



January 14, 2021

Dear Parents,

Peace to you in Jesus' name. It is a joy to walk around the building and feel the hum of little brains learning! Every day of in-person learning is a gift! Hard to believe - we are at the half-way point of the year! Half a school year of growth in St. Raphael and especially in the students! Just imagine: many of the kindergarteners who this week read words and sentences, half a year ago saw those same letters as squiggly lines a page! It is difficult to overstate the power of this transition. Aristotle was so convinced of the supreme importance of words, he noted that it just might be the key essential trait that sets apart from the rest of all Creation; he went so far as to call us the "animal with speech"; along with the power to love, this rational capability of language makes us humans, by nature – a social creature, able and purposed to live in loving community with one another. With this in mind, the perennial question in education circles, "Can Johnny read??", becomes ever more poignant. Speech, literacy, narrative, ideas, reading, writing are more than just the mundane activities of the schoolhouse routine – our little students are growing into their best selves, capable of profound thoughts, deep love, and heroic virtue. Step by step, word by word, we see them blossom, like one of those time-lapsed videos of a blossoming rose. I have literally witnessed a kindergartner realize for the very first time that those lines in the form of the letters "b-l-u-e" were the word for the color blue! They looked up at me with big eyes, full of awe and wonder, and turned back to read the word again. "Blue", she read. Christ-like leaders are formed one child at a time, one word at a time! What a difference a half a year makes at St. Raphael Catholic School!

**We are pleased to announce that we are moving to a continuous enrollment model!**

Having received the input of several families about how cumbersome our enrollment process has been, we have developed a new streamlined process that we believe will greatly benefit you. In a nutshell, current K- 7th grade students will be automatically registered on February 1st for the 2021-2022 school year. The 21-22 registration fee is \$100 per student, capped at \$200 per family, and will be charged through TADS on February 1st. **You do not need to do anything** unless one of these situations apply to your family:

- If you are a current family with a **new child** wanting to attend in the 2021-22 school year (PK through grade 8), please apply for admissions for that child through TADS at [www.mytads.com/a/straphaelcrystalmn](http://www.mytads.com/a/straphaelcrystalmn) beginning on December 14.

- If you are not ready to make an enrollment decision or are planning on not returning to SRS for the upcoming school year, please [fill out this form](#) by **January 15th**. You will not be automatically registered or charged the registration fee until you finalize your plans.

### **Current Pre-school Students**

Kindergarten Enrollment Credit: If you have a child currently attending St. Raphael Preschool who will be entering kindergarten next year, we have exciting news to share! Through generous donors, and our partnership with CSCOE, all families who register for 2021-2022 kindergarten by January 31, 2021 will receive a \$150 tuition credit!

Current St. Raphael Preschool students will be automatically registered once you let us know your plans for the 2021-22 school year. Please [complete this form](#) by January 15th to let us know if you will be returning to the St. Raphael Preschool program, going into our kindergarten class (and you will receive the \$150 tuition credit), or not returning next school year.

We are fortunate to be a school that is experiencing enrollment growth. Due to this, **we anticipate a number of classes with waiting lists for the 2021-2022 school year**. New families will begin enrolling during Catholic Schools Week, Sunday, January 31st - Saturday, February 6, 2021. If your family opted out of Continuous Enrollment, your child's seat is not guaranteed.

Families applying for financial aid will still need to apply through TADS. **Financial Aid Applications are available for 2021-2022**. We are asking you to apply early for your Financial Aid for the 2021-2022 school year. More options for financial aid are available the earlier you apply. Please note, you are **REQUIRED** to apply for AIM Higher to qualify for Financial Aid.

**Aim Higher:** We are pleased to announce the opening of the Aim Higher Foundation's 2021-22 scholarship application cycle! Families can now access the Aim Higher checkbox on the financial aid applications available in TADS. Please click [HERE](#) for the application process.

### **SCHULZE EARLY LEARNING SCHOLARSHIP:**

Preschool families, the Schulze Early Learning portal is now open for scholarship applications. We encourage you to apply for this very generous scholarship opportunity. If families have any questions about the program, please contact Marla Friederichs at 612-801-1431.

It's a great day to be a Saint!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Paul Dull

### **Important Dates**

January 15th - Deadline to submit Continuous Enrollment Deferral form  
January 18th - No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
January 31st - February 6th - Catholic Schools Week  
February 15th - No School - Presidents Day  
February 16th - No School - Staff Development  
February 17th - Ash Wednesday

### **COVID Report**

Parents, please remember to do a health check with your child in the morning. Check for a temperature and any sign of cough or cold before coming to school. Please keep your child home if you are at all suspicious. Our homeroom teachers will continue to temp students during homeroom attendance count. Please have your child wash their hands before leaving in the morning for school and when you get home from school. We will continue to have students wash and/or sanitize throughout the day at school as well. Finally, before heading out the door, make sure your child has the SRS gaiter or some other type of face covering/mask to wear at school. Thank you for your diligence!

