



Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe that in less than two weeks, we will begin the 2020-2021 school year. I'd like to welcome all of our returning families' and the new families that are joining us! This pandemic and the closing of Catholic schools in our Archdiocese is an awful situation, however, these events have brought some of you to our Visitation family and for that we are grateful!

We will be learning in an unprecedented way this year. If you chose to do remote learning at home, you will receive a separate email letter with instructions during the first week in September instructing you how to set up the remote learning module. We will set a date for pick-up of books and materials that you will need. At that pick-up time you can bring the \$40.00 COVID fee. Please have cash or check marked in an envelope with your child's name and grade on it.

If you are joining us in-person, or using the hybrid method, please see the forms included with this letter to read how we will be conducting the self-check and school temperature check. You **MUST** take your child's temperature each morning before you leave for school and record it on the sheet provided and answer the additional health questions. Your child must hand the sheet to the adult at the door who scans them for their temperature a second time. Your child will not be permitted into the building without the health form filled out in its entirety.

I would suggest making copies of the form and placing them in a convenient spot in your home or car as not to forget to bring it each morning. **In order for us to keep safe and remain open, these things MUST be done. There are no exceptions.** I know it might take more time and effort in the morning, but this is the way we will all stay safe! As a mom, I have to make sure I do it with my own child before he goes to the bus for high school and as principal, the teachers and I have to comply with this routine each morning as well. 😊

Join me in welcoming Mr. Kowalski to our faculty as our new gym teacher. Mr. Kowalski is a graduate of Montclair State University and has been working in the Archdiocese of Newark for over 20 years. We also welcome Mr. John Dudic, a parishioner of Visitation Academy, who will be joining us as our maintenance personnel.

After care forms will be emailed to parents on September 1st. Forms returned to the principal's email with a note from your employer (stating that you need childcare due to work) will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. The forms will be numbered as I receive them via email. Aftercare will be available Monday through Thursday from 3-6 pm. Your registration fee will be entered in Smart Tuition and you will be charged monthly for your use on the Smart tuition as well. We will be accepting 10 children from PreK4-Grade 2, 10 children from Grade 3-5 and 10 children from grades 6-8 for aftercare spots. The students will remain with the same teacher and students each day.

Some reminders for the opening of school:

1. Please come to school each morning with all of your belongings. (Please refer to the COVID handbook addendum online for the times and doors that each grade enters through for drop-off and pick up.) Parents will not be permitted in the building and anything brought to school after arrival will need to be put on the cart by the church elevator.
2. Make sure your child has all of their supplies on the first day of school along with their \$40.00 COVID fee (cash or check) in an envelope marked with their name and grade on it. We

understand that you may not be able to find disinfectant wipes or Lysol. The school has these items to share with all grades.

3. If you are ordering lunch from Simply Gourmet, please go to our school website and click on the Simply Gourmet symbol to access their website.
4. If you have any questions before your child begins school, please call or email us at the school office. If you have specific questions for your child's teacher after school begins, please email your child's teacher for an appointment. At dismissal, we are asking everyone to leave in a quick manner and adhere to social distancing as to avoid crowds. Please do not grab teachers to ask questions at arrival or dismissal.
5. **PLEASE** wash your child's cloth mask daily and keep uniforms sanitized. If your child wears paper masks, they must use a new one each day. We will have paper masks here should they need one. Mask sanitizing is extremely important.
6. All tuition must be current, all HSA fees and tuition from 2019-20 must be paid, and registration and computer fees for 2020-21 need to be paid in Smart Tuition in order for your child to come to class or start remote learning on September 10th.

September Dates:

10-School opens for grades 1 through 8.....1... **12:00 dismissal**

11-School opens for grades prek4 and K-8...**12:00 dismissal**

14- After care program begins for registered students only- Hot lunch begins

15- Eighth grade virtual parent meeting

18-Dismissal at 12:00.....Welcome Mass in the am

25-Dismissal at 12:00

29- Virtual Back to School Night (more information will follow)

Your Home School Association Agreement for the 2020-2021 school year is enclosed. Please print, fill the form, and send it to school with your student on the first day of school.

All of the information that you need for the year is on our website. It is updated weekly. Please check it often and read all school messenger texts, emails, and calls that the school sends throughout the year! If any of your contact information changes, please make sure that you contact the school office to update us.

This year will be different, it will be new, but TOGETHER with patience and faith, we will get through it! We are looking forward to seeing everyone and discovering new ways to grow in faith and academics with you and your child! Please feel free to email me with any questions or concerns!

God bless, Ms. Harrigan

