



A Prayer for a New School Year

Father,

*We thank You for the opportunity to begin this new school year,
and we ask that You bless the students, faculty and student families that makes our school a great place. We
pray that You will guide us in all ways, so that we will seek Your Will in everything that we do.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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,

These first two days for our students and staff have been wonderful. The faculty and staff have been preparing all summer for the return of your children and we were all so happy to welcome our students back into the school. It has been said that a school without children is comparable to a heart that does not beat. I agree. Your children truly are the heartbeat of the school. Thank you for sending your children to St. Rocco School. I believe it is one of the best choices you will ever make.

Welcome again to our new faculty and staff...

Mrs. Zambarano – Administrative Assistant

Mr. Kevin Dixon – Building and Maintenance

Mr. Boivin – Fifth Grade Homeroom and Middle School Math Teacher

Mrs. Scotti – Fifth Grade ELA and Literature Teacher

Mrs. Tripp – Extended Day Program

Mrs. Bergeron – Guidance Counselor



Guidance...

Mrs. Bergeron will be stepping in where Mrs. Moretti left off last year. She will work with grades K-5 with the Second Step Social Emotional Learning Program as well as with all the grades in a counseling capacity. It was great having Mrs. Bergeron in the building the past two days to meet our faculty, staff and students. We are blessed to have her two days a week in our school this year. Her days at St. Rocco's are Tuesday and Wednesday.

Welcome to our new families...

We are so glad that you chose St. Rocco School for your children. We are glad you are now part of our family and we are committed to helping you and your children as you get acclimated to your new school.

Kindness...

Our theme for this school year is "KINDNESS". We are looking for the year to be an "umbrella of kindness" throughout our school community including our faculty, staff, students and parents. We will be on the lookout for "Acts of Kindness" in the everyday moments of our school day with our students and staff and sharing them over the PA and in our Thursday Packet. We will continue to share any special good deeds this year as well.



Colorthon Update...

Thank you to all of the parents who came out last week for our first Colorthon meeting. The students will have a "kick-off assembly" next Thursday to hear all about the event, how to get sponsors and what the first prizes they can win will be. Don't forget to save the date, October 23rd, for the event. We are looking for 100% participation.



Facility Updates...

Over the summer months, there were some very noticeable changes within the walls of St. Rocco's. The floors in the first and second floor hallways, Lower Level classrooms, and Café Rocco were all professionally stripped and refinished. They are shining! We will do the same to the rest of the classrooms and hallways next year. The basketball court has been seal coated and marked out. With a smoother surface and lines, it can be used for both recess and our basketball teams and programs. New desk top computers and software were purchased for the majority of offices and classrooms and will give our office staff and teachers access to all the resources that they need. New chrome books were purchased for our grade 5 students who will be assigned their own chrome book in the coming week for their Middle School years. The Lower Level library was renovated and updated and will be up and running for our PreK 3-4th Grade students. Similarly, the Upper Level library has been updated and will be available as a resource for our Middle School students.

Of note...

Last week the 8th Grade class came together for a Team Building Day. Under the direction of Miss Tripp, and with the support of the entire Middle School team, the students had the run of the building as they took part in a very intricate Scavenger Hunt. They enjoyed lunch together, decorated their lockers and were treated to ice cream at the end of the day. Special thanks to the Middle School team who planned and organized this fun day for our oldest students to enjoy.

"Thursday" Packet...

Each week students should come home with their "Thursday" Packet. This is a communication envelope that may have hard copies of information or notes from the classroom teacher. For example, this week Nurse Cheryl will be sending home several Health-related hand-outs, so be on the lookout for these. The "Thursday Packet" envelope needs to be signed and returned every Friday to the homeroom teacher. We have tried to go paperless for most information. You should receive an email each Thursday with any information you may need.



Tardiness...

We will be taking a more seriousness approach to tardiness this year. Being punctual is so important for our students. It is very difficult for children to get caught up once they are behind in starting the day. It is also disruptive to the office staff and the teachers. Any student who comes to school after 8: 15, should come to the front door to get a late slip. The goal is to have all students in the school doors by 8:10am.

Donnelly's and Uniforms...

