



**August 9, 2020**

### **FAREWELL & WELCOME**

We have been blessed with Fr. Martin Celuch as our Pastor of Christ Our Savior Parish and St. Nicholas School for four years. The Diocese has requested him to serve at Holy Family Parish in Poland, Ohio beginning August 22nd. While we are sad to see him go, we wish him well. We are not saying goodbye, we are saying “see you around,” since he will be just down the road!

Fr. Martin assures us that we are in good hands. We are getting another Slovak priest! We welcome Fr. Marian Babjak, (pronounced Bab-e-yak). His most recent assignment was St. Paul’s in Canton, Ohio. He is very excited to be with us and we are anxious for everybody to meet him. We will continue to be in good hands!

Also, welcome back to many and welcome aboard to our new families. It is always exciting to have new students. New students bring new friendships and experiences. It is comforting knowing that as we move forward with change, we create opportunity for discovery.

Every year presents new beginnings, new challenges, and new expectations. The year we face is full of challenges and uncertainties.

Our doors are open five days a week. For students who are returning to school, our doors open to a staggered start on Tuesday, September 8th. One group of students will come on Tuesday (8th) and Wednesday (9th). The second group of students will come Thursday (10th) and Friday (11th). All students returning to the classroom will come Monday, September 14th. More details will come.

### **SCHOOL HOURS**

We will remain the same as last year beginning at 7:35am and dismissing at 2:10pm. Tardiness was out of control last year. Start fresh!

### **COVID-19**

We totally respect parents and guardians decision on how they choose for their child to learn during the pandemic. Covid-19 does not allow for the ideal teaching or learning environment, but together we will make it happen. Those choosing Remote Learning will have an appointment to come in and review the plan and sign a contract. Chromebooks will also be available for those who need them. There will be a fee for insurance purposes: \$35 covers unlimited repairs and lost or stolen; \$25 covers unlimited repairs and you would be responsible for lost or stolen.

GoGuardian will monitor all student used devices belonging to St. Nicholas School. GoGuardian and/or school officials will have the capability of locking the device if it is being used for inappropriate purposes.

### **SCHOOL MASS**

Catholic Schools are a privileged environment. We begin and end each school day with prayer. “The sweetest time of the day is when you pray, because you are talking to the one who loves you the most.” We will publish our Mass schedule once school begins.

### **FOOD**

ALL students will be eligible to receive FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH. However, you must fill out the food & milk forms each month so we can place an accurate order. If a student does not turn in the order forms, food will not be ordered for said student. **BREAKFAST AND LUNCH BEGIN September 8<sup>th</sup>. Please return the completed menu selection by August 26<sup>th</sup>.**

### **LUNCH & BREAKFAST ORDERS**

Students may not walk into the building tardy with food or drink expecting to eat once class begins. Students are not permitted to bring coffee.

### **WATER FOUNTAINS OUT OF USE**

Students should bring disposable bottles of water with their name clearly marked.

## **FACE COVERINGS**

We have purchased a Hornet Mask and SNS neck gaiter for everybody in the building. Students will also have a lanyard that their mask will be hooked to when not wearing it. Please mark your child's face coverings with their name. All students riding a bus must have a mask/gaiter on. Other than the Hornet Mask, all masks must be plain with no lettering.

## **STUDENT BARRIERS**

Every student will have a clear plastic barrier on their desk. When they are behind the barrier, they may lower their mask. If for any reason they get up from their desk, they must have a face covering on.

## **BUSING - Youngstown city residents:**

It is very important for everybody to follow the directions issued by the Youngstown Bus Transportation Department which were mailed to all families.

## **NEW POSITION**

Mrs. Cheryl Angeloff has been working with the Youngstown Title I Program for the last couple years and is now the Title I Coordinator.

## **ABSENTEE**

Persistent absences may cause serious academic problems (including but not limited to course failure.) The administration or the class teacher will normally review the matter with parents before a decision is made by the administration. Persistent absences may also result in the student being subject to appropriate disciplinary action:

1. Attendance contract
2. Juvenile court referral.

Persistent absence is defined as absence without a legitimate excuse for six (6) or more days in a semester or 12 school days in a school year. A doctor excuse will be required for days missed beyond six (6) total days in a semester. For three or more days in a row, a doctor's excuse is needed.

Parents are required to call the school office before 10:00 A.M. to report a student absent. If your child will be absent for more than one day, please indicate this when calling. If a call is not made by 10:00 the school must attempt to contact the parent and keep a written record of the phone calls. If a student is out of school more than two hours through the course of the day, it is considered a half day's absence

Upon returning to school, your child must present a written excuse from you or doctor to the homeroom teacher. The note must include the date(s) of his/her absence, the reason for absence, and parent signature. All excuses must be kept on file. **The Ohio Department of Education periodically audits our EdChoice/Expansion files and if they are not accurate, including notes for absenteeism, you jeopardize losing your child's scholarship.** The Ohio Department of Education will cancel EdChoice Scholarships if a predetermined amount of unexcused absences occur in a given year. "Unexcused" simply means a note was not sent in by parent or guardian for the days absent upon the student returning to school.

