

Dear St. Rose Families,

Books and supplies are being delivered while teachers are busy getting classrooms ready in excited anticipation of seeing their students in a few week! Knowing the hallways and classrooms will soon be filled with the chatter and laughter of the children seems to be the driving force of getting things, prepared for a safe return on September 2!

Thank you to those parents who have reached out with questions and ideas! Please, if you do not see something you would like answered being addressed, or you have a helpful hint to share with other parents, send it to dean@srles.com so that we might include it in upcoming newsletters. This week I want to share an idea from 6th grade parent, Elesa Malo, who sent me this picture of a few ideas for handling masks during the school day. We know that there is a chance that a mask might have to be replaced during the day; here is a way to store one that needs to be taken back home for washing, and having a spare ready to wear the rest of the day.



Shout out to our Class of 2021:

As we get closer to beginning the school year; we also get closer to our 8th graders planning their next educational adventure...high school!! Included into today's newsletter is the link to an informational letter and registration form regarding the High School Placement Test Prep Course being offered at St. Rose. This information is also being sent via email to 8th graders and their parents.

Uniforms and Masks:

- *Warm Weather Uniforms will be extended to November 1 for this school year.*
- *After November 1, NO TIES will be required for the boys; however, there may be a day or two where they are asked to wear them (picture day, special event).*
- *Please be sure to use our Uniform Exchange when preparing your child(ren)'s back to school wardrobe! uniforms@srles.com*
- *We are not requiring a specific mask to be purchased.*
 - *Masks should follow CDC guidelines.*
 - *Selecting their own mask can make it easier to get a child to wear a mask each day. We ask that all masks are conducive to learning; no distracting patterns, and school appropriate (similar to t-shirts on dress down days; with appropriate designs/logos/patterns).*

This is the recent update, about masks, from the Diocese Re-Opening Plan

“Children in grades K-8 may be permitted to remove masks at designated times during class time instruction if 6 feet distancing is achieved and with all students facing in the same direction. The teacher will alert students to when this designated time begins and ends.”

As we have mentioned, there will be mask breaks for the children during the day. Classroom teachers will go over the routine for these with the children in those first days..

This week we also have these tips from our School Counselor, Heidi Verdi:

Like so many life skills we are teaching our children today, a very important one right now is wearing a mask. Wearing a mask for a long period of time is a skill that takes time and practice to learn and master. We recommend parents encourage their kids to practice wearing their masks while driving around in the car for an hour, watching a movie or reading a book, gradually increasing the amount of time and allowing the child to become comfortable with it on his face. Use positive language about mask wearing such as “Things at school will be different, yet we know you can manage wearing it with practice”.

Choosing a mask can become a fun part of school shopping and preparation. Find a mask that represents the child's personality or interests. Masks should go around the ears, find one your child feels comfortable wearing. Some of our local shop owners are selling child size masks including Queen Street Gifts in Newtown and Grace & Strength in Sandy Hook.

Art Supplies:

- *Please have students bring art supplies to school this year. These may or may not be on the supply list for your grade. If you are already purchasing any of these items for classroom use; you do not need to purchase a second item just for art. Art supplies include:*
 - *A plastic folder for art work - any color*
 - *Glue sticks*
 - *Colored pencils (box of 12 or 24)*
 - *Markers (sharpies are ok for older students), thin and/or thick Washable markers recommended for grades Pre-K to 2nd grade.*
 - *Crayons*
 - *Scissors appropriate for your child (5" or less)*
 - *Tape (Scotch brand or similar)*
 - *White school glue - small bottle*
 - *12 inch ruler for grades 3 -8*

Arrival and Dismissal:

- *We are currently working on a no contact sign out for car walk. Families will be asked to have the family name placard in their car. This year we are looking into adding a barcode so that the car walk monitors can easily scan the code to record who is being picked up at what time. The safety of our children continue to be the driving factor on the decisions being made for procedures.*
- *Recent information from the bus company:*
 - *Students wear masks while on bus.*
 - *In the morning, as students board bus, first ones on will sit in rear seats on bus and seats will be filled in moving forward.*
 - *In afternoon, students will sit on bus according to drop off, starting with students with first drop off sitting in the front.*

We are counting down the days until our halls are filled again! While some things have changed, we are working to bring that familiar St. Rose spirit throughout to help our students settle into the new year. What better way than to see the smiling faces of friends from summer! Mrs. Locke is requesting ONE digital photo of your family or your student(s) to include on our back to school bulletin board. Photos must be received by August 28, 2020 Please send all photos to art@srles.com.

There are still weeks of summer to be discovered; I wish you sunny days for adventures and making more memories with family and friends!

Kind Regards! Stay Well!

Mrs. B