I know that many of our families are still waiting for uniforms from Donnelly's. Anyone in this situation, please put your mind at ease. Your child will be fine. Please have them wear something similar until their school uniform comes in. Also, please feel free to visit our "Used Uniform Closet" either before or after school. Sr. Donna has out done herself getting the closet organized for our families. Donnelly's can be reached at: 401-942-5202.

Busing...

I apologize for any confusion these past two days with the Johnston (Durham Bus Company) or Statewide buses. This truly is out of our hands. Please know that we consistently communicate with Durham and Statewide Busing through email and phone calls to get accurate information for our students. If you have a question or concern about bus service, you can reach out to Durham directly at: 401- 444-5880 or Statewide at: 401-943-7536.

COVID-19 Updates...

Nurse Cheryl and I, along with other nurses and administrators throughout the state, were part of a meeting with RIDOH last week. As of today, there are only two notable changes to our Policies and Procedures. The first is that any student or staff member who is experiencing any symptoms of illness of any kind must wear a mask in the Nurse's office or any other space where she assesses a member of the school community. Secondly, we will not be conducting weekly asymptomatic testing if the county (Providence County) is in low or medium transmission range. We will continue to test symptomatic individuals with consent and any students in a class (on day 6) that has a positive case. The complete COVID-19 Policies and Procedures for St. Rocco School can be found on the website. As always, they are subject to change. Any changes to the current policies that are made will be done with the safety and health of the school community foremost in mind.



Textbooks and Supplies...

Any student who has still not received their textbooks from the town or whose town no longer carries the necessary textbooks, should send a note to the homeroom teacher. We will do our best to take care of you. Thank you to all of the families who sent in Supply money. For those who have not sent their Supply money in yet, it would be appreciated if you could have it in by Tuesday,

September 6th. Please note that the \$12.00 Music fee is an annual fee to cover the cost of drumsticks, bucket drums, ukuleles, replacement costs, the purchase of music, etc. This was incorrectly represented in the supply list as for drum sticks and ukuleles alone. I apologize for any confusion.

Tomorrow...

Our entire student body will be with us tomorrow. Grades 1-8 will begin the year as a community by celebrating First Friday Mass at 8:45. All are welcome. Anyone who attends should sit in the back half of the church as the students sit in the front.

On a very sad note, Mr. DeCosta will not be returning as the Art Teacher for the foreseeable future. Mr. DeCosta is on medical leave at this time. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

I know that this is a lot of information to digest. The most important thing for you to know as parents, however, is that we are so happy to have your children back. And, we are committed to taking great care of them.

My prayers and blessings for a wonderful school year.

Respectfully,

Regina M. Hand/Principal



Circle of Grace ~ The Diocese of Providence requires all of their schools to teach the Circle of Grace Safe Environment Curriculum. Each grade level teacher and middle school religion teacher will be covering the materials during their Religion Class.

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. These “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

A Backpack Blessing

Bless this backpack, Heavenly Father, and the student who uses it as they begin a new school year. Let their young mind be open to learning and to the wonders of their studies.

As they carry this backpack from home to school and back again, keep this student Safe and in Your loving care. Help them to discover the gifts and talents You have given them. Give them the courage to share these gifts with their fellow students and teachers.

We ask Your blessing for the teachers, administrators and other staff members at their school. May these individuals become instruments of Your peace giving this student confidence, faith and hope.

Amen

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.

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.

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 money in an envelope clearly labeled: LUNCH MONEY, your child's name/HR and lunch choice. You may also choose to prepay for the week. 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 today 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.



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

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

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



- Friday, September 2nd First Friday Mass ~ 8:45AM
- Monday, September 5th NO SCHOOL ~ Labor Day
- Thursday, September 8th Color Run Event Meeting – 6:00 Café Rocco
- Thursday, September 21st Back to School Night 6:00pm-7:00pm, Grades Gr. 1-4
Back to School Night 7:00pm-8pm, Grades 5-8
- Thursday, September 29th Parent Association General Meeting/Color Run Event Meeting 6:00
- Friday, September 30th 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

September Virtue of the Month ~ Kindness

And 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~