If you request homework, it will be on the homework table near the Nurse's station by 1:45 or sent home with another student if specified. Students have one day for everyday absent to make up their work, not counting weekends.

## **TARDY**

A student is considered tardy if he/she arrives at school after the 7:35a.m. bell. Students who arrive at school at or after 7:35a.m. must report to the school office for a Tardy Slip. This slip must be presented to the homeroom teacher when the child goes to class. A warning letter will be sent to parents after the 5<sup>th</sup> unexcused tardy in a semester. In addition, those same students who reach ten (10) tardys will serve a detention the day they reach ten (10) tardys. A detention will be given for every tardy after (ten) 10 in a semester. The consistently tardy student will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action by the school administration.

## **FAMILY VACATIONS**

Vacations taken during school time are discouraged. However, if vacations are taken, parents should give the principal and homeroom teacher written notification of the child's impending absence in writing, one week in advance. AFTER the vacation, the student should contact the teacher to get missed work. Students are responsible for mastery of material presented during their absence. Again, students have one day for everyday absent to make up their work, not counting weekends.

### **UNIFORMS - Detentions will be given for non-compliance.**

We try to keep the uniform as simple as possible while having a neat appearance. There is no room for creativity when it comes to the uniform dress code. A copy is included in this packet and spelled out in detail in the actual Hornet Folder. Please refer to the Handbook Folder for further explanation on dress code. When in doubt, call us!

### **DIOCESAN CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

Due to the Coronavirus, we will not be using volunteers in the school this year. However, In order to volunteer at the school, you must be in compliance with the Diocesan Child Protection Policy. This policy is in place for the protection and safety of your children. Once restrictions are lifted we always need volunteers ~ please look into attending an In-Service and having a background check completed, if you have not already done so.

### **MOMS' AND DADS' CLUB**

While this year is different, we still encourage all parents to be active in our Moms' & Dads' Club. All the activities sponsored by the club benefit all the children. Show your commitment to the future of Saint Nicholas School. Together we are the difference! WE ENCOURAGE ALL NEW FAMILIES TO BE INVOLVED.

We are limited at this time as to what fund raising we are going to sponsor this school year. This may change in time, but for now the officers are in the process of setting up the Handel's Pint Card Sale.

You are not "required" to participate in all the fundraisers, but are encouraged to support the ones that are convenient for you. Your participation is greatly appreciated. All the children benefit from our fundraising.

### **IMPROVEMENTS**

Wow! Fr. Martin doesn't stop. He's leaving us in great shape! Between the parish and school, there are so many new and improved things happening! From last March and still continuing...to name a few:

- Upstairs hallways replastered and painted white; thank you to Tom, Ed & Frank

- two new classrooms made available for school use; thank you to Jeff Janci for painting
- Protective shields over all classroom door windows;
- New door locks on "all" classrooms and all other rooms in school;
- Drop Boxes added at school and parish entrances;
- New bathroom in lower church
- New bathroom in teacher's upstairs lounge
- Live streaming Mass

### **MONTHLY BULLETINS**

Monthly bulletins will be sent home in a large manilla envelope this year. Please send back any forms/fees needing returned, otherwise you may discard the envelope.

### **SPIRIT DAYS**

Students will each be given two St. Nicholas T-Shirts to be worn on Spirit Day. They may also wear their gym shirt or the gray and red "Be Aware of God" shirt they were given last year. Earnings from SPIRIT DAYS are donated to different charitable organizations and worthy causes. For a donation, students are permitted to dress in a St. Nicholas shirt, jeans or shorts suitable for school. We ask for at least a 50¢ donation. When we know in advance, SPIRIT DAYS and the benefit proceeds are earmarked for are posted on the calendar. However, there are times an announcement is made on Thursday for a Friday SPIRIT DAY. The need to listen to announcements for those surprise SPIRIT DAYS. Check FACTS and our website.

### **SCHOOL CLOSING –due to weather.**

Hopefully we will have a mild winter, but if Saint Nicholas School is closed for any reason, it will be listed individually on the local television stations, on the home page of FACTS and website along with a parent alert notice to the phone number you provide will be sent as soon as we know we are closing.

### **PFLAUM DAILY PLANNERS**

Once again, we are providing the student daily planners for grades 1-8. These are used for writing assignments and some teachers use it for correspondence between school and home.

### **BOOKS COVERED**

All books are to be covered by Monday, September 14th. Brown grocery bags seem to hold up best. If you are using the stretch cloth covers, please make sure they fit the book. **THEY ARE NOT ONE SIZE FITS ALL!** If they are too small they break the binding on the books, because students **TRY TO MAKE THEM FIT!** Students will cover books in school. Please send bags or some type of covering. Teachers will let them know how many need covered.

