



MISSION STATEMENT

Sharing the Love of the Heart of Christ is the foundation of the St. Rocco School community.

*We are dedicated to creating a **safe** environment that instills*

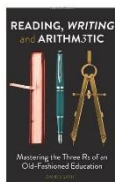
*Catholic values and nourishes the **development and growth** of the whole person.*

We are committed to excellence in academic standards

*that prepare students to reach their full potential and meet the global challenges of the **world**.*

Dear Parents,

This week I would like to share some information that I believe will be helpful at the beginning of a new school year. It is a huge job, the biggest, to raise children and try to make good decisions on their behalf. And so...



It has long been said that the “3Rs” are important, and they most certainly are important. Being able to conquer Reading, Writing and Arithmetic is crucial to every child’s education. You could say they are the academic foundation that everything else is built upon. And yes, this is true. However, what is also true is the fourth “R”, Religion. In our Catholic schools, this most important fourth “R”, Religion, is the true foundation of our St. Rocco students because it is the spiritual foundation that everything else we do is built upon. We need to keep

this foremost in our minds and in the minds of our children. Please talk to your children about Religion and attend Mass each week as a family.

There are a few more “Rs” that come into play for success in school and in life. They are routine, repetition and rest. As adults, we know how important a stable, consistent routine is to our days. This is no different for our children. One of the most valuable things you can do is provide your children with a stable, nurturing environment. At the beginning of the year, set clear guidelines and stick to them. Repetition is crucial to cementing routines and routines need repetition. These two “Rs” go hand-in-hand. What is your morning routine? Your homework routine? Your dinner routine? Set these routines for your children from the start and stick with them. This is the repetition piece. And, of course, get enough rest...both you and your children. I know that this is easier said than done, but, sufficient rest will allow your child to enter each day well-rested and prepared to greet each new day. It will help you to do the same.



Some Happenings...

Colorthon Update: Today was the official kick-off for our Colorthon event. There were two assemblies in Café Rocco to inform and excite our students about this school-wide fundraising event. Packets were sent home today with all the information. There is a second Colorthon parent planning meeting tonight at 6:00pm. Our school fundraising goal is \$30,000. I know that we can reach this goal. We are looking for 100% participation.

21st Anniversary of 9/11: Tomorrow morning during morning announcements our school community will pray to remember 9/11 and the victims who lost their lives and their families. Please take time this Sunday to pray as a family for the victims and their families.



STAR Testing: We will begin testing for our students in Grades K-8 on Monday, September 12th-September 29th. St. Rocco School utilizes the STAR testing assessment tool. STAR assessments will be used regularly for grades K-8 throughout the year as formative and interim testing to screen for Reading and Math achievement levels. Depending on the student’s previous answers, the assessments adjust the difficulty or ease of the student’s subject test question.

The STAR assessments can be completed in a single class period. The teachers' report is designed to identify and differentiate classroom instructional strategies for individual study and planning. There will be formal Fall, Winter and Spring screenings that coincide with all Catholic Schools in the Diocese. These results will be sent home a few weeks after test completion. Teachers may also utilize these computer adaptive tests throughout the year to assess progress. Please make sure that your child has had breakfast, is in school on time and has had a restful night's sleep in order to insure their best testing performance.



Back-to-School Night: Please make every effort to attend our annual Back-to-School Night on September 21st. Grades 1-4 will be from 6:00 -6:45 and Grades 5-8 will be from 7:00-8:00. Homeroom and Special Subject teachers will be present. There will also be an opportunity to sign up as volunteers for different events this year. Please note that this is meant to be an informative night and is not a time for individual conferences.

In addition, we hope to have as many parents as possible complete the Diocesan "Safe Environment Training" and BCI (\$5.00 cost) check at the start of the year. Parents will have the opportunity to do this at Back-to-School Night after they visit their child's class or attend the Middle School Presentation in Café Rocco. All parents, volunteers and coaches interested in both on-site and off-site volunteer opportunities must have completed a BCI & Safe Environment check. Potential volunteers need to watch the Safe Environment Power Point presentation. After you view the presentation, you will sign a form and submit a copy of your license and a payment of \$ 5.00. The school is informed when this process is successfully completed and an individual is cleared for volunteering.



Sports News: The Cross Country season began last night with both our junior runners (Grades 4 and 5) and Grammar school runners (Grades 6-8) competing at Roger Williams Park and Zoo. Thank you to Coach Maddern for working so hard with all of the runners yesterday. Special thanks to any parents who helped out at yesterday's meet. We wish our students and coaches well this season. The next meet is Tuesday, September 13th at Roger Williams Park and Zoo. All are welcome to come out and cheer the runners on.

School Newspaper: St. Rocco School, under the direction of Mrs. Scotti as moderator, will be continuing with a Newspaper Club this year. Last year's editions were first rate! This is a Middle School Club (Grades 6-8) that will begin October 6th. Paperwork will be coming home next week.



Kindness: Just a quick mention that this month's virtue and theme for this year is "Kindness". Please speak to your children about different ways they can show kindness each day. If we all make an extra effort to be kind in our daily lives, what a world it can be!

