

Back to School Memo Sunday, March 29, 2020

Dear Parents,

I am sure many of you had to put on the back burner vacation plans during our spring break week. My wife and I had plans to visit Charleston, SC for a five day get away. I guess that will be on our agenda for 2021. I hope during our break you were able to spend quality time with your family and enjoy the blessings of this life, even though there are obvious stresses and uncertainty during these difficult times.

I do want to remind you that we are back to school tomorrow as our teachers embark on the important task of educating your child. This is a huge responsibility that we do not take lightly. As the educational leader of the school I have concerns about the learning of our students. I proposed these questions to our faculty:

- 1) Come May 31st, can I with confidence state that my students are prepared for the next grade level?
- 2) Can I state with confidence and certainty what the strengths/weaknesses are of each of my students?
- 3) What data can I share with next year's teachers so that we eliminate gaps in a child's learning base as a result of their absence from direct teacher instruction?
- 4) Have I communicated to parents what I expect the students to have mastered during this period of school without a classroom setting?

You can see why I state we have enormous responsibilities. The challenge is monumental, but in my short time working with the St. Chris faculty, I am certain they will do their best under difficult circumstances.

Notes:

- I will be present in the office from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on a daily basis. Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Bradley will be conducting most of their business from home. If you have questions or concerns, please contact them at kthompson@stchristopheronline.com or kbradley@stchristopheronline.com.
- The rules for the EdChoice scholarship program for the 2020-21 school year will be the same as this past year. For those Vandalia residents that means if your designated elementary is Demmitt Elementary and you are newly registered at St. Chris school, you qualify for the Traditional EdChoice Scholarship. If you are currently enrolled at St. Chris and your financial situation changed this past year, you may qualify for the EdChoice Expansion scholarship. Please contact me or Mrs. Bradley if you have questions. Here is the Ohio Department of Education's website- <https://education.ohio.gov>
- Kindergarten screening is currently scheduled for April 24th. We are NOT changing at this time, but in a week or so I may have a better sense if we need to change this date.

- I would ask that if you need a calming message (Urb et Orbi meditation) of hope during these extraordinary times you read the message of Pope Francis presented on Friday, March 27th. He reminds us of the panic of the apostles on the boat during a turbulent storm and the calm of Jesus as he slept during this time of panic for the apostles. Jesus responds to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?” The Pope’s message is, “Like the disciples, we will experience that with him on board there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God’s strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies.

“We need the Lord, like ancient navigators needed the stars. Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives. Let us hand over our fears to him so that we can conquer them.” - Pope Francis