



Saint Michael Catholic School

Since 1889

21 Sixth Street, Lowell, MA 08150

Office: 978-453-9511

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

**START OF SCHOOL INFORMATION
Academic Year 2021-2022**

*Featuring Essential Advance Information on the Three C's:
Calendar, Cafeteria and COVID*

Theme for the Year:

*We are returning to a NORMAL school year in all things
(except for masks in the building for all in the school building at all times)*

Dear Saint Michael School Parents, Friends, Faculty and Staff:

With the start of school only a week away, all of us here at Saint Michael School are working on the full policies and procedure for the new school year.

Today, I write to give you a boiled down version of the “news you can use” to get the year started. Here I am sharing the basic facts with you the moment I know them. We will be posting on our website an expanded version of this information later this week.

If there is something I have missed or if you have any questions, please call or email me directly: 917-880-9648 or mrocha@saint-michael.com.

We will be in the office 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM on August 26 and August 27 if you would like to drop in to take care of any business. The office phone: 978-453-9511

Here's an important word about the process we will use at Saint Michael School to make decisions. Together we have created a Faculty/Staff Council with three committees: Calendar, Cafeteria and Covid. These committees were provided with the input which nearly a hundred parents kindly gave to me, Mary Frances and Father Chris during the three Open Houses we held this summer. These Faculty/Staff Council committees have formulated these recommendations by consensus, then consulted

with me. My final step is to bring my decision to Father Chris for his consultation and final approval.

After the start of the school year, I will meet with the PTO to appoint parent representatives to the Faculty/Staff Council to be sure that we have consultation with all school stakeholders. My pledge is complete transparency in the way we make plans— together.

You have my sincere gratitude for the hard work you do to support your family and to provide a Saint Michael School education for your children. The faculty, staff and I will work just as hard to continue to merit your confidence.

CALENDAR

MONDAY, AUGUST 30

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 8AM – 10AM | PK3, PK4, Kindergarten Orientation
(By appointments already assigned and sent to you.) |
| 8AM – 11AM | Grades 1-8: Drop of Supplies at School
(Required list of supplies on website.) |

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 12:00 Noon | Meeting and Lunch for All Faculty/Staff/Specialists/Aides
(School is closed.) |
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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 7:45 AM | First Day of School (Half-Day), Dismissal at 11AM |
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***Please note the Dress Code
for Wednesday, Sept 1st through Friday, Sept 10
“Gym Dress” for Boys and Girls:
Saint Michael’s T-Shirt and Shorts, Casual Shoes.
All students must be in full uniform
starting Monday, September 13th.***

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

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|---------|---------------------------------------|
| 7:45 AM | Half-Day of School, Dismissal at 11AM |
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

School Closed.

MONDAY, SEPTMBER 6

Labor Day. School Closed

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

7:45 AM

All Classes Resume. First Full Day of School.

CAFETERIA

- We will return to normal cafeteria and hot lunch service in the Church for all students in K-8, starting with the first full day of school, September 7th.
- PK3 and PK4 will remain in their classrooms for lunch.
- Nut Allergies:
 - No nuts will be permitted in the PK3 and PK4 classrooms at any time.
 - The cafeteria will have a table set-aside for students with nut allergies.
- Hot Lunch Cost for 2021-2020: \$4.00
- Hot Lunch subsidized tickets available for those who request them. Our goal is to ensure that every student, regardless of means, has an opportunity for a hot lunch every day. If your family needs assistance with the lunch cost, please email me in confidence by Wednesday, September 1st. Saint Michael Parish is fortunate to have “guardian angel” donors who will provide a student in need with lunch for a month.
- Students will also have the option of a less expensive “snack lunch”.
- Students may bring lunch from home any day and do not have to purchase from the cafeteria.

COVID

I want to thank Nurse Kelsey and the “Covid Committee” for developing these commonsense rules for a healthy and safe school year, or until the pandemic is entirely behind us. These are the basics. There is much more that can be said but I am trying to keep it clear and simple.

1. ***All masks, all the time for all employees, faculty, staff, parents, visitors and of course ALL students, all the time, inside of the school building.*** Effective for all on Monday, August 30th. Students are required to provide their own, plain masks.
2. Masks are not required when outside at any time or for eating.
3. Vaccinations are strongly recommended but not mandated. His Holy Father, Pope Francis has called getting a vaccination “an act of love”.
4. This will be a normal school year with all instruction delivered in-person at the school site at all times. There will be no online instruction offered. If due to documented illness or injury only, your child misses more than a week of school, the teachers will zoom briefly with the student to offer assignments and keep the child up with the class.
5. If your child is ill with the usual common flu symptoms, please keep them at home as you would during any normal flu season in any normal year. The only difference is you must present a negative Covid test to return to school.

As recently as this past Fourth of July we were all hopeful that this pandemic was over. Today of course it is far from over. Despite the weariness and frustration that each of us feels, we must move forward together and work together as one community to protect the health and safety of your children. I will soon form a Health and Safety Committee of faculty, staff and parents to monitor the situation throughout the year.

Again, the slogan for the year is, *Except for masks in the building, a normal year.*

You will be hearing from me again soon with more news on the new academic year, all of it hopeful and optimistic. Enjoy these last days of summer with your family in safety.

Sincerely,

Mark

Mark Rocha
School Principal