

Our mission is to promote lifelong learning and Christ centered values in a Catholic setting.

August 4, 2020

Dear Montessori Families,

We are grateful for the ability to bring our students back to school. We have learned that a meaningful Catholic education, for young learners, is less effective when physically separated from peers and teachers. These relationships develop most profoundly when our community can interact, learn, and pray together. We hope you will understand that returning to the classroom is the first step in our return to school. We hope you will understand that our days will look different and we will not be able to offer all services at the start of the school year.

Minnesota Catholic Bishops and Catholic Superintendents have announced that all Catholic schools will reopen this fall. The **COVID-19 Preparedness Guidance: A Path for Students' Return to School Fall 2020** will be our guide to start the new school year. Priests, principals, Bishop Quinn and Marsha Stenzel the Superintendent for the Diocese of Winona-Rochester met on July 28, to discuss the document and policies for the start of school.

Father The' and I will hold a meeting for parents in the Church on **Wednesday, August 26, at 7:00 p.m.** to distribute family folders, and communicate the guidelines/protocol for starting the new school year.

Our first day of school for all students preschool through fourth grade will be Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and protocols for reopening we will not provide before school care or breakfast for our childcare students. We will need to stagger the start of the day to allow us to reopen and follow guidelines from DHS, MDH, and the CDC. Childcare hours during the COVID-19 pandemic will be 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Childcare students' arrival time will be 7:30 a.m. Preschool only AM class will arrive at 8:00 a.m., P.M. class will arrive at Noon. Utilizing the following hours will allow us the time to properly temp students upon arrival and sanitize the classrooms at the end of each day. Our custodians and school staff will need this time daily to clean and sanitize classrooms, restrooms and hallways for the start of each school day.

Our plan is to resume normal operational hours as soon as it seems reasonable.

We appreciate your support, prayers and grace as we enter into this school year following the guidelines and protocols which have been created for schools.

LeAnn Dahle,

Director Children's House Montessori

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