



# SAINT CHARLES

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## Weekly Update 5 ~ October 8, 2020

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FR. OCT 09	8:00 AM 3rd grade Mass (church)
SU. OCT 11	3:00 PM Rosary Coast to Coast (front lawn of church)
MO. OCT 12	<b>NPH \$1 Sponsorship Spirit Wear or Orange Day</b> 3:30-8:00 PM Preschool - 8th grade parent teacher conferences
TU. OCT 13	1:30 PM Middle School Mass (church) 3:30-8:00 PM Preschool - 8th grade parent teacher conferences
WE. OCT 14	<b>School not in session - Staff Development Day</b>
TH. OCT 15	<b>School not in session - MEA Break</b>
FR. OCT 16	<b>School not in session - MEA Break</b>
MO. OCT 19	Out-of-uniform passes may be used

Dear St. Charles Parents,

Below is a review of the announcement I made during my "Parents Night" video sent out on October 1<sup>st</sup>. At the end, I've included the 9 days that are being removed from this year's calendar school days.

*My Dear St. Charles Parents,*

*As happy as we are to be in school and as good as our plan is, it has been an extreme hardship for the teachers and other staff to manage. Our students begin arriving in the classrooms at 7:20 AM and dismissal is complete by 3:00 PM. The day is longer, and in dividing our classes into smaller groups, we have had to suspend specialists (tech and library). The result is 90 minutes less of prep time per teacher per week. Since we are not mixing groups, the teachers are not able to share duties, and they end up being with their classes through lunch or recess each day (everyone does get a lunch break ;-). In addition to these changes, we are offering a distance learning option and working hard to keep students who are out for multiple days while waiting for testing results, symptoms to clear up, or the whole trimester up-to-date with their class. Absences are more frequent and longer due to our plan guidelines, so the management of this can be very difficult and time-consuming.*

*I'm concerned that this strain will lead to*

- *Compromised ability to deliver an excellent product*
- *Staff burn out - unbalanced lives - health issues & susceptibility to illness*
- *Being forced into distance learning due to a lack of subs*
- *A staff that no longer finds joy in their work*

*We can't put time in a bottle, but we can give the staff more time by taking days off of the school calendar, and that is what we are going to do. I will be taking 5-10 days off the school year; these days off are being used to provide time for teachers to catch up on work and areas in their personal life. There will be no school for students*

*on these days. I realize that this may create a hardship for parents who will have to arrange care for their kids. I'm sure you understand that we are doing this to alleviate some of the hardships that our staff is experiencing. I anticipate and appreciate your support in this matter, if you do have any questions about this please contact me directly. Here are the finalized student contact days that we are taking off of the school calendar. There will be no school for students on these days:*

### **Days Off**

October 30 -- Friday

December 21 & 22 - Monday and Tuesday

February 12 – Friday

March 15 – Monday

April 20 - Tuesday

June 7, 8, 9 – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

### **Sign up for Conferences!**

Please complete conference sign-up by Friday!! It will remain open until Sunday at 3:00PM, but you will save our teachers from having to do weekend work by signing up today or tomorrow! See the link below.

### **Marathon**

Our virtual Marathon was a success, and I'm very grateful for the continued generosity and support from our community! The service projects were a highlight for me this year. It was so inspiring to see all of the good work done by our kids in the community! The final collection for Marathon goes through tomorrow, and we'll announce the total next week. Please send any final donations to the school office, and we'll be giving away more prizes at school this week and next.

### **Patience with the Process**

Many parents have been struggling with the process of having to have siblings stay home from school and the process for returning to school. I want you to know that we understand. Here is my pandemic story that is still being written as we speak.

Last Sunday evening, my kindergartener Tommy was up all night with a sore throat. On Monday, I was able to get him in for a COVID and strep test with my other two kids in tow. Have you ever been in a doctor's office with a six-year-old, a nine-year-old, and eleven-year-old and one chair to use? Needless to say, I was relieved when the appointment was complete. The strep test was negative, so we had to wait on the COVID test as one big happy family at home. Wednesday morning the results for Tommy's test came in negative! My wife stayed home with Tommy who still had symptoms, and I was off to school with my other two symptom-free kids. We arrived late but were all glad and relieved to be back in school. We drove home at the end of the day and my daughter Clara fell asleep in the car. She woke up upon our arrival home and was not the happy, cheerful ball of energy that she was just a half hour earlier. She was complaining of not feeling well, and sure enough, she had a low-grade fever and congestion. All of my kids have gymnastics on Wednesday evenings, and when we told them there would be no gymnastics there was wailing and arguing. When their mother shared that they would all be home from school the next day there was screaming, crying, stomping of feet, and then, there was my kids' reaction to the announcement!!

This morning, I took my fourth grader Clara in for testing. We are doing our best to keep up on schoolwork while my wife and I do our jobs from home. We should have Clara's test results by Saturday and be back in school by Monday morning unless Johnny, my 5th grader, or my wife or I start in with symptoms. If we do, the game goes on...

I want you to know that all of your medical information and circumstances are private, and confidentiality is a top priority. I'm sharing all of this information by choice because I want you to know that I'm in this with you; you're not alone. Most families are going to experience what I'm describing at least once this year, and we just have to be patient with the process. This isn't my favorite, but if I look at our life overall, we're extremely blessed, and I am grateful. I'm saying the Surrender Novena every day this year. When I finish it, I start over. The staff have been praying this novena as well. I'll paste a link here so you can join us in this prayer.

