



Holy Name School

850 Pearce Street

T: 508-674-9131

Fall River, Massachusetts 02720

F: 508-679-0571 W: hnsfr.org

Mr. David J. Flanagan, Principal

Very Rev. Jay T. Maddock, Director

December 8, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we enter the second week of Advent, we are reminded of how truly hopeful this season is for us. As Isaiah proclaims:

Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings;

cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news!

Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah:

Here is your God!

We all journey through advent to the day when we celebrate Jesus' arrival and we celebrate the "glad tidings" of what this will mean for humanity. As we continue to struggle with the sadness of the pandemic, we need to look forward to the saving grace that Christmas ensures and know that God will provide strength for us to proceed toward an end to this global tragedy.

Teachers are working with their students on some Christmas carols and Christmas skits. Please look for a message from your child's teacher of which day will be their "Red and Green Day" where they will perform their songs, etc. and wear some Christmas themed clothing. Unfortunately, as the spike in COVID cases continues to rise, we will not be able to do a live performance. We will video the performances and share them on Facebook.

Please remember that if you traveled out of state for the Thanksgiving holiday, or if you plan on traveling at Christmas, your child MUST quarantine for 14 days upon return. Please see all requirements at:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order>

(Note: If your child is under 10, they may return to school as long as their parent has tested negative. Students must wait for parent's test result before returning to school. The only 2 states that are considered low risk are Hawaii and Vermont.

Clothe-A-Child:

Thank you very much for your support of the annual Holy Name School Clothe-A-Child fundraiser. We were able to provide many coats for children in need due to your generosity.

December Update:

Looking forward to December, our last day of school has been moved up to Dec. 18th from the 23rd !! The 18th will be a full day **BUT** we will not have to make up the time in June!! Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold our annual Polar Express Day but the students will all be allowed to wear pajamas for the day. More information regarding this will be forthcoming.

Please send your children to school with winter coats, hats, and gloves. It is very important for the students to spend time outside in the fresh air as we continue to make our best efforts at limiting chances for infection with COVID-19. Additionally, per the new regulations, students will need to wear their masks outside and maintain social distancing in an effort to stop the large increase in new cases in the state and in the City of Fall River. Thank you for your continued efforts and support with regard to these regulations.

REMOTE LEARNING: *If you decide that you would like to choose the remote option for your child, please let Mr. Flanagan know as soon as possible. **Please note that there is no option of partially remote learning currently at Holy Name School.** Due to the importance of tracking student absences for Contact Tracing purposes by the Department of Health in the event of a positive case, we need to know as soon as possible in the morning if your child will be absent due to sickness. Please contact Ms. Chippendale to inform her of the symptoms your child is experiencing.*

We are starting to see an increase in cold and flu symptoms, which is normal for this time of year. As you know, these symptoms are very similar to COVID indications. Please keep your children home if they are exhibiting two or more of the symptoms or if they have a fever. Kindly consult your pediatrician and if you have any questions, please contact the nurse's office here at school. (nurse@hnsfr.org)

Please note that this deadline is rapidly approaching and if your child is not immunized by December 31, 2020 they will not be allowed to return to school after the Christmas break. Please email the certification as soon as possible to: nurse@hnsfr.org

"The Massachusetts Department of Health is now requiring that students must be vaccinated against the influenza virus and must present a certificate of

such vaccination to the school before December 31, 2020. Please contact your child's pediatrician if you need to obtain certification that vaccination endangers your child's health."

COVID Testing Reminder: If you have a family member that has been in contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID, and they are waiting for test results, please keep your child home until the test result is received. If your family member tests positive, your child will have to be quarantined according to health department rules for 14 days, regardless of a negative test result for the child. Please let the office or the nurse know if this happens in your household in order for us to maintain accurate records for contact tracing purposes. Thank you for continued cooperation!

COVID-19 Updates:

We will always provide an update concerning local levels of infection and any updated guidance from the Massachusetts health department and the Massachusetts department of education and the Catholic School Office, if it impacts our school and the procedures we follow. *As of last Wednesday, Fall River was coded RED and the rate of infection was increasing.* Since the Fall River Diocesan and Parish schools are not experiencing an issue with infections, the decision to remain open in our current formats was made by the Catholic School Office.

School Masks: **Please remember to regularly wash the colored Holy Name School masks.**

We do have some mask sets left to be purchased if anyone is interested. We know that by now many of the masks are stained, misplaced or just not in great shape. If you would like to purchase a new set of masks, please use the attached link. Once we receive your payment, we will send your masks home. Also, if you have yet to pay for your first set of masks, please use this link to do so at this time. [Click Here to Pay Holy Name School Face Masks](#)

We still have families who have not sent in updated nursing/physical/vaccination information. **It is imperative that we receive this information from all families.** If you have a reason why this cannot be done, please contact Mr. Flanagan immediately.

All families must follow the state mandates for vaccinations and immunizations or they will not be allowed to attend Holy Name School.

MASS Update:

Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, December 9th, with Fr. Jay Maddock for 1st and 2nd grades. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, we still cannot have families and friends attend the in-school Mass.

Lunch Ordering:

Reminder: Please look for an email from Mrs. Krauzyk (mkrauzyk@hnsfr.org) on Tuesday of each week that provides a link for your lunch order and payment.

Please be sure to order by Thursday, December 10th at noon.

Lunch Forms are also available on our website <https://www.hnsfr.org/Lunch-Menus>

Extended Care:

Reminder: Please email Mrs. Krauzyk or call the office in the morning if you will be using Extended Care. This will allow us to make the necessary safety preparations for all students. Of course, if you need to use Extended Care at the last minute, it is always available.

[Click Here to Pay Holy Name School Extended Care](#)

Weekly Reflection:

Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man.

--Pope Francis

Stay well and God Bless,
David J. Flanagan
Principal