### **No School on Monday!**

Please note that there is no school on Monday, January 18th. Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 19th.

### **NWEA Testing**

Winter NWEA testing will take place starting on Wednesday, January 20th and go through February 2nd. Look for more specific information from your student's teacher as to when your student will test. Some things to keep in mind are: make sure your student gets a good night's sleep, eats a good breakfast, and does not stress about the test. Middle schoolers, in addition, should charge their chromebook the night before testing.

Here is a helpful link to resources for parents:

[https://teach.mapnwea.org/assist/help\\_map/Content/AboutMAP/ParentGuidance.htm](https://teach.mapnwea.org/assist/help_map/Content/AboutMAP/ParentGuidance.htm)

### **Catholic Schools Week**

This year, Catholic Schools Week is January 31st - February 6th. Students and staff alike look forward to this week of fun, which celebrates the beauty of Catholic School. Although COVID has changed some of the traditional Catholic Schools Week activities (no all-school family dance this year), much of it will still take place. Each day there will be a themed clothing day as well as games. Stay tuned for more specific information in the weeks ahead.

### **PHT Notes**

Did you know there are other ways to support St. Raphael Catholic School? If you normally shop on Amazon.com, simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and log in with your Amazon credentials. Search for and choose *St. Raphael Catholic Church and School*. Then start shopping as you

normally would. It is the same Amazon you know and love, with an added bonus of a portion of eligible purchases being donated to our school. The amazing thing is there is no cost to you!

### **Support St. Raphael's School and the Fine Arts**

Buy tickets to a performance by Open Window Theatre through the links below and \$5 from each ticket is donated back to St. Raphael School. There is no additional charge for tickets. It's their way of giving back to the community.

Open Window Theatre is in its 7<sup>th</sup> season with a mission to perform art as a window to the Divine and bring joy through entertainment. You can read more about Open Window Theatre at [Openwindowtheatre.com](http://Openwindowtheatre.com) and find information about all their performances this season.

Due to the current COVID restrictions, they are unable to do live performances at the Theatre in Inver Grove Heights. They are offering virtual performances on multiple dates. Their current production Lolek is the captivating story of Karol Wojtyla (Pope St. John Paul II) and his heroic resistance to the Nazi Occupation of Poland during World War II. Performed virtually in cinematic 4k UHD!

To purchase tickets for virtual performances use the following link:

<https://www.stellartickets.com/events/open-window-theatre/lolek-virtual-performance?aff=raphael>

To purchase tickets for in-person performances when allowed, sometime after December 18:

#### By Phone

- Call the box office at 612-615-1515 and mention the code RAPHAEL

#### Online

- Navigate to: [openwindowtheatre.org/tickets](http://openwindowtheatre.org/tickets),
- Select your date and number of tickets
- Enter RAPHAEL in the promotional code box

### **"Saints Have Talent" Talent Show**

PHT is sponsoring the first ever "Saints Have Talent" talent show. All students are encouraged to participate by making a video of their talent and submitting it to [PHT@srsmn.org](mailto:PHT@srsmn.org) by 8:00 PM on Friday, January 29th. Please see the attached flyer for more information. Let's see our Saints shine!

### **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. You can use the Zoom app or log into [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com). Please use Meeting ID: 902 261 7457  
Passcode: 5049450

### **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.



## SHARE YOUR TALENT!

**YOU** have great talents and gifts from God, and we are hoping **YOU** will share them with us! Parents Helping Teachers (PHT) is sponsoring the 2021 Saints Have Talent show and we want **YOU** to participate.

A few things to keep in mind: You must make a video of your talent. That talent might be singing, dancing, acting, reading poetry, putting on a magic show - be creative! Don't forget to dress appropriately for your video entry, and if you're singing, make sure your song lyrics are okay for all ages. You'll want to make sure that your video is clear and your volume is up! Cell phones are one great way to record a video.

### OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- 🎥 Students in all grades may submit a video of their talent and students may work as a team. Parents/adults may be included in the submission.
- 🎥 Videos must be no longer than 3 minutes in length.
- 🎥 Submissions should be in .mp4 or .mov file format.
- 🎥 Final entries must be submitted no later than **Friday, January 29, at 8PM.**
- 🎥 Videos should be emailed to [PHT@srsmn.org](mailto:PHT@srsmn.org).

A panel of celebrities will judge the entries, and we will celebrate participants and the winners with a virtual Saints Have Talent show via Zoom on **Friday, February 5**. Prizes for the top entries will be awarded.



