

## Parent Newsletter #1 (9/14/20)

Annnndddd we're off for what is truly going to be a memorable school year. It was so refreshing and great to see so many familiar smiling faces (behind the masks) roaming our hallways again and the atmosphere at the school was one of cautious excitement and optimism. The students and staff have done a great job of adjusting to the new environment and the new regulations and I am proud of the way they have carried themselves throughout this process. As we continue to ease our way back into a "normal" routine, we are identifying and working through some minor issues that inevitably come with so many changes. Please know that we are ironing out these issues and are committed to the health and safety of all of our students and our families. We are here to serve all of you so please let us know if there is anything we can do to enhance your educational experience with us. Thanks again for your support and faith in our mission at St. Peter School. May God continue to shine His blessings on our school, our families, and our community.

### **In Case You Missed It...**

- We started our Fall MAP testing this past week and will continue through next week. MAP testing is our school's version of state standardized testing and is a certified alternate assessment for those tests. Grades 3-6 take Reading, Math, Language Arts, and Science while grades K-2 take Reading and Math. The scores from these tests will help us determine where our students are academically as well as what content areas we need to focus on as a staff. If you have any questions about MAP testing, please feel free to contact us.
- The subject of mask breaks has been a topic of discussion this week. Our stance on mask breaks is that we believe that our students should be afforded mask breaks throughout the day in order to allow them to breathe some fresh air and help them focus a little better. However, based on recommendations and guidelines from the health department as well as the CDC, we have to be careful and diligent with the breaks we take. Our staff is working hard to find times within their schedules to allow for more frequent or longer breaks. We are also currently tracking times and duration of breaks to see where we can allow for additional breaks. These mask breaks are at the discretion of the classroom teachers but each teacher is committed to finding safe times to provide some relief from the masks. If you have any questions or concerns about the mask mandate please contact the classroom teacher or Mr. England.
- Please try to return all required forms that were sent home this past week by the end of this week. This includes emergency medical forms, acceptable use policies, COVID-19 assumption of risk, and others.

### **Just Thought You Should Know...**

- Please note the change to the weekly liturgy schedule posted on our school website. Our first student-led liturgy will be this Wednesday, September 16th at 8:45 at the church. Due to seating and capacity restrictions, we will be having grades 3-6 participating in the church while grades K-2 will be doing a smaller celebration in the gymnasium at the same time. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend the church liturgy but we are unable to accommodate families for the celebration in the gymnasium at this time. This arrangement is only temporary and we are

working to get the entire school together for traditional Wednesday liturgies as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

- Our annual St. Peter School discount card fundraiser will begin today. Each family will be getting ten cards to sell so we encourage you to sell as many as you can. If you need additional cards, please contact the school office. The families who sell the most cards will be rewarded with pizza gift certificates. The contest ends on October 9th.
- We are still in need of volunteers for lunch and recess. It can be moms, dads, sisters, uncles, grandmas, we accept them all. Any way you can help out goes a long way and we are extremely grateful for all of the help we get. Please contact the school office if you are interested in helping during lunch and/or recess.
- Our fall picture day will be Friday, October 2nd. Order forms will be going home soon. Even if you are not buying school pictures, your child's picture will be taken for the school yearbook so please wear your Sunday best.
- Reminder, there will be no in-person school this Friday, September 18th due to the Wyandot County Fair. However, instead of offering in-person instruction, St. Peter School will use this day as a virtual learning day. This means that teachers and staff will be uploading virtual lessons, assignments, and resources that students can access at their choosing. Students will NOT be required to be logged in that day but they will be responsible for completing their online work by Monday. If you have any questions about our virtual learning day, please contact the school.
- Please check the school website at [www.stpeterupper.com](http://www.stpeterupper.com) for latest updates, schedules, or changes.

**Quote of the Week:** "I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination." - Jimmy Dean