last name written in **large BLACK bold letters** must be placed in the front windshield or window on the *passenger* side. If you do not have a large sign that can be seen 6 feet away, you will needlessly delay an already lengthy pick-up procedure!
- Keep your sign in the window UNTIL your child is loaded into your vehicle. This helps the staff to quickly match students with their vehicles. For the safety of all, students are to **load on the RIGHT side of the car**.
- All car rider vehicles will depart past the convent and down Sr. Grace's way.
- For best results, please arrive at the school BEFORE 2:45 P.M. You may arrive later but you will have to wait in an overflow line in front of St. Columba Church. School buses are given priority over cars arriving later than 2:45 p.m.



### **Safe Environment Lessons – Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Our Catholic tradition has always affirmed the dignity of the human person as created to the image and likeness of God. Every person with whom we come in contact deserves to be seen by us with the eyes of God. We know that ministry with children and youth, in particular, is a sacred trust. We, at St. Denis-St. Columba School, are committed to preserve, at all times and in all places, this sacred trust which is rooted in our faith in Jesus Christ.

In 2002, the United States Bishops approved “The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” in an effort to protect children and youth from sexual abuse at all levels of church life and to restore trust in a Church scarred by the scandal of clergy sexual abuse. Article 12 of the charter directs all dioceses to create programs and processes to teach children and youth about sexual abuse and its prevention. In the Archdiocese of New York, this training is integrated into the religious education program each year in all schools and parishes.

On Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> our students will be engaged in Safe Environment lessons with their homeroom teachers. In Grades K-3 the objectives taught include helping our students distinguish the difference between good and bad touch and affirming their right to say no to an adult who makes them feel uncomfortable. In Grades 4-6 the objectives include helping our students recognize the lures used by those who sexually victimize children and giving them strategies to keep them from being tricked into uncomfortable and dangerous situations. In Grades 7-8 the objectives include helping our students recognize lures used by those who sexually victimize others via the anonymity of the Internet and giving them skills to avoid being victimized by Internet sexual predators.

We thank you for your support and interest as we partner to give our children the safest possible environment to grow in faith, in our parish, school and in our homes.

### **NOW HIRING: After Care Program Staff**

SDSC is in immediate need of supervisory staff for our After Care Program. If you know anyone looking for some extra part time work, and someone who is responsible, caring, and good with children please have them contact Sr. Kathleen at 845-227-7777 or [sr.kathleenmarie@gmail.com](mailto:sr.kathleenmarie@gmail.com). College students and retirees are welcome to apply.

**The following required forms are past due! Return them to school immediately if you have not done so already!**

### **IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED: DAILY SELF-CHECK ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

All School Employees, Parents, Children and Essential Visitors will need to complete a daily health self-check prior to entering the school or being on the school property. **Each family must sign and return the attached acknowledgement ONCE indicating that they have received and will comply with the self-check.** (The form does NOT need to be sent to school each day.) **If you have neglected to return the acknowledgment, the school office will contact you as a reminder. Your child will not be permitted to come to school if you fail to return the form.**

### **ACTION REQUIRED: Parent-Student Handbook Forms**

There are three forms from the 2021-2022 Parent-Student Handbook that need to be signed and returned ASAP. These are the Technology Use Agreement, NY State Textbook Law Authorization and Handbook Acknowledgment. All three forms are available under For Parents/Parent-Student Handbook on the school website. [You may also access them by clicking HERE.](#)

### **ACTION REQUIRED: SDSC Chromebook Use Policy**

All students and their parent/guardian must read and complete the attached SDSC Chromebook Policy. It governs student use of the SDSC Chromebooks. These devices are used in every grade at SDSC so it is important that your child understands how to use the devices safely and appropriately. Students in Grades 2-8 must also sign the Policy. Parents may sign on behalf of any child in Grades K-1. The Chromebook use Policy ASAP. The form is available under For Parents on the school website [or by clicking HERE.](#)

### **Important! Emergency Contact Cards**

All students have received an Emergency Contact Card. Please complete **one per family** and return it to school as soon as possible.

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**To Everything there is a Season and a Time for Every Purpose under Heaven**  
*Let us continue to keep in our prayers the many among us who are sick and suffering.*

**A TIME TO HEAL:** Mrs. Dillon (former SDSC teacher), James Gorman (Grandfather of Jimmy '21, Maeve (Grade 5) and Mairead (Grade 3) and for the many who are sick and suffering in mind, body or spirit in this year.