

## DMCS Summer eNewsletter August 27, 2020

Dear Parents-

Hello all! Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year at Divine Mercy Catholic School.

A great opportunity lies before us as we begin our year together under so many unique and challenging circumstances. This is a chance for our community to teach our youth lessons on perseverance, faith, grit, determination, grace, and hope. These skills are the very skills that provide all of us the potential to live a life fulfilled. We are called to show in word and deed how these skills can be utilized to persevere through a challenging circumstance with grace and positivity. Our theme this year is "Vision of Hope" because we believe that **every** child **is** a *vision of hope*. We need this hope now to focus on the good and look toward a brighter future landscape. I am thrilled to be part of the type of community that will support each other through this challenge and set our students up for success.

We are excited to welcome students and their families at our Back to School event today. We will connect with you in individual meetings with homeroom teachers and work to set your child up for success this school year. (*Because of the delayed school start date for our preschool and kindergarten students, they will be taking extra days to schedule these meetings.*) If you have not made an appointment through sign-up genius, please contact your child's teacher to schedule a meeting. We can't wait to see you!

School begins on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup> for grades 1-5 and Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> for grades K and PreK. Please carefully read the drop off and pick up procedures we have attached to this newsletter. These can also be found in the student/parent handbook that is posted on our website.

There are several important things to remember for the first day of school.

- Please do a health check with your child before you come. (see attached sheet)
- Sign and return the waiver for video class permission (one per child-attached here)
- Have your child put on their mask before entering the school building
- Enter through door 2 or door 3 between 7:40AM and 8:00AM
- If you arrive after 8:00AM, pull into one of the 15-minute parking stalls in the front of the school building and let your child enter through the front door. They will be marked Tardy.
- Decide how you are picking up your child and what their after-school plan is. Door 2 is where walkers will be dismissed. Door 3 is where car riders will be dismissed. Students riding the bus will be escorted there by staff members. It is slated to pick up at school at 3:10 PM.
- Sign-up for our school-age care program if you need to use it. It is available from 7-7:40 AM and from 3-5:30 PM.
- Remember that visitors are being strictly limited this year. We are limiting interaction with the public to our small vestibule area. Please communicate with the front office (334-7706) before entering the school building. We might be able to save you a trip!

Let us know if you have questions! We are here to help.

We are celebrating our first school Mass on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have a set seating chart that allows for physical distance and appropriate placement of students. The general public will be allowed to attend Mass, however, they will be seated in a section behind the white pillars that has been set aside for them.

If you are a parent who has attended school Mass in the past, it is fine to still do so. Unfortunately, we will not be able to allow people to come up to the students for hugs, etc. after Mass. We respectfully request that all parents, grandparents, and special friends refrain from this practice for the time being.

There is much excitement in the air and the building is positively buzzing with energy. I have missed this! You all bring so much joy into this school and I am grateful. May your last weekend of summer be relaxing, may you take a deep breath and find peace. May you turn off the noise and enjoy your families. We are ready for this year. We are excited to welcome you back.

Blessings to you-

Mrs. Ashley

*Every child is a Vision of Hope!*

