



June 25, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope this note finds you and your family well. It is hard to believe that the 2019-2020 school year has ended. Final report cards were mailed last week, along with summer reading lists and additional information. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Thank you for your partnership as we immediately transitioned to distance learning in March. While I am certain we all would have preferred being in the classroom, the faculty, student, and parent response to distance learning was a tremendous accomplishment.

I understand many of you are curious as to how school will operate this fall. Like you, I am anxiously awaiting an update from Governor Hogan and the Archdiocese of Baltimore regarding plans to open the 2020-2021 school year. As soon as I receive information from the Archdiocese, I will communicate our plans to you.

Until I know further, we are planning on welcoming students back to school on Monday, August 31 as scheduled. We will be taking all recommended precautions, including enhanced and frequent disinfecting and cleaning, as well as social distancing measures. How exactly that will look is determinant on the directives we receive from the State and AOB.

In the next few days, you will receive a request to complete a survey regarding distance learning. The information gathered from this survey will help our faculty and me plan for future contingencies should we be asked to move to remote learning again. My priority is ensuring every student receives the same quality education Mother Seton School is known to provide, and in a safe and accessible manner.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share a few exciting 2020-2021 updates with you. I am pleased to announce that Mrs. Amber Reaver will serve as our Pre-K – grade 8 Physical Education teacher. Mrs. Reaver will be a familiar face to our students, as she has worked closely with our recently retired PE teacher, Mrs. Stocksdale, for the past few years and has served as a substitute teacher. Mrs. Reaver is excited to begin teaching our students and carrying on the traditions of our annual Walk-a-Thon and Field Day.

Last winter, the decision was made to open a three-year old Pre-K program. While the pandemic and school closure affected student recruitment and enrollment, we currently have enough enrolled students to open the program this coming school year. I am in the process of completing the teacher hiring process and will announce the hire in the next several weeks.

Ms. Julia Conway will teach grades six and seven English Language Arts. Ms. Conway has taught fifth grade at Mother Seton School for the past four years. She will work closely with Ms. Elizabeth Brennan, who will teach grade eight and one section of seventh grade English Language Arts.

Mrs. Danielle Kirby will serve as a reading specialist in our Seton LaCroce Learning Center. Mrs. Kirby will mostly work with our Kindergarten – grade 2 students. We are very blessed to have Mrs. Kirby in this role, especially at a time when our younger students missed several weeks of in-person reading instruction this past school year.

To plan for any social distancing requirements, I added additional homerooms for the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Kellie Marr and Ms. Ann Warthen will teach fourth grade, while Mrs. Sharon Beard and Ms. Chasten White will teach fifth grade. Grades six, seven, and eight will each have two homerooms. Ms. Erin Taylor and Ms. Brennan will serve as sixth grade homeroom teachers, Sr. Joan Corcoran and Ms. Conway will each have a seventh grade homeroom, and Mrs. Danielle Kuykendall and Mrs. Elizabeth Vines will serve as eighth grade homeroom teachers.

I am also excited to announce that the Seton LaCroce Learning Center will move to Room 109, across from the gym and cafeteria. This new location will allow the Center to be easily accessible and available to all students. Two grants were submitted to relocate the Computer Lab to Room 108, next door to the SLLC. We are hopeful that we will receive one, or both, of these grants in the next several months. Moving the Computer Lab to this location will allow for appropriate social distancing and will provide ample space to use our newly purchased 3-D printers and robots. The Computer Lab will remain in its current location until we receive funding and complete construction.

I am excited to plan for next school year and beyond and look forward to the day that we are all in school together again. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Kathleen J. Kilty, PhD
Principal