



St. Denis – St. Columba School

A Holy Ground of Loving and Learning

Family Newsletter



Sharing God's Blessings

September 27 - October 1, 2021

Virtual Back to School Night

Our virtual Back to School Night will take place on Wednesday, September 30th beginning at 6:30 p.m. A Zoom link will be provided prior to the event. We look forward to sharing with you news about the new school year. Teachers will also be creating information videos to share with parents/guardians. If you would like to schedule a meeting with a teacher, or if you have any questions, you can find their emails on the school website under "Staff Directory."

Half Day of School – Friday, October 1st

Please note this Friday, October 1st is a half day of school for students. Dismissal will begin after prayers at 11:30 a.m.

PLEASE READ: IMPORTANT COVID INFORMATION

EVERYONE has a LEADERSHIP role!

Our top priority this school year is to educate all of our students in person five days a week in a safe and healthy environment. We are certain that EVERY SDSC family shares this goal. We need the leadership of **every** person in our SDSC school community if we are to attain our goal. TOGETHER, we can do this!

- School has only been in session for 13 days. In that time, **30 students have been required to quarantine** by the Department of Health – 10% of our enrollment! The quarantine period typically lasts ten days. This adversely affects not only the students, but also their parents, siblings, teachers, etc.
- Since September 8th, there have been 6 self-reported cases of students diagnosed Covid. Last year, the first positive case did not occur until November 14th.
- **The current rate of quarantine and reported infections is NOT sustainable to keep in person learning five days a week if we do not ACT NOW!**
- So far none of the positive Covid cases have resulted from person to person transfer in the school building. As you would expect of us, we have health and safety protocols to prevent viral spread in the building. Most of the self-reported positive cases have resulted from large groups or indoor gatherings such as birthday parties, neighborhood parties, sports teams, etc.
- **Children CAN and DO contract Covid.** We have had student cases that range from mild to "debilitating." We must act as if every child is at risk of the most serious case, and you should expect nothing less.
- We plead with everyone to take every reasonable precaution to limit your child's exposure to potential infection.
- Remember we are a community of faith and as such we have a responsibility to care for each other. One mistake or ill-advised decision can impact a lot more people than just ourselves.

Do NOT send your child to school if...

All families have signed the daily self-check agreement. As a reminder that agreement mandates that **you may NOT send a child to school with ANY of the following symptoms:**

- ☒ Fever over 100 degrees
- ☒ Chills
- ☒ Muscle Aches
- ☒ Headache

- ☒ Sore Throat
- ☒ Nausea
- ☒ Vomiting
- ☒ Diarrhea

- ☒ Fatigue
- ☒ Congestion
- ☒ Runny Nose
- ☒ Shivers

Limited exceptions may apply for chronic conditions. A student with any of the above symptoms **MUST** present either a medical clearance from a doctor **OR** a negative Covid test to return to school. If you have any questions, you may contact Mrs. Scampoli, R.N. at 845-226-5440 or mscampoli@stcolumba.net.

We understand that the daily health check policy may not be convenient, but it is more necessary than ever with the rise of Covid cases among children. If you see any of the above symptoms, please do not give your child medication and then send them to school.

Student Birthdays

We are so pleased to be able to serve treats again to celebrate student birthdays. Please note that all treats must be individually packaged by the manufacturer. At this time we cannot serve homemade goods or items that come in bulk quantities (e.g. a tray of bakery cupcakes, a box of donuts, etc.). Please check with your child's teacher before sending in birthday treats.

Party Invitations

We currently are not permitted to distribute invitations to gatherings, parties on behalf of students or parents. Facilitating gatherings and parties is contrary to the Archdiocesan Covid safety guidelines. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding.

Zoom Etiquette for Quarantined Students – Please Review with your Child!

If your child is learning remotely due to a required quarantine period, please review the following Zoom etiquette with your child. Failure to follow proper Zoom etiquette can result in your child being removed from the lesson. Please help our teachers by adhering to the following:

- ✓ For security, identity of the Zoom participant must be the name of the **student**. A teacher cannot permit a participant to enter a Zoom meeting that is identified only by a phone number or other non-personally identifying information.
- ✓ All students **must** have a camera on when entering the meeting unless excused by the teacher or aide.
- ✓ All students **must** remain on mute until told to unmute.
- ✓ Students are not to be eating and drinking while attending a Zoom meeting.
- ✓ Students must be in their school uniform while in a Zoom meeting, as they are in the same class as the students in the building and are visible on the monitors/screens.
- ✓ Unless otherwise instructed, chat is **only** to be used to communicate with the teacher/aide. Students must **not** use the chat to communicate with each other. These "friendly chats" come across the teacher's Zoom feed and make it difficult to find and address real student needs.
- ✓ Students must sit up straight, have their supplies/books on hand and be ready to participate as if they were in the classroom at school.
- ✓ Remember: Student conduct while learning remotely is monitored and graded just as it is in school!

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. College students and retirees are welcome to apply.

MAP Assessments September 29th –October 15th

Over the next few weeks the students of Saint Denis-Saint Columba School will take the NWEA MAP Growth Diagnostic. MAP Growth scores help teachers check student performance by measuring achievement and growth. Teachers use the results to adjust classroom lessons and set goals for students.

MAP Growth tests are unique, and it adapts to your child's responses to measure your child's skill level. If your child answers a question correctly, the next question is more challenging. If they answer incorrectly, the next one is easier. These results will provide a more complete picture of what your child knows and is ready to learn—whether it is on, above, or below their grade level. Since MAP Growth tests provide immediate and accurate information about your child's learning, it's easy for teachers to identify students with similar scores that are generally ready for instruction in similar skills and topics, and then plan instruction accordingly.

Students in Grade K-2 will take assessments in Reading and Math while students in Grades 3-8 grades will participate in Reading, Math and Language Usage. Each test is untimed and takes about an hour. Following each testing period, you will receive a Family Report showing a summary of how your child is performing academically. We are truly excited to focus on your child's individual growth and achievement. **We request that students be on-time and fully rested to ensure they are able to concentrate and do their best.**

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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.