



September 13, 2018

## Principal's News

Dear St. Raphael Families,

Welcome back to school! I am grateful for this opportunity to serve you as principal. I have been a teacher for over a decade and instructional leader the past five years. I believe a strong Catholic education can have a powerful impact and have been fortunate to attend Catholic schools from kindergarten through the university level. These experiences helped me grow in my faith and as a whole person.

At St. Raphael Catholic School students have the opportunity to grow in faith in a dynamic, well-rounded learning environment. Learn more about your child's classroom at Curriculum Night, **September 25<sup>th</sup>**.

I appreciate how welcoming families have been. Stay tuned for the location of Coffee with the Principal, **October 2<sup>nd</sup>**. I look forward to partnering with you as we make this a super start to the school year!

Blessings,  
Ryan Zgutowicz

## Upcoming Events

- 9/14: St. Raphael Spirit Wear Day
- 9/17: NWEA MAP Testing begins
- 9/20: Karate begins after school
- 9/20: School Night for Scouting - Cub Scouts - K-5th, 6:00-7:00 pm, Game Entrance
- 9/22: St. Raphael Athletic Association Golf Tournament
- 9/25: Curriculum Night 6:30pm
- 10/2: Coffee with the Principal
- 10/27: Rake-a-thon - morning - save the date!!

## Curriculum Night for K - 8th Grade

Curriculum Night will be **Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**. Mr. Zgutowicz will open the meeting at 6:30 in the gym and then parents will have the opportunity to visit their children's classroom to learn more about class policies and curriculum from their child's teacher.

## St. Raphael Spirit Wear Days

On the second Friday of every month we have our St. Raphael Spirit Wear Days. Students may come to school out of uniform if they are wearing St. Raphael Spirit Wear (clothing that has our St. Raphael name or logo on it). If a student chooses not to participate please have them wear their uniform.

## **St. Raphael's Our Lady of Fatima Traveling Statue**

We are excited to offer the opportunity of hosting Our Mother in your home for a week. Please see the attached handout regarding our traveling statue. Thank you to Cindy Villa and Geri Cox for coordinating this opportunity for our families.

## **Band and Orchestra Program**

We are once again partnering with Totino-Grace Fine Arts Academy to offer Band & Orchestra for our students and families. If your student is interested, there is still time to sign up! Please see the attached handout regarding more information about the program right here at our school.

## **A Few Office Reminders**

- **Attendance** - please call the school attendance line 763-504-9450 ext. 1, when your child is absent or will be late. If your child is late please come into school to sign your student in or send a note with your student.
- **The school office is closed during school Masses, usually Thursday mornings at 8:00 am**, so that the entire school can attend Mass. If your child is arriving late on Thursday mornings, after 8:00 am, please bring them to Church and walk them to their teacher so that we know they are present.

## **Free and Reduced Lunch Application**

It is not too late to complete a Free and Reduced Lunch Application. If the income levels apply to you, please complete that application and turn it into the school as soon as possible for your student's breakfast and lunch account to be billed appropriately. If you have any questions or need an application, please contact our Cafeteria Manager, Carolyn Pugh at [carolyn.pugh@srsmn.org](mailto:carolyn.pugh@srsmn.org) or 763-504-9450 ext. 354.

## **Marketing Event**

We are currently planning a marketing event and we need your help! We are ordering 1,000 door hangers that will advertise enrollment at our school. We are asking for volunteers to help us hang them on the front doors of the neighborhood homes/apartments around the school. Would you be willing to volunteer a couple hours of your time to get the word out about our amazing school? Please email [cnelle@straphaelcrystal.org](mailto:cnelle@straphaelcrystal.org) if you are interested. We are hoping to do this campaign towards the end of September or the beginning of October! Thank you in advance!

## **St. Raphael Daily Breakfast Program**

Children who want to eat breakfast are welcome to do so from 7:10 - 7:30 am in the school cafeteria. All they need to do is tell one of the teachers who are working in the outdoor carline and we'll let the student in to go down to the cafeteria. The cost is \$1.30 per meal which is just added to the students' lunch accounts. Students who are on the free/reduced lunch program and all kindergarteners (thanks to a State of MN grant) will not be charged for breakfast.

## School Breakfast and Lunch Accounts

School breakfast and lunch account balances are always viewable on the Educate website, and the link to Educate can be found on our school website. You can pay your student lunch account balances by dropping off cash or checks to the front office, sending the cash or check in an envelope with your student or you can visit the following link to make a payment online with a checking/savings account or a credit card:

<https://srsmn.org/resources/lunch/>.

As always, if you need a username or password reset for the Educate website, please email Carrie Nelle at [cnelle@straphaelcrystal.org](mailto:cnelle@straphaelcrystal.org).

## All School Rake-a-thon, Saturday, October 27th

Please remember to mark your calendars and join all St. Raphael families for the annual Rake-a-thon on **Saturday, October 27th**. **Our kick-off rally for students will be in September**; students will receive all materials at that time. We are still in need of volunteers to help plan and coordinate this event. If you are willing to help, please call or email Geri Cox, Rake-a-thon Chairperson at 763-232-0897 or [taylor.cox@comcast.net](mailto:taylor.cox@comcast.net).

## Donations for Education

Donations for Education include all of the programs that offer money to our school in return for sending in Box Tops for Education, Kwik Trip & Nature's Touch Milk Moola, Loaves4Learning, Tyson's Project A+ and Coca-Cola Give.

In our first contest of the year, Team 1 (PS/PK/6th) is raking up the most Donations for Education items! This team has brought in 630 items! Way to go Team 1! The final turn-in day is **Monday, September 24th**. (You may, of course, turn in items on Sept 17, as well). There is a bucket in each classroom for the students to place the items in. Be sure to label with name and grade. Remember this contest is a team effort. The teams for this contest are: Team 1 - PS/PK/6th, Team 2 - K/7th, Team 3 - 1st/5th, Team 4 - 2nd/4th & Team 5 - 3rd/8th. The prize for this contest is an out of uniform day for the winning team!

At the beginning of summer, Coca-Cola Give doubled the donation value of codes entered, increasing our second quarter total to \$270 which gives us a year to date total of \$432. Yay! Keep those caps and flaps coming in! Thanks for your support!

We also collect pop top tabs. You can send those to school in containers or bags. We have a wonderful volunteer, RuthAnn Williams who coordinates bringing the pop top tabs to the Ronald McDonald House/Children's Hospital Foundation. This is such an important way to teach our children about giving back to the community and recycling. The Ronald McDonald House relies on these donations to support their efforts of hosting families who have children who are ill. Please continue to bring your pop top tabs to church or school.