



***Saint Michael Catholic School***

Academic Excellence and Catholic Values Since 1889

21 Sixth Street, Lowell, MA 08150

Office: 978-453-9511

**Memo From the Principal**

*Wednesday, September 8, 2021*

Dear Saint Michael School Parents, Faculty and Staff:

We just completed the first three days of classes of this brand-new academic year. Yesterday we completed our first full day and I am happy to report that we are off to a great start.

Here are a few news bulletins for the week:

**First School Mass of the Year is Today**

**8:15 AM in Saint Michael Church**

***Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary***

This first School Mass will be led by our Eighth Grade, the Class of 2022. We thank all our eight-graders and especially Ms. Decoteau, our Eighth-Grade Homeroom teacher, for their leadership.

**Drop Off and Dismissal**

This has gone smoothly for the most part. Just a quick reminder on the dismissal times:

- PREK-3 2:05
- PREK-4 2:10
- K – 8 2:15-2:30

## **Lunch Schedule**

- PreK3 – PreK4 10:45 – 11:10 (PreK students stay in their classrooms and hot lunch is brought over to the classrooms for those who ordered it.)
- K- Grade 2 10:45 - 11:10 Cafeteria
- Grades 3-5 11:15 - 11:40 Cafeteria
- Grades 6-8 11:45 - 12;10 Cafeteria

**Lunch Cost:** All Saint Michael School students receive a subsidy if your child purchases a hot lunch at our cafeteria. The cafeteria charges \$4.00 per lunch but the actual cost to the School, including food, food service and staff is about \$4.75. Fortunately, we are One Community with Saint Michael Parish whose many generous donors make up the difference between the actual cost of lunch and what we charge.

We also want to be sure every child who wants a hot lunch, receives one. Please contact me directly and in confidence if your family requests additional assistance with the lunch cost.

And let's give a huge round of applause to all the cafeteria staff who serve our children: Holly, Beverlee and Kimberly, along with our custodians Dave and Mari Ellen

## **Extended Day**

The playground gates are now locked after regular dismissal, so please pick up your child at the front door on Read Street. Just ring the bell and one of the staff will come out.

## **Parent Volunteers**

We welcome any parent who wishes to volunteer, especially in the areas of lunch duty, recess, sports, extended day or library. If you are interested, please email me: [mrocha@saint-michael.com](mailto:mrocha@saint-michael.com)

## **COVID, Health and Safety**

Thank you very much for cooperating with the current mask policy for all to wear masks inside the school building. I'm glad to report that your children have been very cooperative, from P3 to Grade 8.

While the news in certain parts of our nation is worrisome, with rapidly rising cases and deaths, this morning's data for the Boston metro,

Middlesex County and New Hampshire indicate significant declines in the moving 14-day average of new cases and exceedingly few deaths. This is not a reason to let down our guard, so we will continue our mask policy until the Archdiocese of Boston alters its current guidance to Catholic schools.

Since our goal is to have a completely normal school year, except for masks, we will continue our policy of “Trust the Parents” with simple, common-sense guidelines:

- I strongly recommend that everyone in your family and circle get vaccinated.
- If your child has flu-like symptoms, please keep them home until they are cleared by a COVID test to return to class. We will not have online learning this year, but our teachers will make sure absent students get their assignments, as they always have done in normal years.
- We do not have a specific travel policy but I do recommend you limit travel. Take common-sense precautions and if someone in your family exhibits symptoms or if you have travelled to states with high rates of infection, please get the family tested.
- I am just as concerned about the “regular” flu season. Now is the time for your flu shot, so please consider getting one. Flu shots for all teachers and staff will be available next week at no cost.
- ***We have a new Nurse!*** Her name is Stephany Godfrey. She is a licensed and certified Nursing Assistant who has worked in the Catholic Medical Center and for New England Pediatric Care. She was trained at the Salter School of Nursing where she received her Certificate in Practical Nursing. Stephany herself attended Catholic school. Stephany steps in for Kelsey Valente who recently left SMS to raise her growing family; she is soon to have a second child. We thank Nurse Kelsey for her service to SMS and we pray God’s blessing for her and her family in the future.

## **Events on the Horizon**

Sept 16, 6PM: Parent Open House, Grades 1-8. Come meet your child's teacher and receive an orientation to the year ahead.

Sept 23, 7PM: PTO Meeting. I look forward to attending and to discussing how we can connect parents to the School.

You can view all the School events for the entire year at our SMS website:  
<https://school.saint-michael.com/calendar.html>

That's the news for this Tuesday evening. I thank you for the hard work you do to support your family and to bring your children to Saint Michael School. Text, call or email if you need assistance of any kind.

Sincerely yours,

*Mark*

Mark Rocha, Principal  
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