



Dear Parents,

There is a great deal of information circulating in the media about the Coronavirus. As with any new virus, there are things that we know, and there is a certain amount that is unknown that will be revealed in time. The most important thing that we know right now is that we should be informed as much as possible and use common sense in preparing for further outbreaks.

The CDC has put out a very helpful information sheet, and there is information from qualified medical personnel available. I ask that if you have concerns, you turn to reliable sources for information.

Here at St. Michael School we have been taking a very proactive response to this year's severe flu season, and will continue to do so with this new virus. Desks and classroom surfaces are being disinfected daily. Children are reminded to wash their hands frequently and/or to use hand sanitizer which is available in all the classrooms. We ask students to cover coughs and sneezes so as to not spread any germs. The final point, in all of the guidance from the CDC and medical professionals, is to please keep your children home when they show symptoms of the cold or flu.

When you call the school to report that your child is not going to be attending, we will ask you the reason and or symptoms they may have. This is so that we can track absenteeism and report to the local health authorities if we see sharp inclines in illness. As I mentioned, we have been doing this all along, and so far our efforts have been very successful in keeping our school community relatively healthy in lieu of all the illness that has been present in the surrounding community. Yes we have had cases of the flu and/or the stomach bug, but we have kept them from being widespread.

We will continue to be vigilant and proactive. But we need your help. Please do not send your children to school when they have fevers, however minor. If they are really exhibiting cold symptoms they will be better off curled up at home in their PJ's. And, of course, if they have a stomach bug, please keep them home!

Together we can keep our children and our community healthy.

God Bless,

Doris Messina