ST. ELIZABETH SETON SCHOOL



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sesschool.org

**Faith in Education**

August 6, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

First, we want to thank you for taking the time to complete the survey we sent out a short time ago. The information you provided was helpful in the formulation of the Back to the Classroom Guidelines created by the Task Force. Their job was certainly not an easy one nor one they took lightly. I am grateful for the incredible amount of time and expertise they poured into the guidelines to help keep everyone in our SES community as safe and healthy as possible. We want to remind everyone that the frameworks are a living, breathing document. Changes can and will be made by the Task Force as the year progresses.

Our goal was to look and listen to what the experts are saying and making it fit our school. We fully realize that not everyone is going to be happy with all the guidelines but felt confident in presenting Remote Instruction as an excellent alternative. We value each and every one of you and your children and hope that either in the classroom instruction or remote instruction will work for your family.

In the survey there were several families that would have childcare issues if we went to a four-day school week, so we are going to keep it to a five-day school week. We would like to start the day a little earlier with homeroom beginning at 8:20 instead of 8:25. This is mainly because students will not be able to be outside during this time. This will also shave off a few days at the end of the year.

We are also going with a staggered start the first week of school. Families with last name beginning with letters A-G only, will come to school on Tuesday the 1st, but will have an early release time of 1:00. Students with last names beginning with letters H-Z will do the same on Wednesday the 2nd. This will allow the teachers to go through the daily routine with a smaller number of students to ensure understanding. On Thursday, we invite all students to join us for our first full day.

In lieu of our traditional Open House, we invite you and your children to sign-up to come in on Monday, August 31st from 3:00-7:00 to drop their supplies off and pick up their health screening packets in their classrooms. Masks must be worn for anyone older than 2nd grade. I will be sending you an email with the link to sign-up by the end of the week.

We ask that after you review the guidelines, you email any questions or comments to Ms. Boutin at [suzanne.boutin@sesschool.org](mailto:suzanne.boutin@sesschool.org). All questions and comments will be shared and discussed with the Task Force. We are also offering three virtual sessions next week for parents to ask questions. They are set up by classroom cohorts. Here is the schedule:

Pre-K – 2 Tuesday 6:30-7:30 pm

Gr. 3/4 Wednesday 6:00-7:00 pm

Grs. 5-8 Wednesday 7:15-8:15 pm

If you would like to join one of the sessions, please email Ms. Boutin with the session and she will send you an invitation.

We are looking forward to being together soon, whether remotely or in person, to kick off the school year in a safe, friendly, and appropriately rigorous environment. Our focus has not wavered from the development and flourishing of the whole child: in mind, body, and spirit in Christ. We ask you email Ms. Boutin with your decision to have your child learn in person or remotely by next Friday, August 14th.

Peace,

SES Back to the Classroom Task Force