



January 21, 2021

Dear Parents,

Peace to you in Jesus' name. I hope you and your family enjoyed the long weekend! Our dedicated teachers came together this past Monday to engage in some important and energizing Professional Development. We were able to come together in deep and personal prayer, rigorous and open dialogue about literacy, math, virtue formation, school culture, NWEA Testing, and we even began to launch our vision for the coming year! Our future is bright! It is my pleasure to report that these excellent teachers are not ones to "sit on their laurels" and gloat over our current successes - they press on for continuous improvement! More than ever, I witnessed a deepening sense of coming together as a community of missionary disciples and an eagerness to grow together in making St. Raphael a best in class school on every level! Don't take me wrong, this pandemic is just as hard on our teachers as it is on anyone; but they are not here for just a job - they are on a mission! Thank you to all of you parents who have reached out to express your appreciation for our teachers, little notes, treats, coffee, candles, etc. A little encouragement and appreciation goes a long way! Don't forget to take care of yourselves, as parents, as well! The best thing that you can give your child is a whole mom, and a whole dad. This pandemic is a strain, and it is now prolonged and protracted. It is easy to become weary. Make sure to take time for yourself, as much as you can. Whole families, striving side-by-side along with the school and parish, will provide for our students that whole and safe place to learn and thrive - even in these most difficult times!

It is nice to see the buses back in our parking lot! I am so happy for our community that Robbinsdale District 281 is back in session and able to provide transportation for our families. If you desire bus transportation but have not been contacted by District 281, please call our front office and let us know immediately.

Another tid-bit of good news is that the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE) is providing for us a wonderful service in taking our nearly 70 years of alumnae addresses and entering them into a database so we can connect with our wonderful alumni. In the coming months you will hear more about plans to reach out to our alumni, and possible ways you can help. We hope to connect St. Raphael's illustrious past to its bright future!

Count on my fervent and daily prayers for you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Paul Dull

Important Dates

January 25th - Parent Drive Day - No Bussing
January 31st - February 6th - Catholic Schools Week
February 15th - No School - Presidents Day
February 16th - No School - Staff Development
February 17th - Ash Wednesday

No Bus Transportation on Monday, January 25th!

There is no school for the Robbinsdale school district on Monday, January 25th. However, St. Raphael Catholic School will be in session as normal. Robbinsdale will not be providing bus service to our students on this day. Parents and guardians, if your child normally rides the bus, please make alternate arrangements for their transportation to and from school on Monday.

COVID Report

Parents, as a reminder, please call our nurse, Mary Warren, if your child is home sick and let her know what symptoms your child has. It is important for the safety of all of our families that nurse Mary Warren knows and tracks all of our students' illnesses whether they are COVID related or not. This will ultimately help us mitigate risk. Nurse Mary's office phone number is 763-504-9450 extension 355.

NWEA Testing

Winter NWEA testing began on Wednesday, January 20th and will 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

Catholic Schools Week: February 1st-Feb. 5th

MONDAY

Dress Up Theme - Sports day - students can wear clothes that represent their favorite team or sport (students can wear their uniform any day if they so choose)

Activity: Lightning Contest for Middle School

TUESDAY

Dress Up Theme - Spirit Wear Clothing - wear St. Raphael spiritwear

Activity: Game Day-Tournament Games

Rock Paper Scissors

Simon Says

Home rooms can play board games in the afternoon if they so choose

WEDNESDAY

Dress Up Theme - Formal or "Sunday Best" Day/Uniform Day

Activity: Kick Ball Staff vs 7th and 8th

THURSDAY

Dress Up Theme - Culture Day - students can dress up in clothing that represents their culture or heritage

Activity: Outdoor sledding - students can bring their own sleds and we will sled down the hill out on the athletic fields. There will also be a medallion hunt in each wing (PreK-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th).

FRIDAY

Dress Up Theme - Comfy Day (No pajamas, or ripped jeans)

Activity: All school bingo

PHT Notes

Because of the limitations on gathering in person, it significantly impacts our ability to have fundraisers in person and our funds are depleted. We are looking for donations of prizes to refresh and update the PHT prize vault. We plan to give these prizes away during the various online activities we have coming up between now and the end of the school year. Suggested donations: gift cards to DQ, coffee shops, Amazon, grocery stores, or restaurants in any amount; accessories for phones or tablets, activity baskets with new crayons, markers, paints; baskets that are adult and child themed; new outdoor equipment like basketballs, footballs, soccer balls. Basically, anything you or your students would enjoy winning as a prize!

"Saints Have Talent" Talent Show

Get those cameras rolling! 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 by 8:00 PM on Friday, January 29th. Please see the attached flyer for more information. Let's see our Saints shine!

Saints Sweatshirts!

Gray hooded Saints sweatshirts are available for purchase for our 5th-8th grade students. The order form will be going home with 5th-8th grade students on Friday, January 22nd. Order forms with payment are due back to school no later than Friday, February 5th. Please note, there is a minimum order of 12 required. If there are not enough orders to submit, your payment will be returned to you.

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. 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.

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.



