



August 12, 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome back St. Therese families! It's hard to believe school will be starting in a few short weeks. I hope that you are enjoying a relaxing and safe summer. I have been enjoying my summer combining work with some afternoon and weekend golf. I am excited to begin my fourth year as principal at St. Therese School and I look forward to working with all of you in the spirit of commitment and collaboration as we move into this new school year!

School will begin as a full-day on Tuesday, September 3rd at 7:55AM and end at 2:30PM. Gym classes will begin on Wednesday, September 4th. Our first week will have full school days on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday with a half-day on Friday, September 6th. All days will have After School Care. On Friday, September 6th at 11:00AM, we encourage you to come and celebrate the beginning of the school year with us at our **First Friday "Welcome Back Mass,"** presented by our Faculty. School-wide Mass will continue on the First Friday of each month. It is my sincere hope that you will join us Friday, September 6th and at all First Friday masses throughout the year. Additionally, we will continue to sponsor a **Mass on the first Sunday of each month at St. Therese Church** to celebrate STS, its students and families. Details will follow, inviting our students to represent STS. The planned academic year will run through Wednesday, June 17th, with five snow days built into our academic year. Please visit the School's website Friday Folder at <https://sts.stthereserobury.org/friday-folder>, or the School Office, for documents/forms that **MUST** be returned on the first day of school. The School Office is open from 8AM-1PM, Monday-Friday during August, unless otherwise noted via our Alert system.

For the safety of the children, please drop off your child(ren) at the main entrance of the school in the morning after 7:30AM. For dismissal at 2:30PM, please drive up to the main entrance when the signal is given **AFTER** the buses have departed. Cars will line up in four rows; please be sensitive to the format. Family signs will be provided on the first day of school for you to display on your vehicle's visor/dashboard. If your child is **NOT** going to ride home on the bus as usual, you **MUST SEND IN** a note that morning to the homeroom teacher/Office, otherwise your child will ride home on their scheduled bus. Please know that last-minute calls to have your student(s) switched from bus to car line, and vice versa, **MUST** be received in the office by 2:00PM.

We will hold a **Uniform Exchange** on Saturday, August 24th, 10AM-Noon, in the Gymnasium, thanks to Mrs. D'Amore who volunteers to run our Uniform Exchange. Feel free to obtain standard and gym uniforms for your student(s) and consider a donation to our Angel Fund in return. To purchase uniforms, please visit our uniform supplier, Flynn O'Hara at <https://www.flynnohara.com/School-Landing.aspx?scn=NJ035> or their location at 130 Baldwin Road, Parsippany, NJ.

Our **After School Care Program (ASC)** will begin on the first day of school, September 3rd. The handbook/registration form is available on the School's website Friday Folder and in the School Office. Please obtain the form and submit with registration fee(s) prior to having your child(ren) attend ASC. This program runs until 6:00PM on full- and half-days unless indicated otherwise via Alert system, Friday Folder, Calendar.

Our **lunch program, Simply Gourmet**, <https://www.simplygourmetlunches.com>, will continue Monday through Thursday, full-days, along with "Pizza Fridays". Information on both programs can be found on the School's website Friday Folder and in the School Office. We are committed to providing your children with the most nutritious lunch for the most affordable price.

We invite all parents to **volunteer** for lunch and playground duty from September 3rd through June 17th, as well as for After School Clubs. Please consider volunteering, as we do need this help to support our programs and children. We want to be able to offer After School Clubs, but can only do so with your help. Remember, in order to volunteer with our children, you must have completed all parts of the Paterson Diocese's "VIRTUS Protecting God's Children" Program, registration found at https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_list2.cfm?theOrgID=37487. This information can also be found on the School's website Friday Folder and in the School Office.

