

**St. Rocco  
School***Sharing the Love of the Heart of Christ!***THURSDAY  
PACKET****Weekly Parent Newsletter**

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

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September 7, 2023

Dear Parents,

Administrators and teachers everywhere recognize the important contributions parents make toward a child's success in school. There is no question about it, success at school begins at home. Parents model both silent and spoken language in front of their children daily. One of the most important components of a good school is the partnership between the school and parents who work together for the best interests of children. The close relationship between home and school is one of the exceptional strengths at St. Rocco School.

Throughout the year, parents can develop that partnership in a wide variety of ways. Parents can attend the Parent Association meetings, volunteer for the numerous parent sponsored family events, become classroom representatives, volunteer for Snack Shoppe, coach a team as well as many other opportunities. It is important to your child that you are involved in some way at school. It's a way to let your child know you believe his or her school is important. Together we can make this the best year for all our children.

Whether you are a new or returning parent, it is important to know that St. Rocco School is first and foremost a Catholic School. Our mission statement, "Sharing the Love of the Heart of Christ", is at the center of all we do. Our days begin and end with prayers that are said with the entire school community. Please help your child grow in their relationship with God by praying at home as a family and attending weekly Mass.

Finally, as the year gets underway, it is important to set up a consistent routine. 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. 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. With a strong, consistent routine, your child will strive both at home and at school.

**The Week Ahead...**

**Anniversary of 9/11:** On Monday morning our school community will pray to remember 9/11 and the victims who lost their lives and their families. Please take time this Monday 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 Tuesday, 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 to insure their best testing performance.



participate.

**Colorathon Update:** Next Thursday will be the in-school kick-off for our Colorathon event. There will be two assemblies in Café Rocco to inform and excite our students about this school-wide fundraising event. Packets will be sent home with all the information you will need to



**Sports News:** The Cross Country season will begin next Wednesday. The team will enjoy the “Ice Cream Social” with their coaches before their practice this Friday.

**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!

Looking Ahead...



**Back-to-School Night:** Please make every effort to attend our annual Back-to-School Night on September 21st. **This is a night for parents only.** All grades will begin the night in Café Rocco. This will also be the first Parent Association meeting of the year. On the agenda:

- Introduction by Ms. Hand and Mrs. Montecalvo
- The Parent Association officers will be introduced and an overview of the year ahead will be shared along with the opportunity to sign up for planned events.

- Grades 1-4 meeting with the homeroom teacher in the classroom and Grades 5-8 meeting the Middle School team in Café Rocco. Please note that this is meant to be an informative night and is not a time for individual conferences.
- Sign-ups for Basketball.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meeting
- BCI paperwork and Safe Environment Training

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 5:30 prior to the meeting or at 7:30 at the end of the evening. 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 by the diocese when this process is successfully completed, and an individual is cleared for volunteering. Enjoy a blessed, and cooler, week ahead.

Respectfully,

Regina M. Hand

### Just a few Reminders...

**\*\*\*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.** If you are unsure whether 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 ([www.stroccoschool.org](http://www.stroccoschool.org)).

- **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)



**Text Weather/School Closing Alert** ~ You may go to: [Turnto10.com](http://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, beginning in October, 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 Day” 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 charities, celebrations, recognitions, etc. Please check the monthly calendars as these days will be noted.

**BCI / Safe Environment Reminder** – All parents, volunteers and coaches interested in both onsite and offsite volunteer opportunities must have completed a BCI & Safe Environment check. There will be three opportunities in September to complete your BCI training and paperwork. Unfortunately, the first opportunity for this was cancelled today due to the early dismissal. The next days scheduled are: September 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:45 pm, and September 21<sup>st</sup>, at Back to School Night. 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 ensure 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.



Any student entering after 8:15 must come in through the main door and check in with the office.

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 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 our 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 Website. 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!



***An application for Free and Reduced Lunch 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 a new application must be filled out each year.***

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 19th, 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 Durham. Any questions please call – 401-944-5880.

**Statewide Busing:** for students who reside in Region 3 – the towns are listed below as well as on 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<sup>st</sup> - Back to School Night 6:00pm Gr. 1-8/1<sup>st</sup> PA General Meeting/  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meeting/Basketball Sign-ups

Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> Independent Learning/Professional Day

***Eighth grade working on Social Studies sentence stems!***



***Kindness*** - 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~*

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