



August 11, 2020

Dear Parents,

Since my arrival to campus six weeks ago, I have spent a good deal of time meeting and conversing with faculty, staff, school board members, parents and grandparents. During these discussions, the strength of our school community may best be surmised by the interwoven threads of faith, family, and a foundation of academic excellence which together form the magnificent tapestry that is St. Ursula School.

St. Gregory the Great is quoted as saying, "The proof of love is in the works. And where love exists, it works great things." Grounded by a genuine love for St. Ursula, the tireless work of many community members have provided the bedrock which serves as the foothold to our doors of faith and knowledge. And through this entranceway, we proudly welcome in the 2020-2021 school year.

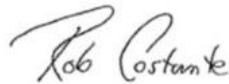
Rather fittingly, the message found in this past weekend's Gospel (Matthew 14: 22-33) appeared as a timely lesson on human emotions. As mortals, present life can sometimes overwhelm us with concern and doubt. In this chapter of Matthew, the disciples became terrified and cried out in fear as they watched Jesus walk upon the turbulent waters of the Sea of Galilee. In response to their doubt, Jesus used a powerful statement to encourage his followers: "take courage, it is I; do not be afraid". The meaning behind this passage is not intended to ignore the realities of the present. Rather, this Gospel reading invites us to reflect upon the response of Peter the Apostle and his emotions of the moment (stress, fear, concern). And just as the disciples came to recognize that Jesus is always with them, so must we trust in the Lord during the challenge of these times. For it is our faith which teaches us that God controls that which we cannot.

Each school year bears a capacity for new growth. This year, unlike any previous time before, will provide us a unique opportunity for growth as our harvest will yield the fruit that took root during distance learning this past spring. So as we prepare to open our doors of faith and knowledge, it is important to note that our remote and in-person instructional platforms are driven by student learning and growth. And as we do all things, our programs and practices are viewed through a lens of the health, well-being and safety for our community.

Included with this correspondence is a Parent Acknowledgement & Agreement Regarding COVID Protocols, and an Assumption of Risk form, both of which you are expected to read, sign and return to the school before August 31. In addition, I have also included a list of particular items that will occur between August 25 - September 4.

Enjoy the many blessings of the final weeks of summer. We look forward to seeing your child(ren) on Monday, August 31.

Together in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rob Costante". The signature is written in black ink and is centered on the page.

Principal

Important Dates

August 25 - September 4

August 25

New Parent Virtual Orientation - 6:30pm

- *A separate email invite link will be sent to new parents regarding this event*

August 27

Parent Intake Conference Day with Homeroom Teacher - 1:00pm to 4:00pm

- *A separate email will be sent to all parents regarding this event*

August 28

Parent Intake Conference Day with Homeroom - 8:00am to 4:00pm (12pm-1pm not available)

- *A separate email will be sent to all parents regarding this event*

August 31

First Day of Classes - 1st Grade to 8th Grade

“Get Acquainted Day” - Kindergarten & Pre-K (Rain date September 1)

- Kindergarten (9:00am to 9:45am)
- Pre-K (10:15am to 11:15)

Early Dismissal Day (times listed below)

- 11:50am - Students with the last name: A-Dr
- 12:00pm - Students with the last name: Du-La
- 12:10pm - Students with the last name: Le-Sc
- 12:20pm - Students with the last name: Se-Z
- 2:00pm - Remote Learners: Pick-up of Textbooks, Workbooks, Chromebook (devices for grades 3-8)

September 1

Early Dismissal Day - 12:10pm (**For Kindergarten & Pre-K Only**)

September 4

Early Dismissal Day (times listed below)

- 11:50am - Students with the last name: A-Dr
- 12:00pm - Students with the last name: Du-La
- 12:10pm - Students with the last name: Le-Sc
- 12:20pm - Students with the last name: Se-Z