

January 22, 2021

Dear Parents,

We've had a busy two weeks back and it doesn't look like it will be slowing down anytime soon. This week we started our MAPS testing. This is the standardized testing that took the place of the Terra Nova. All students, K-8 take this test in some form. We administered this test in the fall of 2019 and winter of 2020 then schooling as we knew it changed dramatically. I opted not to do the testing when we started back this August because it seemed counterproductive. One would assume deficits due to the lockdown and students were not in a testing frame of mind the first three weeks back when everything was still new and different. Nevertheless, I am now confident in giving the test. We will be able to compare apples to apples by looking at Winter 2020 and Winter 2021. This testing window closes on February 12 so if your child is sick, in quarantine, or does the Optional NTI, don't panic. We will make sure everyone is accommodated. Results will be sent home at the end of the trimester along with report cards and a tip sheet on how to read your child's scores.

Speaking of report cards, don't forget this coming Friday, January 29 is our winter conference day. Virtual conferences worked well in the fall and we will follow that protocol again this time. These are optional conferences, with or without students present. The day will still count as a school day because students will have their regular NTI work to do. The sign-up genius will go live this afternoon. Remember, if you want to meet with multiple teachers as a group, indicate that in the comment section and reserve the same time on each individual teacher's page.

Just as important to the students as these academic matters, Valentine's Day is approaching! This means another classroom party is on its way. Just like they did for Halloween, teachers will plan activities and may ask for donations to make the party festive. If your student would like to pass out Valentines, they will need to be at school by Thursday, February 4. This allows us to quarantine the Valentines and pass them out safely the following week. In order to ensure that the process is orderly, please send one type of Valentine and leave the "to" portion unlabeled. Please no homemade edible treats; any food should be individually wrapped and sealed for safety purposes.

While you're on Sign-Up Genius, you may also want to check out a few other opportunities. There are new sign ups for library helpers, cafeteria workers, and to sell split the pot raffle tickets. Funds from this new, parish wide, split the pot raffle will be used for 8th grade scholarships. Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased on Faith Direct or after weekend masses. The 8th grade scholarships are usually funded by the annual Trivia Night event which has been cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Finally, teacher vaccination went well yesterday. I appreciate the flexibility and support of parents with the short notice of our half day. Our second round of vaccinations will be done on Thursday, February 18. We will again have a half day followed by regular NTI-lite. I know this is difficult for working parents. My decision was made after careful deliberation and discussion with the school board as well as other administrators. The second vaccination has a much higher rate of side effects and I think having the day after the vaccine as an NTI day is in the best

interests of our overall school community. I will be working on an updated calendar to post on the website next week. In the meantime, please note the following:

February 10—was scheduled as an early dismissal but will now be a regular, full day of class with after school care as usual

February 18—half day of school with dismissal at 11:45, NO after school care

February 25 & 26—STILL off school with no NTI as a winter break. Remember, if you choose to go out of state, you will need to quarantine upon your return.

While it has **NOT been confirmed**, I am anticipating that spring break will stay the same BUT there will be a week of NTI following it as a buffer, much like we had after Christmas break. I will let you know as soon as I get word from the archdiocese but want you to have time to plan.

Whew! Never a dull moment at St. Aloysius! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via email or call the school office at 241-8516.

Stay healthy,

Mrs. Hayslip