



January 14, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have completed our second week of school following Christmas break. Students are settling back into routines and we are looking forward to starting our NWEA testing next week. As has been reported, the Omicron variant of COVID-19 is more contagious than the previous variants. Communities in general are seeing an uptick in cases, especially following the Christmas and New Year holidays. Our SRS community is no different. From the start of the school year through December, we had no positive COVID cases in our school.

This past week we had our first positive COVID-19 cases reported. As of today, we currently have 11 students out with positive cases and three staff members with positive cases. Upon each report of a positive case, we do communicate with the families from the affected classroom that someone has tested positive. Currently, we are requesting each individual with a positive case of COVID-19 to quarantine for seven days and each sibling student to quarantine for five to seven days depending on the circumstances.

Please continue to monitor your child for any symptoms (sore throat, runny nose, headache, cough, or fever). If your child develops or has any of these symptoms, please keep them home and we encourage you to get them tested. If you need help getting a test, please call or email Mrs. Teixeira in the school office: 763-504-9450 or holly.teixeira@srsmn.org. In addition, if your child does test positive for COVID-19, please contact our COVID Response Coordinator, Jason Finne, at 651-488-6064 or email him: jason.finne@srsmn.org.

Thank you for your patience and continued support as we work through this latest surge. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us.

In Christ,
Mike McGinty, Principal

Important Dates

January 14th - Middle School Retreat
January 17th - Parent Drive Day - **School is in session!!**
January 28th - No School - Staff Development
January 31st - February 4th - Catholic Schools Week
February 21st - No School - Presidents' Day
March 2nd - Ash Wednesday
March 4th - End of Trimester 2
March 9th - VFW Steak Fry
March 10th - Parent/Teacher Conferences
March 11th - No School - Staff Development
March 21st-25th - No School - Spring Break

School is in Session on Monday!

Please note, yes, we do have school this Monday, January 17th. It is a parent drive day. We are taking the opportunity on this day to celebrate and teach civil rights and the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

PHT

Our PHT (Parents Helping Teachers) group met on Wednesday night. This is a group of parent volunteers who support the teachers and school with different fundraisers throughout the year. They also plan fun family activities to help build school community, in addition to providing opportunities to serve others. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month at 6:30 PM in the cafeteria. Every parent is invited to join. Please consider coming to the next meeting on February 9th. We are currently seeking nominations for the PHT Executive Board: Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Please email your nominations to holly.teixeira@srsmn.org by February 2nd.

New Spanish and 4th/5th Grade Religion Teacher

Tricia Lyngen, our new 4th and 5th grade Religion teacher and K-8 Spanish Teacher, started this past week. We are thrilled to welcome her to St. Raphael Catholic School. Tricia has jumped right in - it is fun to watch her engage the students in Spanish, even in the hallways. She was previously a Theology Teacher at DeLaSalle High School in Minneapolis.

"Hello! I am Tricia Lyngen, and I am an alumna of the College of St. Benedict where I ran track and cross country and studied Communication, Spanish, and English. I then went to the Saint John's School of Theology where I obtained an MA in Theology majoring in Spirituality and minoring in Systematics. I have another MA in Education from St. Mary's University. I have a graduate certificate in English as a Second Language, and I completed my Advanced Pastoral Spanish certificate from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis with an immersion experience in San Cristóbal de las Casas in Chiapas, Mexico.

I am excited to teach your children! I feel so welcomed and at home at St. Raphael's. I am a Benedictine Oblate through Saint Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph. I am also a Spiritual Director who was trained at the Spirituality Center at Saint Benedict's.

I am married to C.J. Lyngen, and we have two College of Saint Benedict Bennie daughters, Leah CSB 2023, and Lucy CSB 2024. In my spare time I enjoy running, cooking, gardening, watching sports, reading, praying, and hiking."

2022-2023 Enrollment

Enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year has begun. Current families are automatically re-enrolled. If you are unsure of your plans for next year, you can defer the automatic enrollment. Click [here](#) to fill out the 2022-2023 Enrollment Deferral form. It can also be accessed through our website under Admissions>Continuous Enrollment Deferral 2022-2023. The deadline to defer is February 15th . If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Teixeira in the school office.

NWEA Testing

Kindergarten - 8th grade students will be taking the Winter NWEA tests this month beginning January 18th and will continue for 3 weeks. Testing will finish by January 28th. NWEA tests are assessments that measure growth and proficiency in math, reading and language usage. Each class will have a different testing schedule. Look for more information from classroom teachers about when your child will be testing. Please make sure your child gets a good night's rest, and eats a healthy breakfast before the assessments. Also, emphasize they do not need to stress out about them, they just need to do their best. This [link](#) will take you to practice tests so your student knows what to expect and parents can also see what the assessments look like.

Middle School Retreat

Our 6th - 8th grade students will be attending an all day Middle School Retreat in Marian Hall today. Lunch is provided. Our middle school religion teacher, Mrs. McClure, has put together a wonderful program, *Created By Love In Love & For Love*. There will also be quiet time for prayer, and the day will end with Mass.

Catholic Schools Week

This year, Catholic Schools Week is January 31st - February 4th. Students and staff alike look forward to this week of fun, which celebrates the beauty of Catholic School. Each day there will be a themed clothing day as well as games and special activities. A schedule of activities for each day will be out

Donations For Education (DFE)

Please continue to collect traditional box tops or receipts (scanned through the app) from General Mills products, coke product codes, and Village/Country Hearth bread UPCs. Our next contest will be after the rake-a-thon.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school!

