Dear Parents and Friends of St. Joseph Elementary School,

I greet you today with the affirmation that we will be ready to start school safely next month. I have been following guidelines from the ODE (Governor DeWine’s office), the Toledo Diocesan office (Matt Daniels as Head of Schools), the Huron County Health Department with Tim Hollinger as contact, and Ralph Moore (Monroeville Superintendent). I have worked with Mr. Moore over the summer and we are on the same page in this Covid pandemic in many areas. We will follow Monroeville’s and Huron County’s **YORP** color scheme for the appropriate level of Covid awareness. **YELLOW** will mean 100% in-school physical attendance. In this level there is some risk of exposure and spread of the virus. **ORANGE** will mean a blend of attendance: All K through 8 students will be in school, while the High School will distance-learn. Extracurriculars take place unless otherwise noted. **RED** means K through 12 will all distance-learn. Extracurriculars will be determined by him. **PURPLE** means Complete Lockdown: All buildings closed. No extracurriculars.

**WE WILL BE IN-SESSION, AT-SCHOOL FOR YELLOW AND ORANGE levels.**  Our Junior High activities with Monroeville Public teams need to follow this structure closely as will we all for weekly assessments of the Huron County Covid updates.

Our date for starting school has changed. It is now **Wednesday, August 26.** This is because the public school pushed their start date to this. The difference here is that **ALL St. Joseph’s students will attend Wednesday the 26th, Thursday the 27th, and Friday the 28th,** while they will be starting one-third of their students each of those days. (They have all their students reporting altogether on August 31.)

If you wish to view the 12 page review of their total plan, go on their website and see Monroeville Local Schools Reopening Plan.

Our **Pre-School students will not start until the following week** under these guidelines: the 3/4 year old Tues/Wed/Thurs MORNING attendees will start with the first half of their class on Tuesday, Sept.1, the second half of the class will start on Wednesday, Sept. 2, and the whole class will be in together Thursday, Sept. 3. Each family will be notified as to which half they are in. There is no 3/4 year old Preschool class on Friday.

 The 4/5 year old Monday through Thursday AFTERNOON attendees will start with the first half of their class on Monday, Aug. 31, the second half of the class will start on Tuesday, Sept. 1, and the whole class will be in together on Wednesday, Sept 2 and Thursday, Sept. 3. Each family will be notified as to which half they are in. There is no 4/5 year old Pre-Kindergarten class on Friday.

On another major issue: St. Joseph School **WILL NOT PROVIDE DAYCARE TO** **START THIS SCHOOL YEAR.** It was after much debate that the administration has decided it is best for now to suspend it. After the Christmas break this issue will be revisited. Our hope is to have it again after the Covid pandemic is more resolved.

Multiple other issues need to be addressed. They include:

1. **The children from fourth grade and up will need to wear masks to school,** **in the halls, and into their classroom**. At their seats ONLY, upon sitting at six foot internals, may they remove their mask. Leaving their seat or the room for any reason warrants them wearing the mask again. **Third graders on down do not need to wear a mask, but they may.** Our classroom **teachers will wear masks or shields at all times.**
2. Parents will need to take their child(ren)’s temperature each morning. If it is 100 or higher, the child(ren) is to stay at home. If the child(ren) has symptoms of viral nature, like sore throat, achy body, dizziness, persistent cough, etc., they are to stay home. **Temperatures of all bus riders will be taken by bus personnel prior to getting on board.** If over 100, the bus driver will send them back to the house. **Temperatures will be taken at either door entry to our school when students enter the building.** If over 100, parents will be called to pick them up.
3. Will will have staggered start times in the morning. There will be three groups. Grades 6/7/8 will enter school at 7:30; grades 2/3/4/5 will enter at 7:45; and Pre/K/1 grades will enter at 8:00. Family members may arrive together at the earliest of the above times. We will have temperature takers at the south and east school entrances. Students may use either entry. These start times are mandated so we can socially distance ourselves on the front sidewalk before entering and so that we have time to take temperatures at the door entrances. Parents and visitors are **NOT to enter the building at all,** without a specific appointment outside of school time.
4. Students are to bring their own water bottles as our fountain is not Covid safe. We will have water coolers so the students can re-fill their bottles.
5. We will have bussing provided by Monroeville Public School but parents need to access the public school website for information, download the form provided (or fill it out directly on line and send it back to them.) The new Bus Supervisor for Monroeville is Adam Gerber. His contact number is: 419-706-1306. We will be bussing the first three days of school, the 26th, 27th, and 28th of August. Get the form filled out ASAP and return it.
6. We will have hot lunches from the public school, beginning our first day of school, August 26.
7. For Mass: We will have the first one on **Friday August 28 at 12:30**. Grades One and up will attend this first Mass. We must distance the students for this throughout the church. So we will not be able to have any adults other than teachers in attendance. We will announce changes to this protocol if this changes. Regular Mass for the students will be Wednesdays after the first week.
8. We will be hiring a floater that will work throughout the school to help Mr. Schafer and Mr. Geis keep up with extra sanitation as well as helping the teachers maintain social distancing of their classes in the building and during dropoff and pick-up times.

Please be attentive to changes and additions to this list. We are experiencing this process for the first time. Patience and understanding with a true “Love of Thy Neighbor” will be critical for us all throughout the school year.

For questions to this letter and other happenings, email me at mwasiniak@msjcs.org anytime.

Sincerely,

Deacon Mike Wasiniak, Principal