



St. Joseph School

10 School Hill Road, Baltic, CT 06330

August 27, 2021

Dear Parents,

As I write this letter, it is hard to believe that school is starting on Monday, August 30th. So where has the summer gone? Hopefully, we all had a good one and everyone is excited to get back to school for the 2021-2022 school year.

First of all I would like to welcome Miss Samantha Stuart as our second grade teacher. She is lovely and is very excited to begin this year serving our students.

May I remind you that both Monday, August 30th and Friday, September 3rd, have a 12:30 p.m. dismissal with no aftercare program. There is morning care on these days and all other days from 7:30 – 8:15 a.m. If your child is to participate in either or both of these programs, please complete the required form found on our web site and return to school. The before and after-care program will be in our gym.

May I remind you at this time that St. Joseph School participates in the FMI Band Program where lessons are given on a weekly basis for brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments. It is a very good program where students participate in a Christmas and Spring Concert yearly. Students who are proficient may participate in the Regional Concert and eventually in the All-State Concert. Many students then go on to participate in high school bands. This program is open to students in grades 4 – 8.

We will be using the same entrance and exit plan that was used last year. Students in grades pre-k – 2 will use classroom doors. Students in grades 3-8 will use the gym door.

You will be receiving your *Parent-Student Handbook* as well as a hard copy of the school calendar on September 1st in your Wednesday folder.

Enclosed is a letter from our school nurse, Mrs. Amanda Strickland.

God bless you and we look forward to a wonderful school year.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

Sister Mary Patrick, SCMC
Principal

In accordance with the CDC, CT Department of Health, CT State Department of Education and our local health district, these are the COVID protocols and mitigation strategies that will be in place to start the 2021-2022 school year. Please note that we are constantly getting updates from the above-named entities and any of the protocols in place can change at any time. As you know, this is a fluid situation and appreciate your understanding and compliance during this difficult time.

- Masks are to be worn indoors by all staff, students and visitors, regardless of vaccination status unless medically exempt with approval from Uncas Health District.
- Masks do not need to be worn when outside, regardless of vaccination status.
- Fully vaccinated students and staff no longer need to quarantine if they are exposed to COVID-19 if they are asymptomatic.
- Students and staff will maintain at least 3 feet apart in the classroom. Students and staff who are more than 3 feet from a positive case no longer need to quarantine, if they do not have symptoms and masks have been worn properly.
- Non-essential visitors to the school will be limited at this time.
- Middle school students will be able to change classes.
- Drop off/pick up will be at the gym doors for middle school students. For grades Pre-k through 4th, drop off/pick up will be at their classroom's exterior door.
- Good hand hygiene practices will be maintained throughout the school year.
- Parents wishing to attend school Masses must go to the choir loft. They may receive Holy Communion only after the students have left the church.

At this time, I am asking for your assistance as parents/guardians to continue to monitor your child/ren for any illnesses before each school day. It is imperative that your child/ren does not come to school sick. I will be sending home more paperwork on these guidelines for when to keep your child home within the first couple weeks of school.

I am also asking that for any students who have been vaccinated to give me a copy of their vaccine cards to add to their medical file if you have not done so already. The student's vaccination status will remain confidential and used only for the purposes of contact tracing when there is a positive case within the school. As mentioned above, if a student is fully vaccinated, it is no longer required for them to quarantine if they have no symptoms.

Lastly, if there are any parents that need to give me medication for their child on the first day of school, I will be outside of the gym doors at drop off. Please make sure you have the medication administration paperwork from your child's doctor filled out as well. I cannot accept any medication without this paperwork.

Thank you for your understanding,

Mandi Strickland, BSN, RN.

St. Joseph School Nurse