ST. THERESE SCHOOL

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FAITH. FAMILY. FOUNDATION. #theSTSDifference

St. Therese School utilizes “PlusPortals,” an interactive web portal that enables school administrators and teachers to instantly share data, internal school communications, engaging with parents in a secure environment. Access to this is located at <https://sts.stthereserobury.org/parent-portal>. Linked to the parents’ primary email address that is on file, parents in grades 4-8 may view their child’s academic progress by logging in and checking the portal regularly. This way, both parents and teachers can have a true understanding of student achievement and can make adjustments and apply different strategies to better serve student needs. Additionally, PlusPortals displays much more information such as our School Calendar and Friday Folder and this information will be available to all grades, PK through 8th. I also encourage you to check the teachers’ blogs and principal’s blog frequently, available on the School’s website at <https://sts.stthereserobury.org/in-the-school>. Homework and grade-specific information will be posted for you to check along with your child(ren). All families will be registered on the PlusPortals Notify System for school delayed openings, closures and announcements. Directions will be available on how to access the system on the School’s website Friday Folder.

I’d like to highlight two changes being made to this year’s staff. We are pleased to announce that Suzanne Verba-Hopkins is joining our staff as our new School Admin/Secretary. Ms. Hopkins, parent of two former STS students, former STS Art Teacher and HSA board member, holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design. Having run her own Graphic Design business, she brings extensive knowledge in the field of Marketing, Advertising and Website Design. We are currently looking for a new Art teacher and should have the position filled shortly. Carol Joyce, mother of three current STS students and Assistant Treasurer for our HSA will be filling in for Mrs. Tironi while she is on maternity leave during the month of September. Mrs. Tironi gave birth to a baby boy in June, and we are all happy for her and her husband Steve. Carol Joyce has a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in Elementary Education with a concentration in Math. Having provided STS with long-term substitute teaching in the past, Mrs. Joyce will be an extraordinary addition to the outstanding faculty that already exists at St. Therese School.

Regarding returning Faculty, Paula Dobres is back for her second year teaching PreK-3 and Robin Reed will continue in PreK-4. Samantha Tironi will return to Kindergarten once she returns from her maternity leave in early October. Kerri Novak will be back to teach Grade 1 along with Kristen Taylor, in Grade 2. Alexa Muller will teach Grade 3, Kristen Rowland in Grade 4, Jennifer Dohrmann, Grade 5. Mary Cornish will teach Grade 6, Alice Gargin in Grade 7, Charlene Cardinale, Grade 8. Marcia DiGuilio is back for Physical Education, Jean Hall for Technology, Rebecca Pachella for Music, Señora Decker for Spanish. Deacon Bruce will return for Religion instruction for 7th and 8th grade. Deacon Murphy will continue to teach Math in grades five through eight. Joanne Morro and Barbara McKenna will serve as the School Nurses. Gary Mallinson will return to instruct our supplemental Instrumental Band Program in grades four through eight for those students who have registered for the Band Program. Our returning teachers’ aides are Christine Nowel in K, Theresa McDonald in PreK-4, and Julie Matthews in PreK-3. Linda Duncan and Shirley Cullotta will oversee the After School Care Program.

St. Therese will continue to provide 1:1 Chromebooks to students, with PK-1st grade utilizing iPads in the classrooms. During the last week of August, NEW middle school parents and students will be contacted to attend training, receive Chromebooks, understand the parent and student expectations and responsibilities. This is all in keeping with St. Therese School’s commitment to offering a quality education to our students and keeping up with current technology and educational trends of the 21st century.

Back-To-School Night will be held on Thursday, September 12th at 7PM, with an introduction to our supplementary Instrumental Band Program for grades four through eight, at 6:30PM.

Thank you to Bernie and Candy Coll, Eric Wolen, Vince Esterly, Walter Hill, and Suzanne Verba-Hopkins for all they have done to prepare our school for our reopening.

Lastly, your family’s HSA 50/50 tickets are enclosed. Most families have remitted the required payment of \$300.00. If your tickets include a notice, please remit payment.

I am looking forward to the new school year as we work together to provide our students and families with a challenging 21st century academic curriculum that is rich in Catholic faith, teachings and traditions. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me for an appointment. Together we will continue to strengthen an already healthy school community and make it even stronger! Let’s pray that this year brings good health, happiness and success to our students, staff and families.

At this time, we will ask God to bless our families, faculty and staff with a very successful school year. May God be with you for the remainder of the summer and keep you safe ~ enjoy the final weeks!

God bless,

Mr. Timothy T. Dunnigan
St. Therese School Principal