



### 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 an environment that instills*

*Catholic values and nourishes the development 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 future.*

**A Note from the Principal...** St. Rocco School had a wonderful opening of this school year! We have already begun planning for the upcoming monthly events. From our monthly liturgies to our talent productions, educational programs, and field trips we are anticipating a full schedule throughout this school year! I invite everyone to enjoy reading about St. Rocco School and Parent Association activities, educational highlights and upcoming news and events. They can be found each week on our school website ([www.stroccoschool.org](http://www.stroccoschool.org)).



Our school also adheres to the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools. The benchmark states that an excellent Catholic school adhering to mission provides a rigorous academic program for religious studies and catechesis in the Catholic faith, set within a total academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture and life.



Each month, Saint Rocco School recognizes a spiritual or moral virtue. Following First Friday Mass, students from grade level classes will present what has been taught in order to understand the Virtue of the Month. The month of September's virtue is **friendliness**. This virtue reflects the climate within St. Rocco School, as well as the teachings of Jesus, "so whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law of the Prophets"- Matthew 7:12.



On Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, St. Rocco School students and their families are invited to celebrate their Grandparents / Grand-friends at the 10:00AM Grandparents Day Mass. Following Mass, a reception in their honor will be held in Café Rocco. Students will also have the opportunity to have a photo taken with their grandparents and family.



Special Recognition - We will also be recognizing Sr. Mary Antoinette and Sr. Donna as they celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> years respectively, for their commitment to God and to those in need.

*"Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving on another as God has forgiven you in Christ!"*  
Ephesians 4:32

God Bless,  
Mrs. Lorraine Moschella

**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** ~ Dress Down Days will begin in October. The designated day for these passes will be Monday. 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.

**MONTHLY PASSES** ~ Each month throughout the school year, St. Rocco School will be offering special dress down passes for the month. Beginning in October, you may purchase the monthly passes for **Mondays only** for the cost of \$5.00. Please place the money in a clearly labeled envelope with your child’s name and grade, along with your payment due by September 22<sup>nd</sup>. (**Checks ONLY**) Passes will be sent home in the Thursday Packet on September 29<sup>th</sup>.



**Box Tops/Campbell Soup Labels/Ink Cartridges** – We will again be offering the Box Tops for Education program and the Campbell Soup labels. Any student who brings in either 50 Box Tops or 50 label points will be issued a Dress Down Pass! A Dress Down Pass will also be issued for every 5 ink cartridges recycled. Please label envelope with child’s name and grade.

**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 volunteers need to watch the Safe Environment Powerpoint presentation under the Parent Association tab on our school website. After you have viewed the presentation, you will sign a form in the School Office, submit a copy of your license and a payment of \$ 5.00. The school is informed when this process is successfully completed and 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. All students (not arriving by bus) are to enter the building each day using the front door upon arrival. At dismissal, children must exit the building using the designated exit doors assigned to their class:

- Pre-Kindergarten 3 ~ Left Side Exit of school.
- Pre-Kindergarten 4& Kindergarten ~ Right Side Exit of school. Church Side
- Grades 1-3 ~ Right Side MIDDLE Exit of school. (Under the overhang connecting to the Church)
- 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. Bus students will remain in Café Rocco until their bus number is called and will then be accompanied by a faculty member to their bus.



**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 8:15am 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 more than 3 consecutive days due to illness must have a doctor's note before returning to school. \* Also, 3 times TARDY will result in a detention.

Please call to notify the school office by 9AM 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.

**Communication** - Once again this year, St. Rocco School is using e-mail for much of their communication. You will receive an email with the Thursday Packet Parents Note along with any pertinent attachments as needed. Please familiarize yourself with the school website and the GOOGLE CALENDAR on the lower portion of our Home Page.

- **E-MAIL ADDRESSES** ~ 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 only be posted on our website.
- **Photo Consent Forms** ~ This form is included for **ONLY NEW students**. Please sign and return to school on Tuesday. (Per the Diocese of Providence) All returning students had the form included in their re-registration packet, however if there was a discrepancy you will receive a form..
- **Text Weather/School Closing Alert** ~ You may go to: [turnto10.com](http://turnto10.com) and register your phone under the weather tab.

**DAY CARE NEWS** ~ Just a reminder, any student attending the Extended Care Program must have all necessary paperwork on file. 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 **5:30pm**. Also, when dropping off and picking up from our Extended Care Program, you must park in the rear lot and use the door designated for Extended Care drop-off/pickup (located at the top of the ramp). 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. An Aramark 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 to your child this process, required by the Federal Government, would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

**Ordering Lunch** ~ Lunch is \$3.00. 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 **can-not** 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!

**Snack Shop** – Snacks are available for purchase daily. ie chips, pudding, ice cream, milk and water. All range from .50 to \$1.00

Also, included in this packet is the **application for Free and Reduced Lunch**. If applying, please make sure the application is filled out completely with all the required information and signed.

