



August 26, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to welcome everyone back for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Though so much has seemingly changed over the last six months, we know we can count on the same mission of what St. Francis Xavier School has been for the history of this school– Christ being central to everything we do. We know that educating the whole child requires addressing the spiritual development as well as the academic to grow children who become virtuous adults with a Catholic worldview.

Our teachers and staff are working very hard to prepare for the return of students, and I cannot thank them enough for their dedication to making SFX a special place. We say goodbye to Beckie Wimmer, Holly O'Donnell, and Mary Bielaczyc, each having left a wonderful impact on our school during their time on staff. We welcome new teachers Maggie Brophy – Kindergarten, and Tricia Robinson – 7th & 8th grade Religion. Additionally Taylor Oberman and Ashlee Niswander will be sharing librarian responsibilities. There are many other changes; some I have already shared in our Back to School Plan. A few additional key points that I will share with you prior to our first week of school.

- The first day of school is Monday, August 31.
- Be sure to complete and sign the "COVID-19 School Health Screening Agreement" prior to the first day of school. This signed agreement needs to be on file in order for your child to attend school on the first day.
- Teachers will arrive outside at designated entrances at 7:45 a.m. to welcome students. The first bell is 7:55 a.m. Students will be dismissed from the same locations at the end of the day – dismissal bell at 3:05 p.m. ****See the attached map for grade level morning welcome and end of day dismissal locations.***
- All students will need to enter the school building with a mask on (labeled with their name).
- Students will be eating lunch in their classrooms this year. Hot Lunch is available through Chartwell's starting the first week of school (Aug 31, Sep 1, Sep 2). If your child brings cold lunch, lunch boxes will need to be washed/ sanitized each night. Note that there are not microwaves available in classrooms as there were in the cafeteria, so plan your lunches accordingly.

- This school year, we will have two school Masses during the week so that we distribute our students between two days. Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. we will have a Mass for our 4th - 8th grade students, and Fridays at 8:30 a.m. we will have a Mass for our Kindergarten – 3rd grade students. Parents are welcome to attend, with available seating in the back of the church. The first school Mass will be Wednesday, September 9.
- **Thursday, September 3rd is a virtual day.** Lessons and class meetings will be posted to the online learning platforms. Student attendance will be taken on this day based on participation. If you need to sign out a laptop computer for your child to participate in their lessons, please let your child's teacher know ASAP.
- The Holy Childhood bus will offer pick-up and drop-off service between SFX and Holy Childhood of Jesus Parish starting with the first week of school.
- Our technology director, Christine Swiss is sharing an order form with all of you for laptop computers. Anyone that would like to purchase a school model computer for their student to use in the classroom without need of sharing will be able to do so. Orders for laptop computers will be collected until September 10.
- Middle School students will not have band the first week of school. Band classes at Petoskey Middle School will begin after Labor Day.

One of the great joys for me to work in education is to see the eagerness of children to learn, and ultimately the growth they show over time to develop their God given talents. I look forward to the return of students in our school building and the business of cultivating faith in community.

Yours in Christ,

Adam Dobrowolski