

The mission of St. Martin Catholic School is to teach a life of Prayer, Leadership, Love, Service and Kindness through Catholic Education.



August 12, 2020

Dear Jaguar Families,

Mother Teresa taught us to **"Do ordinary things with extraordinary love."** I can't think of a better expression for what is taking place at school right now as we plan and prepare for your child's arrival. Making schedules, ordering soap, moving desks, preparing bulletin boards are all typical back to school tasks, but this year they are being done with extraordinary love! We have a lot on our list to accomplish before August 19th, the first day of school, but we are slowing and surely doing everything we can to prepare a space (both physically and spiritually) that is reverent, safe, instructional, welcoming, and extraordinarily special for our students.

As you begin to prepare your homes and hearts for school to reopen, please join us in praying the prayer to St. Martin de Tours. We can feel your support, prayers, and enthusiasm to help make this year one of the best years ever!

Prayer to St. Martin de Tours

St. Martin, helper of those in need, your strength was trust. You gave until you had only your necessities and you shared them. You allowed the Holy Spirit to guide you in this sacrificial giving because you trusted God in you. You trusted that your work was Holy - you lived this trust. We ask your intercession before Jesus that we may have Vision to See, Faith to Believe and the Courage to do.

Amen

PLAY DATE FOR PRESCHOOL & PRE KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES

A play date is planned for this Wednesday night for preschool and prekindergarten families. We will meet on the playground at 5:30 so the children can play and at 6:00 the parents will meet with their teachers so your questions can be answered. Please make plans to attend this fun event. Come get acquainted with the new families at our school, the new friends your child will make this year and your child's teacher.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLAST-OFF NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 16TH

WOW! It seems I have been talking about Back-to-School Blast-off *FOREVER*... and now it is here!!! We are so excited to see everyone again. This marks the beginning of our year. We are opening school!!!

To help you plan your visit, here are some things that will help:

- Please check-in at the table that will be located in front of school. Your family will have their temperatures taken, take a brief health survey and be given a time when your children's pictures will be taken.
- Please bring a mask/neck buff/ face covering. You will need to wear it when you take your children's supplies to their classroom.
- Please do not linger in the building. Place your child's things on their desk, if there are things on the deck take those and then proceed outside to meet your child(ren)'s homeroom teacher.
- Meet your child(ren)'s teacher(s). Introduce yourself to Fr. Doke and make sure you come and say HELLO to me, Mrs. Clingman.
- Enjoy yourself! Meet a new family while your child(ren) play on the playground. Mrs. Jill Cremer and Ms. Tiffany Richoux have put together a feast while you visit. Their crew will be serving you out of the sandwich shack on the playground;..

If you have not signed up for a time to come please use the sign-up link to schedule your time to come, it is not too late. <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/11698976838690007/false#/invitation>

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

School pictures will be taken during the Back to School Blast Off on August 16th. We have changed picture companies this year to Inter-state photography. Packages can be ordered in advance at inter-state.com/order using our school code 50002FB. Each family has been assigned a time slot during their Back to School Blast Off Shift. Each child is allotted a 3 minute slot for taking their picture. You will be given a card at the check in table with your family picture time, please arrive at the gym 3 minutes before your scheduled time. In compliance with Inter-state safety guidelines and to protect the photographer, staff, students and families only 6 families will be allowed in the gym, 3 taking pictures and 3 waiting for their turn. If you need to change the time you are coming to the Blast Off, please contact the office at 893-3519 or school@stmartinjc.org so that your picture time can be adjusted. Thank you for your help with this process!

CLEANING SUPPLIES DONATION

On your children's school supply list there were items, paper towels and disinfecting wipes listed. Several families have expressed concern of not being able to find these items and have asked if they can simply donate money so the school can purchase these items through our janitorial supplier. The answer is, absolutely yes! If you would prefer to donate the money you would spend on these items, instead of hunting for them, simply put your donation in an envelope marked "disinfecting wipes/paper towels".

We had several families ask if there is a way to make a donation in FACTS for clorox wipes, paper towels etc., we have added a pre-pay account option for this. When you sign into your FACTS Family account there are now three pre-pay options (lunch, school donations, and parish donations)

Also, if your family needs assistance in purchasing school supplies for your children please email at principal@stmartinjc.org.

SCHOOL LUNCH ACCOUNTS

If you had an overpayment on your prepay lunch account from last year, the amount has been transferred to your 2020-2021 lunch account effective August 5, 2020. Please contact the office with questions.