Forms are also available online on the school website.

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.

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## Room Parent & Lunch/Snack Shop Volunteer Form included in packet.

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### Fundraising

**KIDSTUFF Books** –Informational packets are included in your packet. All proceeds from this **sale go directly towards your fundraising obligation**. For every 5 sold, you receive a **FREE BOOK!!!** Please read carefully, remember, if you **DO NOT** wish to participate you **MUST** return the packet and book. Thank you!

### NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

These are some reminders concerning our expectations concerning children's illnesses, medications, and allergies.

- Please keep your children at home when they are sick. If they have a fever, keep them home. Do not give them Tylenol or Motrin to bring the fever down just so you can send them to school. The medication will only mask the symptom of a brewing illness. Children should be fever free x 24 hours, with-out the help of Tylenol or Motrin, before you send them to school. If they are coughing, sneezing, and have runny noses they won't be able to function well at school, and they are also exposing others to their illness.
- If your child is ill for 3 or more days, they must have a physician's note when they return to school.

### Medications:

- a. A written physicians' order is required for any medication that needs to be given during the school day
- b. If your child has Asthma and needs an inhaler, please send in the inhaler and a written order physicians' order for the use of the inhaler.
- c. If your child has a severe allergy requiring Epipen and Benadryl, please send in the medication and the physicians' order. These orders must be renewed every school year.
- d. I have copies of the Medication Consent forms available. There's a place at top of the form for the parents' signature, and a place for the physician to write the order and instructions for its use.
- e. If you are giving your child an over the counter medication such as cough medicine, or creams, please call me and also send me a note requesting the time that the medication should be given, and reason for medication. The medication must be sent in with the original box stating the name and dosage of the medication to be given. Do not send in any medication in a plastic bag, or in an envelope. It will not be given unless it is in the original bottle.

### ALLERGIES

As you know, St. Rocco's is a peanut and tree nut free school. We don't allow any peanut, or tree nut products, or foods that have been processed in a facility where peanuts, or tree nuts have been prepared.

If you send in food for the classroom, it will be sent home. There can be serious and even fatal consequences if a child with a severe food allergy is exposed to any allergen.

Please try to be more aware of the food & snacks that you send to school with your child. You can visit web sites for acceptable peanut and nut free snacks, or just Google peanut and tree nut allergies for more information. If your child has peanut butter for breakfast, be sure they wash their hands or if they have peanut butter on their clothing, change their shirt before coming to school.

One last item; for children in PreK3, PreK4 and K, please send in a full change of clothing, including underwear, shoes and socks for your children. They can have unexpected bowel and bladder accidents on occasion. They get so involved in what they are doing they forget to stop to go to the bathroom until it's too late. If your child has accident and uses the clothing, we will send home the soiled ones and a new set should be sent to school the following. I will notify you if your child has had an accident, and if you are unable to get to the school to change them, I will clean and change them.

Please let me know if you have any questions about any of the above information.

Thank you,

*MS. Amelia Lato, RN*

Amelia Lato, RN 401-944-2993 ext 104

**New Payment Policy:** All payments for Field Trips, Sports Registration, events, etc. must be submitted by check. The cancelled check will be your receipt. You may continue to pay cash for lunch, lunchroom snacks, ice cream and Dress Down Days if you choose. All checks payable to St. Rocco School.

### **Student Busing/Parking**

Johnston Residence: 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

**New Parking Policy** ~ Please refer to the 2017-2018 Parent/Student Handbook for updated information.

**School Safety** ~ Our school Emergency Procedure Policy is included in this packet. Students in grades PK3-Grade 4 received a hard copy yesterday.

**Family Dinner Dance** ~ Flyer is attached and also available on school website, please join us for a fun filled evening. Returns are due by September 12<sup>th</sup>.



- Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup> NO SCHOOL ~ Teacher Professional Development
- Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup> NO SCHOOL ~ Labor Day
- Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> All students in Grades PK3-8 to REPORT
- Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> First Friday Mass ~ 8:45AM

- Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> Family Mass-St. Rocco Church, Grandparent's Day Celebration 10:00am  
"Coffee and" following provided by our Parent Association

**Special Recognition of Sr. Mary Antoinette & Sr. Donna's 60<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> years respectively, for their commitment to God and to those in need.**

- Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> Lifetouch Picture Day - Order form to follow.
- Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> SRS Family Dinner Dance due date September 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> Back to School Night 6:00pm-8:00pm, Grades Gr. 1-4  
(Includes Basketball Sign Ups ~ Grades 3 & 4)
- Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> Back to School Night 6:00pm-8pm, Grades 5-8  
(Includes Sign Ups~Basketball Grades 5-8 & Cheerleading Grades 6- 8)
- Saturday, March 11, 2017 Annual Winter Gala sponsored by St. Rocco School Parent Assoc.

### September Virtue of the Month ~ *Friendliness*



"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.  
Greater love has no one than this,  
that someone lay down his life for his friends." John 15:12-15



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