[Serenity Novena](#)

God bless you and thank you for your continued support,  
Danny Kieffer  
St. Charles Principal

## Fall conferences - October 12 and 13

Scheduling is now available at [http://www.ptcfast.com/schools/St Charles Borromeo School](http://www.ptcfast.com/schools/St_Charles_Borromeo_School).

Preschool-grade 8 conferences will be held **from 3:30 to 8:00 PM on Monday, October 12, and Tuesday, October 13**. By signing up today or tomorrow, you give the teachers time to create links for the conferences. For more information on how to sign up, please refer to the email that was sent yesterday or contact the school office with questions at [612-781-2643](tel:612-781-2643).

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## Marathon Success!

Congratulations Chargers! We did it! We exceeded our goal and raised over \$50K to support our school. If you haven't had a chance to watch the most entertaining version of grand prize drawings EVER, or the service project photo highlights during the family rosary, please hop on over to our Facebook page to enjoy these videos with your family (link at the end of this update). Thank you all for your hard work and generosity!

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## Important Lunch Update

The Minnesota Department of Education has extended its Summer Food Service Program. This means that all schools that participate in the National School Lunch programs, as we do, may serve **free meals to ALL students** through December 31<sup>st</sup> OR until USDA funding runs out (whichever comes first).

Any St. Charles student in preschool through grade 8 who orders one of our school lunch entrées will not be charged. **HOWEVER, if your student only orders milk (not a complete lunch), there is still a 50 cent charge.**

**Several students have been ordering milk and now have accounts with small negative balances. If your student is only getting milk, please send cash or check (payable to Roseville Area Schools) in an envelope labeled with their name and that it is for their lunch account.**

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## **NEW Spirit Wear Online Shop**

The St. Charles online Spirit Wear Shop has moved to a new vendor, Schoolbelles:

<http://www.schoolbelles.com/myschool/M37/s2945>. Items featuring our Chargers logo are available for purchase year-round and will be shipped directly to families. Check out the t-shirts, baseball hats, slouch beanies, sweatshirts, and more! A variety of items are available for the whole family in youth and adult sizes. If you have any questions, contact Mary at [urdahl.mary@gmail.com](mailto:urdahl.mary@gmail.com) or Kari at [karidomeyer@gmail.com](mailto:karidomeyer@gmail.com).

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## **Rosary Coast to Coast - Sunday, October 11**

St. Charles Borromeo is hosting the Rosary Coast to Coast 2020 on Sunday, October 11 at 3 PM outside the front of church. Come pray the rosary and adore Jesus in the Eucharist at exactly the same time as other participants across the nation. Catholics across the country are invited to pray together to call upon God through the powerful intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary to heal our country and return it to holiness. <https://rosarycoasttocoast.com/>

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## **Baby Shower for the Local Life Care Center ~ through October 18 in the atrium**

The Respect Life Baby Shower is going on through October 18. Playpens are in the church atrium to hold your unwrapped donations, which will be dispensed through Abria Pregnancy Resources/ North Side Life Care Center. The center's wish list includes newborn clothes and sleepers, sizes preemie, 0-3 months, and 3 months and preemie and newborn diapers.

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## **Pre-Election Prayer Event - Sunday, November 1**

Everyone is invited to a pre-election prayer event at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 1. We will begin with prayer, followed by a talk by Dr. Kristin Towle. Dr. Towle has a Ph.D. in theology and teaches at the Saint Paul Seminary and online.

St. Charles Women's Council is sponsoring this all-parish event to bring back a tradition going back to at least the late 1970s, in which the St. Charles community came together to pray before national elections. Mark your calendars now and look for more details in upcoming bulletins.

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## **Prayer Corner ~**

If you would like to add someone to our prayer corner, please email the information to Danny Kieffer at [dkieffer@stchbs.org](mailto:dkieffer@stchbs.org)

- ❖ For students Mason, Calvin, and Lincoln, as they grieve the sudden and unexpected loss of their aunt, Rachel. For the repose of her soul and for comfort for all her loved ones.
- ❖ For healing for Dana Huggar's mother as she starts a new treatment for her cancer
- ❖ For healing and successful surgery for Henry R's grandmother as she continues to battle cancer.
- ❖ For healing for Josette, great aunt to students Haley, Braden, Brett, Elena, Ava, Grace, Peter, Tom, and Joe
- ❖ For healing for student JJ's great-uncle Don who was diagnosed with a very rare form of lymphoma.
- ❖ For Dr. Kobberman (Aalfa Family Clinic), her husband, and family

- ❖ For the repose of the soul of Sylvia Jean Wallin, mother of staff member Allison Cecere.
  - ❖ For the repose of the soul of Mike Spencer, father to St. Charles graduate, Jake ('13)
  - ❖ For the repose of the soul of Christian P's grandmother and for the comfort of her family.
  - ❖ For the health of all our students, families, and staff.
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### **Additional Links**

St. Charles Website ~ [www.stchbschool.org](http://www.stchbschool.org)

St. Charles Google Calendar ~ [St. Charles Calendar Link](#)

St. Charles Lunch Calendar ~ [St. Charles Lunch Calendar Link](#)

St Charles Facebook ~ <https://www.facebook.com/stchbs>

St. Charles Borromeo Church ~ <https://www.stchb.org/>

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**★*Weekly Update* article deadline: Wednesday 9:00 AM - Send submissions to  
mwappes@stchbs.org.★**