



St. Raphael Catholic School

*Nurturing the development of each child through faithful
Catholic Education that stresses the love of Jesus Christ*

December 3, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Peace to you in Jesus' name! Happy Advent! Your child(ren) continue(s) to show resilience, curiosity, stamina, and heart! In these unprecedented times of the pandemic, I can only imagine the stresses and pressures that you experience as parents. Please be assured of my constant and earnest prayers for you. In spite of this, your sacrifice to send your child to St. Raphael is paying off! A special shout-out also goes to our valiant teachers who love this school - and your children! - so much that they tirelessly provide heroic and exceptional instruction in spite of these difficult times! Thank you teachers!

Save the Date for our very first virtual SRS Family Celebration! Pop some popcorn and gather around your computers and tune in to our SRS All School Christmas celebration! While we wish we could hold our annual Christmas concert in person, we will not let the coronavirus stop our enthusiasm for Christmas. More details will follow, but mark your calendars for Thursday, December 17 at 7:00 PM and join our virtual meeting to hear our students singing and updates about our school.

Enrollment for 2021-2022 is coming very soon! Oh, how we have grown! We are excited for the future as we have seen an enrollment increase of 33% this year! Due to this, we had several classes with a wait list this year. We anticipate more growth this coming year! Help us project staffing, curriculum, and programs for this coming year by enrolling early. In the coming weeks, keep an eye out for your re-enrollment email!

This Advent, may the Lord bless each of you, and your beautiful family, in new and wondrous ways as you prepare for His coming.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Paul Dull

Save the date!

St. Raphael School Virtual Christmas Celebration for all families on Thursday, December 17th at 7:00 pm. You will receive details soon for how to connect with this awesome event!

Important Dates

December 4th - Picture Retake Day
December 8th - Student Mass Day, Feast of the Immaculate Conception
December 11th - Virtual Turkey Bingo
December 4th - 17th - Student Council Toy Drive
December 17th - St. Raphael School Virtual Christmas Celebration
December 21st - January 1st - No School/Christmas Break

COVID Report and COVID safety strategies

We had an excellent 4 months of school so far. We have not had one case of COVID transmission within our school and have only 5 cases total of students that have contracted COVID outside our school. Families, students and staff are doing a great job! We need to keep in mind that virus transmission is up in Minnesota and we need to have families continue to do a great job at communicating with Nurse Mary Warren, Mr. Finne, Mrs. Holly Teixeira, and Mr. Dull. It is vital that at the first sign of sickness you communicate with the school and keep your kids at home. If you have a specific question regarding COVID you can always call or email Mr. Finne (COVID Response Coordinator), or Nurse Mary Warren. Another important consideration: if you have someone who has been exposed to COVID and one household member is getting a test for COVID, it is also helpful to get the whole family tested and stay home until results are in. This can add another level of safety and mitigation to our school community.

PHT Turkey Bingo

Mark Your Calendar: Fri, Dec 11, 2020

What: **VIRTUAL TURKEY BINGO!**

Location: Online

Time: 5:45-7pm (Bingo play will begin at 6pm)

HyVee donated turkeys to be given away to 8 lucky winners!

Additional details will be provided next week.

Space will be limited so please RSVP to pht@srsmn.org

Picture Retake Update

Picture Retake Day has been rescheduled to tomorrow, November 4th. This is for any student who was absent on October 9th, or would like a retake of their school photo. Order forms were sent home yesterday. For those students who ordered pictures and are getting retakes, please bring the original photos back in their envelope, and give them to the photographer. You will not have to reorder or pay for new photos if you are getting retakes. Students can choose to wear their uniform or dress clothes for the photos.

Toy Drive

Student Council is sponsoring a Toy Drive from December 4th - December 17th. The goal is to bring in 150 toys to support local families in need. The toys should be brand new, still in original packaging. Please consider donating a toy geared towards older children or teenagers, as this age group is often times overlooked. If the goal is met, the students earn out Out of Uniform day. Our St. Raphael families are always so generous, and for that we are truly grateful.

Change in Student Mass Day

Tuesday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Our students will therefore be attending Mass on Tuesday, instead of Wednesday, next week.

SRS Family Rosary

Every Sunday evening at 7:00 PM, SRS families are invited to join a Zoom meeting to pray the rosary. This is a wonderful opportunity to lift our entire school up in prayer. Please use Meeting ID: 902 261 7457

Passcode: 5049450

Do You Have a Drone?

St. Raphael is looking to use a drone to take aerial photos of our school and grounds for promotional materials. If you have a drone that we could use for this purpose, please call Mrs. Teixeira in the office at 763-504-9450.

Astronomy Class

The next astronomy class will be held Thursday, December 17th from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM. It will be held in the EDS classroom. Please enter through the Game Entrance doors (door #20).

Donations for Education (DFE)

Please continue to save and turn in DFE items (Box Tops, Coke codes, Country/Village Hearth bread upc codes). There are drawers in the office entry where the items can be placed. Please label with the name and grade of the student who is turning items in, as this information will continue to be tracked. Remember, you may also scan any receipts on the Box Top app and give credit to your student. Although we aren't holding contests this year, your continued support of our school is very much appreciated.



*December mental health and wellness
with Dr. Jules Nolan*

PARENTING SESSION

Healthy Parenting for a Calmer Home

December 9, 6:30 p.m. | December 14, 6 p.m.

Register at:

<https://calendly.com/drjulesnolan/healthy-parenting-for-a-calmer-home>

In this session, you will better understand what happens to our brains in times of stress, particularly the stressors related to COVID-19, remote learning and working from home. We will discuss how to model those behaviors that you want to develop in your children, and how to care for our children by caring for ourselves. You will learn concrete parenting strategies and leave with resources for yourself and your child.

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