### **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION, AND GIANT EAGLE APPLES FOR STUDENTS**

These are on-going programs that help support schools. Information is provided in this packet for Giant Eagle and Box Tops.

### **ALUMINUM BEVERAGE CANS**

Once a month, beginning in October we collect aluminum beverage cans. They are picked up the second Tuesday of each month in the morning from October to April. You can leave them outside the main entrance of the school doors that morning. It is helpful if you write St. Nicholas School on the bag in marker or put a piece of masking tape on the bag with St. Nicholas School written on it. We will take care of it, if it's not marked. We receive a check at the end of the year from the Green Team according to weight. If this program is not going to happen this year, we will let you know.

### **POP TABS**

We also collect aluminum beverage tabs that we donate to the Ronald McDonald House which enables families to access specialized medical treatment by providing a place to stay at little or sometimes no cost.

### **ATHLETES**

Being a good athlete requires discipline and time management. Remember your academics come first. Keep in mind grades, conduct, and homework must be maintained in order to go to practice and participate in games. We will keep you advised of any changes as to sports and the season. If you are remote learning, you are not able to participate in any extracurricular activities.

### **SPORTS PHYSICAL/INSURANCE FORMS**

Athletes must return physicals and insurance forms before participating in any sport program. This law/ruling is state, diocesan and school. All documents must be on file in the school for each participant.

### **IF SCHOOL IS CANCELED, ALL SPORTS PROGRAMS ARE CANCELED**

**INCLUDING PRACTICE.** If a game is scheduled at a school that was in session on a day we were closed the game is still on at their school. If a game is scheduled at a school that was closed that day, the game is canceled.

### **SCHOOL ENTRANCE**

Due to near misses and cars cutting through our parking lot to beat the traffic and red light at Wilson, our parking lot will be blocked for one way traffic in the morning. Nothing is more important than the safety of the children.

All cars enter from the Creed Street side of the school, drive around the back (between garage and kindergarten play area) and come up along the side of the school (church parking lot) to drop students off in the morning. All cars and buses exit from the Fifth Street church parking lot.

For the safety of all children, please wait your turn in the traffic line. Due to social distancing, it will take longer for students to exit buses and get out of cars. Temperatures will be taken upon entering the building. Do not pass cars or buses to hurry out. The safety of all the children is our first priority.

If you need to come into the school or help your child out of the car, please pull over and park along the side of the church to enable the other cars to keep moving.

Bus riders will load one grade per bus at a time from this door at the end of the day. Temperatures will be checked in school at the end of the day. Any child with a temperature of 100 will not be permitted to get on the bus.

Car riders will be dismissed one grade at a time and will exit from the back of the school and walk to their cars. If you are meeting your child, we ask that you wait in your car until you see him/her come out of the school. We do not want gatherings in the parking lot for safety purposes. Cars are to park in the parking lot area behind the church, near the Purple Cat Residence and the Parish Hall. Upon leaving, please drive slowly. SAFETY FIRST!

**NO PARKING BETWEEN THE BACK OF THE SCHOOL AND ALONG THE GARAGE. THIS CREATES A HAZARD AND ACCIDENTS WAITING TO HAPPEN.**

### **STUDENT SUCCESS**

The responsibility of providing the best learning experience possible for your child is something we take very serious. Behavior and respect are a must from all students whether they are in the classroom or participating in remote learning. . If a student is an interruption to the instruction of other children, the child will be asked to leave. Parents and teachers working together in the best interest of your child will provide a successful learning year!

**HORNET TWO POCKET HANDBOOK** The two pocket Hornet Handbook from Aldridge was sent to press in early July. We no sooner put something in writing and it gets changed. The dates and schedules on the back page have all changed. As we updated events, we will advise you.

Our opening plan was dropped in the mail and that afternoon the Governor announced the policy for school children in grades K-12 were to wear masks changing the previous order for requiring only grades 3-12 to wear masks.

I am just asking you to be patient, read any bulletins sent home, via FACTS email or text, US Postal Service, Webpage updates, and please *“listen”* to one calls. These are the quickest ways to keep you informed.

It is very important that we have your correct phone number and email address on file in the office.

### **SICK CHILD**

If you get a call that your child is sick or not feeling well, it is extremely important that somebody be available to come and pick up your child immediately. It could very well be a common cold or seasonal flu, but we don't want to take any chances with your child's safety or that of others.

### **WE ARE HERE FOR ONE ANOTHER**

The opening of school brings us all together living and working as a family. St. Nicholas School exists for the purpose of teaching our faith and making Jesus the center of our children's lives. The struggles in each of our lives, whatever they may be, are overcome by the many blessings we receive. We put them in God's hands and trust.

Your children are our future. Looking into the faces of your precious children, is the light of Christ shining upon us daily.



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# **2020-2021**

