

St. Monica School
“The Pride of South Philly”
From the Desk of the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On behalf of Father Kelley, the faculty, and staff, we welcome you to the 2020-2021 school year. We are looking forward to seeing the children’s happy faces on the first day, Wednesday, September 9th, for all grades 1-8 with 11:30 dismissal. We welcome to our staff an IHM Sister, Sister Santa Teresa, who will be working in the office of the senior building.

We know that this school year is beginning as the last one ended, with much uncertainty and many questions that we cannot answer. We are moving forward with faith and trust knowing that we have an excellent plan in place and that the entire school community and staff are committed to implementing it for the health, safety, and continued excellence in education that we are known for in South Philadelphia and within the Archdiocese.

This year you will receive information prior to the beginning of the school year, in particular, who your child’s classroom teacher will be. We feel it is important this year that the teachers communicate with you prior to the Back to School Meeting.

Again, each Wednesday, weekly school communications have begun. Please let us know if you are not receiving them. Also, as we did from March to June, we will be posting on the school webpage, saintmonicaphilly.org, any general information. Updates include the SMS Pandemic Plan, the tentative school calendar, stationery lists, summer assignments, and an email link for you to send any questions you have regarding the new school year.

We are looking forward to working together as always, valuing you, the parents, as the first educators of your children. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children’s success, this year, more so than ever. It is imperative that we all do our part to make our pandemic plan work. As parents and guardians, we need your cooperation and support in the following:

- Check your child’s temperature each morning and ask them how they are feeling. This year especially, we need your cooperation in not sending your child/ren to school sick or with a fever.
- Prepare your child/ren now with the wearing of a mask, practice wearing it properly and for increased lengths of time.
- Explain to your child that school this year will look and be different.
- Read the pandemic plan and share with your child/ren what is important for them to know – social distancing, washing of hands, wearing of masks, not touching your face, and the changes that will be implemented. Take your time in doing this

so the children will not be overwhelmed or concerned. Use life situations, like ordering in instead of going out, to inform them that in school they will be eating in the classroom this year instead of the cafeteria. The school will use the beginning days to educate, inform, and practice all of the changes that have been implemented in addition to presenting the regular school and classroom policies and procedures and practicing school procedures.

- Be sure your child/ren know and practice the basic CDC health guidelines of wearing a mask, social distancing, washing of hands, covering your cough, and not touching their face, eyes, mouth, or nose.

And as always:

- Complete the FACTS registration for tuition payments, call Terry with questions.
- Attend school daily and on time (7:55 is the late bell, doors open at 7:30).
- Use correct uniform beginning the first day (we do have used uniforms that are donated if anyone is interested, come to the senior building).
- Have a proper haircut; no fad cuts, lines, coloring, or highlights for boys or girls
- Complete the summer assignment.
- Have back pack, school, and cleaning supplies ready for the first day.

The school handbook can be found on the SMS webpage at www.saintmonicaphilly.org for any questions or clarifications. Also, feel free to call, our summer hours remain T-TH, 9-2PM.

I encourage you to participate again this year, in our meal program, especially breakfast. We will begin the first full week of school with this program as well as with the CARES Program.

It is my privilege to be a part of this school community where parents, teachers, staff, and students care for each other and strive to build the family of God through prayer, love, and service to the poor and needy. I truly believe a faith-filled education is the best gift you can give your children. Thank you for choosing St. Monica School, we are the “Pride of South Philly.”

God bless you and your families,
Sister Regina, IHM
Principal