



# ST. ROSE OF LIMA SCHOOL

Rooted in Faith. Thriving in Academics.

August 9, 2019

**RE: 20 Days and Counting: Greetings St. Rose School Families**

**Dear St. Rose Families,**

I hope you have all been enjoying some fun, sun and R & R this Summer. It is with great joy that we anticipate opening our doors to the 2019-2020 school year in three short weeks. We are looking forward to a year of growth both academically and spiritually.

Thank you for choosing St. Rose of Lima School for your family. Here, you are not simply enrolling your child in school, you are joining a community that is rich in Catholic tradition, strong Catholic Education, and committed to serving one another as living examples of Catholic faith. This sense of community pervades all that we do at St. Rose School. As parents, you are the first and most important teachers of your children. We believe that St. Rose School shares with the home, the Church, and the greater community, the responsibility for the total development of the student. Only by working together will our children find success.

I am extremely excited about the upcoming school year. This will be my second year as Principal at St. Rose School. This year with God's help the administration and faculty will move St. Rose to even greater heights and produce more meaningful learning opportunities for your children.

We are delighted that the church construction project is officially complete. The newly paved parking lot looks beautiful. Our arrival and dismissal procedures for car walk and buses is being revised based on this new format; changes will be communicated to you in the first newsletter on August 23rd. We appreciate everyone's cooperation with this to ensure maximum efficiency and safety at these busy times of the school day.

The school building has been thoroughly cleaned including freshly waxed floors.

Here are some key dates and updates for your information:

## **Dates**

- August 22 – 10:00 a.m. – Kindergarten Orientation
- August 28th – first day of school; 11:30 a.m. dismissal
- August 29th – 6:30 p.m. – Preschool Orientation
- September 2nd – Labor Day Parade (march with St. Rose School!)
- September 12th – 6:00-8:00 p.m. – HSA Meeting/Back to School Night
- [CLICK HERE](#) for the 2019-2020 school calendar for additional dates

## **Curriculum Update**

- *Technology* – Mrs. Gina Quinn will be Director of Innovation and In-house Tech support in addition to teaching Social Studies for Grades 6,7 & 8. Mrs. Quinn will partner with Ms. Joan Williams, Technology and STEM expert at the Diocese of Bridgeport. Ms. Williams comes with extensive experience working in schools from teaching to administration to coaching with a focus on STEM and technology integration. She's already started this summer by giving

guidance on our Innovation Zones and supporting teachers with technology issues.

- *Innovation Lab* – Every grade level will have class time in the Innovation Lab with Mrs. Quinn. Through a grant from the Diocese, additional equipment (including a 3D printer and Green Screen) costing approximately \$10,000 will be available by the end of September.
- *Google Suite* – will be implemented across all grade levels for assignments.
- *Chromebooks for 6th Grade* – Phasing out individual devices and offering In- house Chromebooks for all 6th grade students.
- *Infrastructure upgrade in place* – WIFI, phone, PA, and security camera upgrades fully engaged for enhanced safety and learning. We are thankful to Monsignor Bob, the Diocese and our HSA for covering the \$125,000 cost of this most important project.
- *Progress reports* – to keep parents informed we are reinstating monthly progress reports in addition to quarterly report cards.
- *PE Class* – Grades K-4 will have PE 2x/week; grades 5-8 will have one extra PE class every other week (alternate with Innovation Lab)

## Communications

- *Weekly Friday Newsletter* – Will remain primary vehicle of communication; format is being altered to be more succinct with links for additional information.
- *E-mail Blasts* – Mrs. Wong will continue to use these for important and immediate information distribution.
- *Appointments with Mr. Gjoka and Mrs. Bokuniewicz* – please email Mrs. Wong to set appointments. Our goal is to reserve meeting time, as much as possible, to before and after school hours. This is the same for email responses. Of course, there will be exceptions for special circumstances. Thank you.
- *Facebook* – the school posts a variety of events, awards, alumni spotlights and other news on StRoseofLimaSchool. Please like and follow us on FB.
- *Instagram* – the school recently started an Instagram account, srsnewtownct, please follow us.

Spread the word! Please tell your friends and family about St. Rose School. Encourage them to come for a tour, [admissions@srles.com](mailto:admissions@srles.com).

We are currently enrolling for Preschool 3 and 4-year-old programs as well as for the Transitional Kindergarten (5's) program.

## Athletics

- The cheer and basketball seasons will get underway quickly. If your child is interested in participating in either of these programs, click here for details. Updated medical forms are required for all student athletes.
- Free Preseason workshops open to all boys/girls in Grades 5-8 who are interested in learning about the program and meeting the coaches. **[CLICK HERE](#)** for more information and registration.
- *Boys JV (5th/6th grade)* – Saturday August 17, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- *Boys Varsity (7th/8th grade)* – Saturday August 17, 11:30-1:00 p.m.
- *Girls Varsity (5th-8th grade)* – Monday August 19, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Email [athletics@stroseschool.com](mailto:athletics@stroseschool.com) to reserve your spot.

## Labor Day Parade/Float

In keeping with tradition, St. Rose School will enter a float in the Labor Day parade. This year's theme is Service so our float will feature various ways in which St. Rose School students provide service to our communities. Help is needed with building/decorating the float; if you are interested contact [advancement@srles.com](mailto:advancement@srles.com). Students and families are encouraged to dress in red & white and march with us. Let's show Newtown our SRS spirit

## Events/Fundraisers – Closing the GAP

As you know, there is an \$1,881 Gap between the cost of tuition and the actual cost of educating every student.

The cost of educating one student minus the rate of tuition for one student: **\$8,226 - \$6,345 = \$1,881 GAP**

We are committed to keeping tuition increases to a minimum so there is a need to fill this GAP in other ways. This year we will roll out the Blooms Fund, which is an account that is used by the school to cover a range of expenses including operational, curriculum enhancements, professional development, technology upgrades – essentially everything that is key to keeping St. Rose School current and viable. We are counting on all St. Rose families to support the Blooms Fund during the year; no donation is too small. Help get the word out to family and friends whose support is critical to our strong future. We will reveal more details at Back to School Night.

Other ways to help are signing up for programs such as *Amazon Smile* and *Stop & Shop Rewards*. Don't forget about the *Scrip* program either – all places we shop frequently and by taking a few minutes to create an account you can earn extra dollars for St. Rose School. Thank you!

I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our teachers who have spent many hours this summer preparing lessons and organizing their classrooms in anticipation of the start of a new school year. Special thanks go out to our Dean of Student Life, Mrs. Mary Jo Bokuniewicz, our Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Fran Wong, our Admissions Coordinator, Mrs. Karen Coppola, Our Mission Advancement Director, Mrs. Laura Moulder, our Bookkeeper, Mr. Larry Rice, and our Director of Innovation and In-House Technology Director Mrs. Gina Quinn, who have accomplished many behind the scenes organizational tasks this summer to get ready for the opening of school.

I think that's enough information to digest for now. Please keep an eye out for our first Friday newsletter on August 23rd. We are really excited to see everyone back in our halls on August 28th.

God bless,



Mr. Bardhyl Gjoka  
Principal

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St Rose School, [www.stroseschool.com](http://www.stroseschool.com)  
[CLICK HERE](#) for the 2019-2020 St. Rose School Calendar