SCHOLASTIC BOOKFAIR

Our Scholastic Bookfair will be online this year. We are looking for a volunteer or a team of volunteers to help organize this. If you are able to help, please contact the office at school@stmartinjc.org. Thank you!

CAR TAG FOR AFTER SCHOOL PICK-UP

All students will be brought to their car "curbside" in front of school. Anyone who is picking-up a student will need to stay in their car to help us maintain safety guidelines and reduce the number of people coming into the building or congregating in front of the building.

Each family will receive 1 car tag free of charge to display in your car for pick up. Car tags must be visible for car line staff or after school care staff to see during pick up. Please complete the form <https://payit.nelnet.net/form/YNBJRvLn> to order additional car tags for your family. FACTS family accounts will be billed \$1.00 per additional car tag ordered. Charges will show on your account by August 31st (Please note: You will not see the charge immediately on your family account).

Please contact the office with questions. Thank you! **Car Tag Orders are due August 17th**

ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

Many things will be different this year when your child(ren) arrive at school. Sadly, we will not be able to use the services of our Jaguar Club to greet the children each morning. Instead the children will be greeted by a teacher, staff member and/or Mrs. Clingman.

All families should expect to drop off their child(ren) using the car line. You will enter using the east drive (by the tennis courts) circle around the church and wait at the flagpole until you are signaled to pull in front of school. We will be using the three entrances into school. Upon exiting their car, the child(ren) should have their face mask/neck buff on and should wait at their car to get their temperature taken. Once they get their temperature taken they will enter through their designated door –West door: Preschool 3 year olds, Prekindergarten 4 year olds and Kindergarten; Middle Door First, Second, Third and Fourth grades; East Door/Main Entrance: Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth grades. The door will be propped open to avoid countless touches. Your child then will immediately go and wash their hands, then they will go to their homeroom class. Doors to the school will open at 7:00.

For safety sake no family should park in the parking lot and walk their child to the door. We do not want children passing between the cars in front of school. On the rare occasion that a family will need to park then they should get the attention of the teacher on duty to help them safely pass from the parking lot to the building.

Classes will begin at 7:30 this year. We needed extra time in the day in order to schedule cleaning and disinfecting time throughout the day. We also wanted to ensure there was extra time to wash hands. It's important that your child arrives on time so they are ready to begin class at 7:30.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

After school dismissal will be similar to drop off. You will pick your child up in front of school. To avoid an all school gathering in the gym, the children will remain in their classroom and as you pull in front of school they will be called to their designated door. As with arrival, for the sake of safety, all parents/drivers should remain in their car.

Please note: The school office phone will not be answered after 3pm as the office will be helping with the dismissal process.

After School Care parents will follow the same procedure. Car tags should hang from the rear view mirror and be visible to the ASC personnel, who will be watching from the middle door. When you pull to the curb, your child will be called to the ASC room. (Mrs. Schroer's old first grade classroom). They will get their things and come out to the car. Please do not pull away from the curb until your child(ren) is buckled securely into their seat.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE ENROLLMENT

We are trying to make staffing decisions in regards to After School Care. If your child(ren) will not be attending After School Care please email the school office. Also, "drop-ins" may be limited this year because of the need to place our students in stable groups.

DIOCESAN POLICY ON TRAVEL AND PROTOCOLS FOR COVID-19 TEST RESULTS

Anyone visiting a current COVID-19 hot spot or traveling internationally will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days before being allowed back on parish/school property. This includes students or anyone who is on parish/school property on a regular basis. This may require staff to utilize sick days, vacation days, or short-term leave. Please use the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) map of hot spots to help your staff determine if their travel takes them to a current hot spot. States at the highest levels of current cases qualify as a hot spot. <https://www.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/index.html#cases>

Protocols for when someone receives a positive COVID-19 test result are available for pastors, administrators, presidents/principals, PLCs and other leadership.

GOOD-BYE MR. HOSKINS

We sadly say good-bye to Mr. Hoskins who resigned. He will be taking another job. We pray that God will bless him in his new position.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

First Day of School: Aug. 19 with 1:00 dismissal

Grandparents Day: Sept. 11 at Niekamp Park at 1:30

Picnic with Parents: April 30 at Niekamp Park time to be announced

God Bless

Mrs. Julie Clingman
Principal