



St. Rocco
School

Sharing the Love of the Heart of Christ!

THURSDAY
PACKET

Weekly Parent News Letter



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**.*

August 31, 2023

Dear Parents,

These first two days for our students and staff have been wonderful. The entire 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 to our new families...

We are so glad that you chose St. Rocco School for your children. 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 the 2022-2023 school year was "**KINDNESS**". There can never be too much kindness in the world. And so, "Kindness" will once again be our theme this year. 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.

Colorathon Update...

Thank you to the Parent Association for beginning to plan for this year's Colorathon Event. The students will have a "kick-off assembly" on Thursday, September 14th. They will also be sent home with packets that day. Don't forget to save the date, October 29th, for the event. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we are looking for 100% participation. This is a Parent Association Event and does not count toward the annual fundraising fee.

Facility and Other Updates...

Over the summer months, there were some very noticeable changes within the walls of St. Rocco's. All floors and hallways in the school, including Café Rocco and the Church Hall/Gym were stripped and refinished. They are shining! The parking lots were all professionally paved along with the basketball court. All lighting in the school was replaced with a more efficient and higher quality and cost-effective product. A

new Reading Series was purchased for K-5 and the teachers participated in several professional development days acquainting themselves with the new series. Numerous technological upgrades were made throughout the building along with several technology purchases. New chrome books were purchased for our grade 5 students. Each year our Fifth-Grade class receives a new chrome book that will follow them through Eighth Grade. The Art Room on the Lower Level was renovated to create a multi-purpose Art Classroom for Library, Spanish and Art. And, a new Pre-Kindergarten class was added to the First Level. These are just some of the work and changes from the past few months. It was a busy summer!

Of note...

Last week the 8th Grade class came together for a Team Building Day. Under the direction of Miss Tripp, Mrs. Montecalvo and Mrs. Reitz, the students were divided into colored teams as they had the run of the building taking part in a Scavenger Hunt. They also provided some service to the school, enjoyed lunch together, were given their new locker 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 the monthly “Partners in Faith” will be sent home. Most of what is sent on Thursdays is sent electronically to the parents’ email. The “Thursday Packet” envelope needs to be signed and returned every Friday to the homeroom teacher. This lets the teacher know that you have received and read the information via hard copy or email.

Tardiness...

We take a serious approach to tardiness. 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. A letter will be sent home at the mid-trimester point for any student who has been tardy more than three times in the trimester.

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...

Busing the first few days went very well. 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...

The school’s COVID-19 Policies and Procedures are attached. Please become familiar with them. Any changes to these protocols will be communicated. If you have any questions, please reach out to Nurse Cheryl or myself.

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 5th.

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.

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

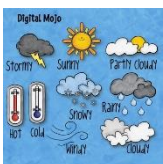


Reminders from the Nurse: The COVID-19 Health Screening Attestation must be signed and returned by Friday, September 8th. For your convenience, an attachment is included in this week's Thursday Packet.

*****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, 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 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. There will be three opportunities in September to complete your BCI training and paperwork. They are: September 7th and 14th at 2:45 pm, and September 21st, 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 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 Wednesday, 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 21st Back to School Night 6:00pm Gr. 1-8/1st PA General Meeting/
8th Grade Parent Meeting

Friday, September 29th Independent Learning/Professional Day

The Kindness Wave™



Start a ripple... Create a wave.
It begins with YOU!

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~