



Dear Parents,

I hope everyone is resting and beginning to enjoy the summer!

We are receiving many questions about the upcoming school year. Will we be open? What will it look like? How are you planning for it?

Of course, those are all good questions. I wish I had good answers! We are, as I have stated in the past, moving forward with our move to West Broad, and plan to be open in the fall. Of course, what the summer brings, and what the state determines to be best for students will be taken into consideration. But the new building gives us room to spread out, and precautions can be taken. These of course, will include lots of handwashing, masks, and proper monitoring of illnesses and symptoms, as well as disinfecting and any other guidelines from the CDC.

If that is not possible, other scenarios are being considered. Hybrid schooling, where some children are in on alternate days to limit the number of students at one time is a possibility. Although, honestly, I think consideration for parents work schedules make this less than ideal.

A better idea would be to offer parents a choice. Some parents may not be ready to send their children to school, so some students may stay home and work virtually, while others will attend classes. Again, difficult, but able to be achieved.

And, of course, there is also continuing remote or distance learning. While we know we can do this, and in fact, learned a great deal this spring, we do feel that getting children back into their classrooms is the best. Not just for teachers and parents, but absolutely in the best interests of the students.

Despite the uncertainty, teachers have been cleaning out their classrooms, disposing of things that they don't need, and packing up the items that will make the move with us to the West Broad Street school building. The rooms at West Broad are also getting cleaned out and prepared for painting. The teachers are very excited about their new classrooms and welcoming students to the new building.

The move and coronavirus strategies are not the only planning that is taking place this summer. The St. Michael School teachers are also thinking about their students and how to accommodate them in the coming year. The end of this school year was difficult in so many ways, and now we must work together to prepare ourselves for the coming one. While a great deal of learning was able to take place, we know

that there are gaps that are going to be present. We are utilizing webinars and meetings to strategize and develop curriculum maps to be sure that standards are covered, and each child receives the instruction that they need. Of course, we are still focused on our classical curriculum, integrating classes and discussions, focusing on history and the virtues.

The upcoming school year will bring new challenges, but we are confident that we will be ready to meet them in September in our new home: St. Michael School at West Broad. So, we ask you to pray. Pray for the end of the virus, or at least a vaccine and ways to treat it. And pray that going forward we can all get our students back into the classrooms where they belong.

Enjoy your summer; we'll see you in the fall!

God Bless,

Doris Messina