

St. Francis School 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 November 20, 2020

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

Dear Families,

For a number of months now, we have heard health officials and prognosticators predicting a surge of COVID-19 once the weather began getting colder and coinciding with our traditional cold and flu seasons. As you are likely aware, this prediction is becoming reality, as we have seen a rise in COVID-19 cases in our region and throughout the country over the last month. Our school though unscathed early in this school year, has had confirmed cases that we communicated last week and a growing number of students now that have had to quarantine over the last month.

Everyone has encountered challenges due to this pandemic, and as a school, we have had our share of challenges to try to overcome. Our main mission has always focused on how to best meet the needs of our students, specifically developing our students spiritually and academically. Because in-person learning best serves the needs of our students, we will continue to take the necessary steps within our school to work with our local health officials and follow the state protocols. We rely on our partnership with you, our school families, to do your part to minimize risk outside of our school. Be aware of activities that are higher risk such as indoor social gatherings, so that you can help us to minimize potential exposure to our school. Also, familiarize yourself with the COVID-19 quarantine protocols. See the attached *If You Test Positive for COVID-19*.

Our school teaching staff has always been well equipped to teach students in person and this is where our primary attention lies. We are prepared to transition to remote learning in the event of a temporary shutdown or whole class quarantine. Students that are required to quarantine will be provided work by their teachers during the mandatory quarantine time, and will be marked as present/in-quarantine in our attendance records. Serving our students that fall under each of these circumstances is of great importance to us. Simultaneously teaching students in the classroom and students at home is an incredibly demanding expectation for even the most seasoned teacher. Know that our teachers will make decisions on the most essential learning goals for students that are not in the classroom, but is not the equivalent of the in-school experience.

I received a letter written by Dr. Josh Meyerson, medical director of Health Department of Northwest Michigan since the new orders from the state were announced on

Sunday, November 15. I would like to share the following bullet points with you from his correspondence.

- “The health department welcomes these new orders as they are science based and focused on the places and activities that have been driving the surge in cases and are likely to have the most impact with the least disruption in our communities.”
- “Schools provide essential services to our children, and there are health consequences to consider from both in-person and ‘virtual’ school. This contrasts with other worksites where many people can work effectively ‘remotely’”.
- “School cases have mostly come from the community, and transmission in schools, especially in classrooms has been low.”
- “Other countries are going back into ‘lockdown’ but keeping schools open. Some of these countries have never closed schools and have fared better than us overall. Given that younger ages are particularly less susceptible and more in need of in person school and supervision, I would not recommend closing elementary schools for public health reasons.”
- “I will continue to support in-person learning as they are able, with pauses as needed due to staffing, absenteeism, or in cases of outbreaks in a building or district that require public health intervention.”

Our Thanksgiving Break begins on Wednesday, November 25th, and we return on Monday November 30th. Have a safe and blessed Thanksgiving!

God Bless,
Adam Dobrowolski, principal



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KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Please note the travel questionnaire on our website by clicking on the COVID 19 notifications box. Also, be sure to sign up for **BE ALERT** on our homepage to receive school closing alerts.

We are also in need of parent helpers during lunch recess daily from 10:50-12. Sign up by calling or emailing Mrs. Godfrey in the office – kgodfrey@petoskeysfx.org. Parents will check in by buzzing the office at the main school doors.

Please make sure your child, including middle school students, are prepared to go outside each day with a jacket, hat, and gloves.

5th Grade celebrated Dia De Los Muertos or The Day of the Dead Celebration



VIRTUE OF THE MONTH: PRUDENCE

The following Saint Francis Xavier students were awarded certificates for being the students within their homerooms that best displayed the virtue of Prudence for the month of October. Miller Sober (KA), Ben Robinson (KA), Reagan Cone (KB), Mack Miller (1A), Paige Plichta (1B), Emma Somers (2A), Abby Zielinski (2B), Bethany Cox (3A), Will Daniel (4A), Will Marshall (4B), Grant Gattle (5A), Colin O'Donnell (5B), Madeline McDiarmid (6), Matthew Cesario (7), Reghan Hoffman (8) and Mrs. Paulus - 2A teacher. Thank you to Mrs. Niswander (the 1st) for putting together our wonderful Virtue of the Month videos!

HONOR ROLL

Congratulations to the following students for making honor roll for the 1st quarter - *Gold*: 8th – Mitchell Eberhart, Olivia Flynn, Rafael Miranda, Korbin Sulitis, 7th – William Cleary, Clare Gengle, Margaret Gietzen, Taylor Keiswetter, Patrick Kirchner, SophiaMarie LaGasse, Simon Licata, Margaret Mercer, Adam Nguyen, Katie Parker, Jack Robinson, Leah Sulitis, 6th – Jared Johnston, Madeline McDiarmid, Cecilia Miranda, Avery Sears. *Silver*: 8th – Gabrielle Cesario, Reghan Hoffman, 7th – Ethan Fettig, John Rasmussen. *Bronze*: 7th – Zealan Abbitt, Jerome Fate, Allison Saunders, 6th – Kaden Migda, Rocarla Salmon, and Isabella Wilson.



5th GRADE C.S. LEWIS PRESENTATIONS

5th grade performed their C.S. Lewis “The Lion, the Witch and Wardrobe” soliloquys. The students did a fantastic job and really got into character.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This year there will be **no** in person concert, however, there will be a YouTube recording being sent to your email in the near future.

LOOKING AHEAD

11/25-27	No School - Thanksgiving break
12/8	Feast of Immaculate Conception – Tuesday Mass today for 4-8 th grade
12/15-16	Ellis Island
12/18	7 th Grade Raffle & all school non-uniform
12/21	No School-Christmas Break
1/4	Return to school