Screening Tool: Please return the Health Screening Form that was sent home last week. This form is a one-time form that states you will monitor your child for symptoms each day and keep them home if they are sick.

Looking Ahead...

The first Parent Association meeting of the year is scheduled for Thursday, September 29th at 6:00pm in Café Rocco. Planning will continue for our Colorthon as well as for other events in the coming year. All are welcome.

I know that this is a lot of information. Thank you for taking the time to stay current with all that is going on at St. Rocco School. I wish you all a blessed week ahead.

Respectfully,

Regina M. Hand

Respectfully,

Regina M. Hand/Principal



Reminders from the Nurse: The COVID-19 Health Screening Attestation must be signed and returned by Friday, September 9th. A copy was sent home in last week's Thursday Packet. For your convenience, an attachment is included in this week's Thursday Packet.

*****IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT FEELING WELL**, please keep them home and call or email the **SCHOOL OFFICE FIRST** to report them absent. You may send an email to your child's teacher and to the nurse, but initially, **the phone call/email must be to the School Office first**. If you are unsure if you should send your child to school, call the office to speak to the nurse. Please contact the Nurse with any questions.

Communication - Once again this year, St. Rocco School is using e-mail, texting and/or parent portal for much of their communication. You will receive an email with the Thursday Packet along with any pertinent attachments. Please familiarize yourself with the School Website.

- **E-Mail Addresses / Text Notifications** ~ If you are **NOT** presently receiving these notifications, please inform the School Office of your address.
- **Thursday Packets** – As stated above the “Thursday Packet Parent Note”, Monthly Calendar and Lunch Menu will be sent via email and posted on our website.
- **Photo Consent Forms** ~ This form is required annually for **All.Students**. Please sign and return to school on Tuesday. (Per the Diocese of Providence) All returning students completed the form as



part of their online re-registration.

- **Text Weather/School Closing Alert** ~ You may go to: Turnto10.com and register your phone under the weather tab.

Student Data/Custody Concerns – Please notify the School Office if any information regarding your child has changed since the submission of your child's application for enrollment. Any custody concerns require immediate notification to the School Office.

DRESS CODE: – We take pride in the appearance of our students. The way a student dresses and appears often has an effect on behavior and learning. Uniforms must be worn at all times unless it is a casual “dress down” day. Please refer to the School Handbook available on the School Website.

DRESS DOWN DAY POLICY/MONTHLY PASSES ~ Each month throughout the school year, St. Rocco School will be offering special dress down passes for the month. You may purchase the monthly passes for OCTOBER for the cost of \$5.00. The “Dress Down Days” passes are for **Mondays only**. Please place the money in a clearly labeled envelope with the required form your child's name, grade, along with your payment. (**Checks ONLY**) Passes will be sent home in the Thursday Packet. There will also be days designated as a *Dress Down Day* for celebrations, recognitions, etc. Please check the monthly calendars as these days will be noted.

BCI / Safe Environment Reminder – Just a reminder...All parents, volunteers and coaches interested in both on-site and off-site volunteer opportunities must have completed a BCI & Safe Environment check. Potential first time volunteers need to watch the Safe Environment Powerpoint presentation at school; renewal of the Safe Environment can be viewed on the School Website at home. After you have viewed the presentation, you will sign a form in the School Office. A copy of your license and a payment of \$5.00 is needed for the BCI. The school is informed when this process is successfully completed and the individual is cleared for volunteering. If you wish to participate or volunteer during the school year at events or activities, please complete the training and submit all necessary paperwork early to insure clearance in time. If you are not sure of your status, you may contact the School Office or Mrs. Okolowicz.



Arrival & Dismissal Procedures –

Remember that, at all times, we have the safety of our students in mind and we rely on our parents' help in this area. Arrival ~ Doors open at 8:00am. All students are to enter the building each day using the assigned entrances listed below. Dismissal is at 2:35pm. At dismissal, children must exit the building using the designated exit doors assigned to their class:

- Pre-Kindergarten 4 ~ Left Side Exit of school.
- Pre-Kindergarten 3 ~ Right Side Exit of school. (Church Side)
- Grades K-3 ~ Lower level near the map
- Grades 4-8 ~ Front Doors

Please remember: all students are dismissed to an authorized adult and are not allowed to be “waved” across the avenue, nor is a student allowed to walk home.

****IMPORTANT****

Any payment sent in for your child MUST BE IN AN ENVELOPE, CLEARLY LABELED WITH:

- **Student's Name**
- **Student's Homeroom**
- **Indicate what payment is for**
- **Lunch Choices if applicable**

Absence/Tardy – It is the responsibility of parents to see that our students attend school daily and are on time. Students must be in their classroom by 8:10am and are considered late if they enter the building after 8:14. If a student is not in school by 11:25am, he/she will be marked as a half day absence.



The only valid reasons for absence are serious illness of the student, a death in the family, or permission from the Office. Students are responsible for assignments and tests given during their absence. Your child must have a written note explaining why he/she was absent and bring it with them to school upon returning. Students who are absent 3 or more consecutive days due to illness must have a doctor's note before returning to school.

