

*“and suddenly you just know it's time to start something new
and trust the magic of beginnings”*

Dear Parents,

Hoping all of you are well and getting excited for the opening of school. Usually I don't think of the words “exciting” and “school” in the same sentence but this year is certainly an exception.

First, I'd like to thank the Assumption Angels who showed up on Tuesday last week to move all of the extra desks, bookcases, etc. from the classrooms. You were amazing and put my mind at ease.

I have to give a huge shout out to our teachers and staff for all they are doing to get the school reopened. Their hard work and enthusiasm has been unbelievable. We are so happy to welcome the kids back.

Please bear with me now, as I have a list of things, some new, some reminders that I need you to know before we open.

September 9th, 10th, 11th

These three half days will be different from previous years for obvious reasons. We want the kids to meet their teachers and get familiar with what is a little different environment.

Wednesday, September 9th — grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 will come to school from 8:00AM -11AM. No buses.

Kindergarten parents, you will receive a letter from the teachers giving you a time for Kindergarten Orientations on this day as well. Please park in the back of school and come up the steps by the cafeteria.

Thursday, September 10th — only grades 3 and 4 will come to school to meet their teachers from 8:00AM -11:00AM. No buses.

Friday September 11th — grades 1 and 2 will come to school to meet their teachers from 8:00AM - 11AM. No buses.

Pre K3 and 4 parents, you will receive a letter from the teachers giving you a time for Pre- K Orientation this day. Pre K4, please park in the back playground as far back as possible. K3, you can park in the half circle and use the door by the flagpole side of school.

Remote learners should all come to school on Wednesday September 9th to collect their books, Chromebooks, etc. between 12PM - 1:00PM. We'll meet in the gym. Your teachers and I look forward to welcoming you in person.

Very important: Remote Families

I have a list of families that have chosen to start the year remotely but “rumor” has it that some have changed their minds but have not yet told me. We have set up our classrooms based on the returning students only, in order to provide for social distancing. Can I ask all of you who are starting remotely to just send me an email, ASAP, so I have an accurate name and number of students not returning to the building. I would not want your child to return and then not have a place for them.

Sick Children

Please, I beg of you, do not send sick kids into school — it could compromise all that we've worked so hard for. If your child says they don't feel well, true or not, keep them home. This is really important.

Temperature Checks and Waivers

Remember that we cannot allow any student to exit a car if they don't have the “waiver” stating they are fever-free — 1 per family. Waivers are on the website and we will run some off for you, as well, and send them home. Leave some in your car with a thermometer so you'll always have them. I'll be the one crying with the kids when they can't get out of the car!

Masks

Practice wearing masks a little longer each day to help them get ready. As I've said before, we will find safe ways to give them mask breaks.

Honeywell Instant Alert

Please be sure all of your information is updated and accurate. This will be very important this school year . Thanks.

Drop off and pick up

Still a nightmare!

Buses will start running on Monday September 14th for Morristown and Township. Car riders can be dropped off between 7:15AM and 8:00AM. Kids will enter the building and we'll direct them to their classrooms. Don't forget the Waiver.

Buses will drop off in the back parking lot and teachers will meet the kids, collect their Waivers and direct them to class.

Pick-up

As you remember, buses usually roll in at 2:00PM and we are out of the driveway by 2:20PM, then car riders get dismissed. This year the buses have to take the public school kids home first at 1:15PM which might delay us getting out. I won't know this until we actually start school and we are in a week or two. If it turns out the buses are consistently late, I will let you know and will start car riders first, starting at 1:45.

Either way it plays out, I'd like grades K, 1, 2 and siblings to be dismissed from the back playground. We'll bring those kids out to you on the patio area outside the cafeteria. That should help ease the volume of cars in the front driveway. If you have misplaced your name tag or never had one, please make one and mount it so it's visible as you pull in the driveway.

I'm sure I'm forgetting something, but you'll probably hear from me again before we start. As I said before, we are so happy to welcome you and the kids back both virtually and in person.

Stay well, stay safe and enjoy the rest of your summer.

Best regards,
Sister Merris