



December 22, 2020

Dear Families,

As an educational community, St. Ursula School continues to work closely with the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Maryland Department of Health, the Baltimore County Health Department, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention regarding safety guidelines and recommendations during the COVID-19 pandemic. One such recommendation is the State of Maryland's public health advisory for out of state travel which declares that Marylanders are strongly advised against traveling to states with positivity rates of 10% or higher. And as the CDC warns that travel increases your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19, it recommends that the best way to protect yourself and others is to stay home.

As part of our risk mitigation protocol, St. Ursula School requires that families must notify the school administration if they intend to travel out of state or internationally with the exception of the following areas which border the state of Maryland: Pennsylvania, Virginia, Delaware, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. Those traveling will be required upon their return to provide evidence of a negative PCR test result for COVID-19 and are asymptomatic or they have completed an entire 10-day quarantine. Notification regarding travel plans outside of the aforementioned bordering areas should be sent to susoffice@stursula.org.

I want to assure you that St. Ursula remains committed to the well-being and safety of our community members. And with the goal of our school being one which is grounded by transparent communication, please allow this correspondence to also provide you with an overview of our statistical totals. To begin, as we look back on the nearly four months of this current school year, our enrollment sits currently at 626 students with 512 of those students registered as in-person learners for Trimester 2. With these in-person student numbers, coupled with 70 employees who report to St. Ursula on any given day, our community presently includes an on-site population of 582 students, faculty and staff members. To this point, since August 31, we have only had 11 students and 1 staff member test positive for COVID-19. And from all reported evidence, each of these positive tests were contracted outside of our school bubble. Moreover, there is no pattern to these positive tests as no one case occurred within the same cohort during a similar time period. Furthermore, each of these separate cases were isolated to themselves with no contracted spread occurring as a result of any positive test within our school community. And as a matter of protocol, please know that each time a positive test occurred within a cohort, we promptly alert the parents of any student who is determined to be a close contact. As well, we also send an additional correspondence to all of the families within that classroom. And in the case where a faculty member might test positive, we will (and did in the one previous case), communicate that test result to the entire school community.

As the Baltimore area continues to experience an uptick in positive tests, it becomes increasingly imperative that we work together to ensure the safety of our entire community. For this reason, I would ask you to remain vigilant as a family in minimizing exposure to large groups, washing one's hands, wearing masks and maintaining appropriate safe distance from others. And this week

as we prepare to honor the birth of Christ and the family celebrations that are likely planned, it is imperative that we remain united in our vigilance for the purpose of safeguarding our families and our school community. Therefore, we continue to require that any student who might be experiencing COVID like symptoms to remain at home. Likewise, if any at home family member is experiencing COVID like symptoms or was exposed to someone with COVID like symptoms, we also require that your child remain at home. In either situation, we ask you to please contact our school nurse, Christine Bauer at health@stursula.org to update us on the status of your child and/or family member. Please know that the risk in sending either an ill student or a potential close contact student into school could have dramatic consequences to our ability to keep our school open. So, each morning when you complete the Wellness Check Survey for your child, it is crucial that you do so candidly and with integrity.

Thank you for the ongoing flexibility, understanding and patience you have afforded during this challenging, yet joy filled season. And as always, we are grateful for your partnership and the blessing of your child that you so generously share with our school community.

May God's Love Bless You at Christmas and Always,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Costante". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

Rob Costante
Proud Principal of *HUSKY NATION*