

St. Francis Xavier Newsletter

St. Francis Xavier School with family partnership is dedicated to the development of the whole child through the spiritual and academic excellence of Catholic education.

September 25, 2020

Father Gregory McCallum - 347-4133 Adam Dobrowolski- 347-3651 ext. 426 School Office-347-3651

Dear Families,

With so much preparation going into planning for the return to school during this past summer, it has been a relief in many respects to have our students participating in face-to-face learning. There is much we have had to adjust to. Figuring out how students would enter the building, switch classes, eat lunch, dismiss at the end of the day, and sanitize and wash hands at multiple points throughout the day all needed to be thought through.

There are many annual events on our calendar that we have had to rethink and adjust. Offering weekly school Masses for our students is a critical component to school life. We are getting used to having two separate Masses for our younger students and older students. Parents are welcome to join us with the available seating in the back of the church.

For our school families that are seeking out Sacrament preparation for their children, the Diocese has allowed us to move forward with conducting Sacrament prep in our religion classes for students preparing for First Communion, Confirmation, and First Reconciliation.

Next week, we will be meeting to begin planning for the 2020-2021 fundraising plans. Since we postponed our March 2020 auction to this past July, we are operating on a new timetable, and assessing the best way to move forward to reach our goals for raising revenue. To cover the annual operational expenses of the school, we have established the following revenue targets: up to 40 percent from parish subsidizing the school costs, 40 percent from tuition, and 20 percent from fundraising. In the coming weeks, you will get more information on the fundraising event plans, and you will receive your family allotment of raffle tickets to sell.

I would like you to be aware that I am in regular contact with the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, as are other school administrators from our region. We have a weekly conference call and I am made aware of the weekly status of COVID-19 in the state and for our region. If in the future we

have confirmed cases in the school, or a higher prevalence of risk in our community, our school will be in consultation with public health officials as well as the Diocese of Gaylord prior to any decisions on school closures, or student quarantines. I get a lot of questions for what will happen if we have confirmed cases in the school, or if there are "outbreaks" (defined as multiple cases that are not connected to one another). What I can tell you is that the health departments throughout the state will use a matrix for determining recommendations for schools based on the circumstances to help guide the response. Despite this tool though, we expect that there will be a level of judgement that accompanies this matrix, so each situation will be handled on a case by case basis.

We are limited in providing parent access into the school during our regular school day, though parent teacher conferences are coming soon on October 15. The required health screening for visitors entering the building will be adhered to when we host conferences. You will be receiving information from your child's teacher regarding scheduling time for conferences.

Thank you for your support and commitment that you bring to the St. Francis Xavier community. The partnership between school and families is so important to the education of children.

"Family partnership" is in our school mission statement, and a great amount of synergy is created by knowing that we can count on one another in facilitating the development of our children. Teaching our students about our Catholic faith provides opportunity to develop a personal relationship with Christ. During our current time as much as ever, we need young people to develop a strong moral foundation, who will one day contribute to society as virtuous adults.

Yours in Christ,

Adam Dobrowolski, principal

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KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Background checks and Virtus/Fingerprinting:

Background checks and Virtus are required before you volunteer for playground duty. If you have not updated your background check in the past five years, please contact the office to fill out new forms. These forms can also be found on our website under volunteer requirements. All school families must work 4 lunch shifts throughout the year. Please call or email the office to sign up on the office calendar so we can track your hours.

Parking: Just a reminder to parents that the parking meters will be enforced from 9am-6pm. The forgiveness times that you will not be ticketed for an expired meter are at drop off and pick up times: 10:45-11:15, 11:45-12:15 and 2:45-3:15.

New Procedures: Currently we are asking that parents refrain from coming into the building - if you need to pick your child(ren) up early please press the buzzer to speak with the office and we will bring your child(ren) to you. Thank you for your understanding as we navigate these new protocols.

Masks on school grounds: We ask that parents mask up at pick up/drop off times and socially distance from other families. Children need to wear their masks while entering & exiting the building, and in common areas or when in close proximity to others.

Late for school: If your child misses their teacher at their designated door they can go around to the front of the school and buzz into the office and we will guide them to their classroom. Students should be at their designated door at 7:55, when the first bell rings.

Hot Lunch: With hot lunch being offered for free through December, some students are coming with a packed cold lunch and deciding at lunch time to also get hot lunch without being counted in the morning. In order to get a correct morning count please talk with your student prior to school on whether you'd like them to have cold or hot lunch. A hot lunch calendar should have come home in your child's Friday folder, or you can view it online at petoskeyschools.org, and click on *food service* under the *departments* tab.

Safety on Playground after School:

Please remember that staff can't leave children unattended after school. Parents must be here by 3:05 at dismissal to pick up their children. If you need afterschool care, please contact our child development center to see if they have availability. Also, the playground is off limits to children after school as it will be in use by the CDC.



We are so blessed and thankful for the scholarship funds donated by the Harbor Springs Knights of Columbus to both SFX & St. Michaels. Thank you!

The generosity we have received this year has been absolutely astounding, and such a blessing! We are so thankful for all of those who donated funds towards the rolling gate for our playground, computers, and the electrostatic sanitizer. During these unprecedented times it is uplifting to know we have such a strong support system in place here at SFX in order to give our children everything they need to be safe & successful. Thank you for all you do!

Upcoming dates:

- 10/2** P.T.O. Fall Fun Run
Interim Reports go home
Pet Blessing-2:50 on the blacktop behind the school.
- 10/15** Parent Teacher Conferences 4-8PM
- 10/16** ½ day of school, dismissal at 11:40
(No Petoskey bussing)
- 10/30** 4th Grade Raffle-All school Non-uniform day