



St. Helena Catholic School

May 22, 2020

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St. Helena Families and Friends:

Welcome to the Memorial Day weekend! Teachers and students are wrapping up instruction today and we are launching our first-ever, virtual **Field Day**! We hope students and families will take a break from screens and accept our teachers' challenges for this new twist on Field Day. Every video submitted earns the student a chance at three great raffle prizes! See the St. Helena Facebook Page for more details and submit videos to Mrs. Hileman at hileman@sainthelenaschool.us

8th Grade Graduation - *CONFIRMED* - Sunday, May 31st at 10:00 a.m.

I'm delighted to finally officially confirm that we will be able to celebrate our 8th graders at a Graduation Mass! The Archdiocese has announced that parishes may resume public Mass with a "proposed cap on occupancy limited to 33 percent of building capacity."* The parish is preparing to implement extensive and stringent diocesan protocols for social distancing and sanitizing in order for us to celebrate and worship together. Eighth-grade families will be sent more detailed information regarding this special event very soon.

**(Please see Archbishop Hebda's letter linked below in Resources).*

End-of-the-Year Parade - Friday, May 29th 3:30 p.m.

Please join us next Friday in celebrating our school community as we finish the very memorable 2019-2020 school year. We know it isn't our traditional good-bye but it will be great to see everyone again. Make a sign, decorate your car, or just come and wave to us! Teachers and staff will be stationed on the front lawn waving and cheering.

We will be saying a special farewell to Mr. Ruble, who has faithfully taught at St. Helena for 26 years, along with Ms. Heindl, Ms. LaPlante, and Mrs. Smith.

Parade Directions & Guidelines:

- This is an optional event; a video will be shared later.

- Any person not feeling well or displaying COVID-19 symptoms should not attend.
- Each household should be in a separate car (carpooling doesn't comply with social distancing).
- Everyone will stay in their cars, there is no walking alongside or any participation outside of your vehicle.

The traffic flow will go as follows:

Line up cars starting on the east side of the school on 33rd Avenue, the Parade will start with the first car pulling away at 3:30 to pass by in front of the school, then turn right on 32nd Avenue, turn right on 43rd Street and go by the Church & Parish Offices. One time around for everyone!

June 1 - June 4 School Materials Drop off & Pick up

Please plan to have all materials ready for drop off at school in the first week of June. Chromebooks, textbooks, school-owned instruments, and other items. It would be helpful to have materials sanitized and wiped down. Items will be placed by grade level in the gym with minimal contact with teachers and staff. We would prefer if only adults came to school. If we have items for families to pick up they will be labeled and there at that time also. More details and social distancing guidelines will be shared with all families next week, along with a Sign-Up Genius to select your time.

Aim Higher Scholarship Announcement

Aim Higher is ramping up the summer application cycle in an effort to help even more children attend Catholic schools in the fall. They have announced that they expect to award *more than double the number of scholarships that were awarded last summer*.

Here are three things you need to know about the summer cycle:

1. *Aim Higher* will begin accepting new TADS applications [on June 1, 2020](#), and close on August 7, 2020. Unlike the first cycle, scholarships will be awarded on a rolling basis throughout the summer to help more families make decisions about enrollment as soon as possible.
2. Families that have not yet applied for our scholarships for this school year will follow the normal TADS application process.
3. Families that have already applied but **have experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19** will need to complete a two-step process in order to complete a review of current circumstances. First—families will need to complete a form on the *Aim Higher* website with the updated information. Second—they will need to log-on to TADS to upload the appropriate documents to verify their information.

A more detailed update, website, and training will be shared late next week. Please bear with us a couple more days as *Aim Higher* is working with TADS to make this as easy as possible for families and schools.

In my newsletter next week, I will address our preparations for the 2020-21 school year, Summer-Long Learning, and other items.

Together in Christ,
Mrs. Ellen Rian
Principal

Resources:

Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis

<https://www.archspm.org/catholic-bishops-of-minnesota-move-ahead-with-plan-for-limited-return-to-public-masses/>

<http://thecatholicspirit.com/>

Minnesota Department of Education - COVID-19 Updates

<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/health/covid19/>

Things to look for:

- Parent Survey coming out next week seeking input on 2020-21 school year
- Coming Soon - Our Summer-Long Learning Announcement
- St. Helena Strong Video - On our Facebook page and School Website
- New Distance Learning page at <https://www.sainthelenaschool.us/>

2019-2020 End of Year Timeline

May 25 No School - Memorial Day

May 26 - May 28 **Final assessments, projects, and assignments** (students still need to log in and engage each day) Student & teacher wrap up sessions.

May 29 Last day of school

End of school year celebration parade at St. Helena School at 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 31- 8th-grade Graduation Mass 10:00 a.m.

June 1 - June 4 School Material Drop off & Pick up:

- See Sign-Up Genius to select your time for drop off - (*adults only*).

Enrollment for 2020-21 School Year - Third Notice

As many of you are probably aware, tuition alone does not cover the entire cost of a student's education at St. Helena. Due to the pandemic, *it is more important than ever that the administration has firm enrollment numbers in order to appropriately budget for next year.* In partnership with Tuition Aid Data Services (TADS), St. Helena is sending out 2020-21 tuition and financial aid information to registered students and families. All tuition payments for the next school year will begin in August. Please check your email for the information if you have not already done so. Families with a new incoming student will need to set up a new tuition agreement by their due date.

All of us at St. Helena recognizes that some of you may be hurting because of changes to your individual family situation in recent days and weeks due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are inviting any family in need of assistance to please let us know. We believe in a community response at a time like this and will do everything in our power to respond to what we collectively and individually face in 2020.