Please call to notify the School Office by 8:30AM if your child will be absent. If your child is going to be late and will be ordering school lunch, please call the School Office no later than 8:30AM so we may plan accordingly.



DAY CARE NEWS ~ Just a reminder, any student attending the Extended Care Program must have all necessary paperwork on file. **A NEW, UPDATED FORM IS REQUIRED AT THE START OF EVERY SCHOOL YEAR.** Forms are available through the School Office and/or on-line. The extension for daycare is #114. The policy regarding the receipt of payment: Please place your payment (CHECK ONLY) in a clearly labeled envelope with your child's name on front and place in the LOCK BOX located in Café Rocco near the sign in/out book. Extended Care begins at **7:15am** and ends at **5:00pm**. Please be prompt when picking up! *Extra charge if late! Also, when dropping off and picking up from our Extended Care Program, you must park in the rear lot and use the side door designated for Extended Care drop-off/pickup (located at the top of the ramp with awning). There is a door bell located to the right of the door. Your child's and your safety is a top priority. As always, your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



Breakfast – Breakfast is available each morning starting at 7:45 and ending at 8:00am. Students may go directly to Cafe Rocco where they will select their breakfast choices. A Chartwell employee will be there to assist them. Please plan accordingly, so that your child will be finished with breakfast on time and they will not be late for homeroom. The cost for breakfast is \$2.00.

Morning Snacks ~Students must bring snacks from home. Snacks are not available to purchase at that time.



Lunch Program: St. Rocco School partakes in the Federal Lunch Program. The menu is posted on our School Web-site. Your child may select the hot or cold meal choice. In doing so, your child will receive the required food items of the entree along with additional options of fruit and vegetables that they must choose to complete their meal. Your help in explaining this process to your child, required by the Federal Government, would be greatly appreciated.

Ordering Lunch ~ Lunch is \$3.50. Please place the payment in an envelope clearly labeled: LUNCH MONEY, your child's name/HR and lunch choice. It would greatly help if you enclose the exact amount of cash or a check. **You may also choose to prepay for the week only.** We **cannot** guarantee their lunch choice after 8:45AM. If your child will be late, please call the office to let us know if he/she is purchasing lunch. Thank you!

Also, an application for Free and Reduced Lunch was sent home last week and is available online on the School Website. If applying, please make sure the application is filled out completely with all the required information and signed.

Please Note: We are a PEANUT, TREE NUT, SODA, SMOKE and GUM FREE ENVIRONMENT. Also, NO GLASS CONTAINERS are to be used for a student's lunch or beverage.

Lunch/Snack Shop Volunteers – We are looking for lunchroom volunteers, Monday – Friday. You must have completed or complete the BCI/Safe Environment check. Please see the attached Lunch Volunteer form. This is a great way to see your kids interact with their friends at lunch and meet other parents in our school! The Lunch Volunteer Form is being sent home as a hard copy and an attachment.



Lifetouch Picture Day – Lifetouch will be here on Thursday, October 20th, to photograph all faculty, staff and students. **All students must wear their school dress uniform (including a sweater/vest), as these are the yearbook pictures.**



Student Busing/Parking

Johnston Residents: please be sure you have submitted the required form to the School Office.

Johnston residents only use First Student. Any questions please call – 401-944-5880.

Statewide Busing: for students who reside in Region 3 – the towns are listed below as well as the website for your convenience.

| | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|----------|------------------|-----------------|--------|
| Barrington | Lincoln | Bristol | North Providence | Smithfield | |
| Central Falls | Pawtucket | Cranston | Providence | East Providence | Warren |

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/StudentsFamilies/AdditionalResources/StudentTransportation.aspx>

Save the Date:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Thursday, September 21 st | Back to School Night 6:00pm-7:00pm, Grades Gr. 1-4 |
| | Back to School Night 7:00pm-8pm, Grades 5-8 |
| Thursday, September 29 th | Parent Association General Meeting/Color Run Event Meeting 6:00 |
| Friday, September 30 th | Independent Learning/Professional Day |



ST. ROCCO PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

"Where our Children always come first!"



Parents, Pops and Playground Event

The Parent Association has planned an event for the younger students. The Parents, Pops and Playground activity will take place on Friday afternoons. The dates, times and grade levels are as follows:

| | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Grades PK3 & PK4 | Friday, September 9 th | 2:30-3:30pm |
| Grades K | Friday, September 16 th | 2:30-3:30pm |
| Grades 1 & 2 | Friday, September 23 rd | 2:30-3:30pm |

Each child **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Grades PK3 & PK4 | Friday, October 7 th | 2:30-3:30pm |
| Grades K | Friday, October 14 th | 2:30-3:30pm |
| Grades 1 & 2 | Friday, October 28 th | 2:30-3:30pm |

Smile ~ You're at St. Rocco School A Few Pics from the 1st Week of School!



PreK and Kindergarten Fun!



4th Grade hard at work!



Cross Country – 1st Meet



8th Grade Bonding Day



Be kind be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ.
Ephesians 4:32

CHRIST is the reason for this school.
~in our minds, on our lips, and always in our hearts~