St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School

414 East Main Street
Ossian, IA 52161
(563)532-9353

208 Church Street
Spillville, IA 52168
(563) 562-3617

107 E. South Street
Calmar, IA 52132
(563)562-1018

August 19, 2020

Dear St. Teresa Families,

Thank you for entrusting your child/children to us as we begin a new school year! We are grateful you chose a Catholic education and we will be praying for a smooth transition back to school and good health along the way. We wanted to remind everyone of our mitigation strategies and safety precautions we have put in place along with some general information about our school day. Our goal is to have several layers of protection in place to keep our children, families, and staff safe.

Illness- Please keep your child/children home if they are experiencing any symptoms of illness. We are asking all families to fill out the health assessment in your child's planner daily. Staff members will also be doing this for the health and well-being of everyone.

7:30 Ossian students heading to Calmar may arrive at school to catch the bus to Spillville. Students arriving at school before 8:00 will have an area on the playground they can be within their cohort.

Mrs. McIntyre will make sure the students are on the correct bus as they transition to different buses at St. Al's School.

If you are dropping your child off at school in Ossian, please use the back door for PS-2 and the front door for 5-8. Spillville students may enter through the front door. We are asking parents not to enter the building. We will have adult supervision at each door. Students are required to wear a mask when they ride the bus and when entering the school buildings.

7:45 Students wishing to eat breakfast may enter the school through their designated door. 1-2 will be allowed to eat breakfast in the cafeteria while the 5-6 graders will be directed to the gymnasium for breakfast and the 7-8 graders will be assigned another table in the gym as they eat breakfast. 3-4 students may eat breakfast between 7:45 and 8:12 as well. Students will be asked to wash their hands or use sanitizer before and after eating.

8:00 Students may go to their classrooms at this time to get organized for the day.

8:12 We begin the day with prayer, pledge, and announcements

8:20 Preschoolers and kindergarteners will eat breakfast as a cohort. The tables are arranged for social distancing and will be disinfected after each use.

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During the School Day:

Masks- Students are being asked to wear masks when they are unable to socially distance. Students will be allowed to take off their masks for recess, lunch, and designated mask breaks when they are spread out.

Cohorts- Smaller groups of students will be together for recess and lunch. The students are grouped as follows: PS-K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8. We will not be mixing groups beyond this during the school year.

Outdoor classroom- Teachers will try to utilize outdoor space as much as possible. Carson Brincks completed his Eagle Scout project over the summer so we have a wonderful shelter we can put to use in Ossian.

Ventilation- Windows and doors will be open as much as possible. The Ossian building has a new heating and cooling system which will help improve air flow.

Cleaning- The custodial staff will disinfect all spaces daily. Commonly touched surfaces will be cleaned multiple times a day.

Appointments- If your child has an appointment, please call the office so an adult can escort them to the appropriate door. Students are asked to still sign out in the office.

Absences- When your child is not able to attend school, please notify the office and the classroom teacher. Please refrain from contacting teachers through social media. Teachers are not allowed to use social media during the school day. Thus, the message may be missed. Please use school email for written messages at least two hours in advance.

Water bottles- We are asking students to bring their own water bottles to school. The drinking fountains will not be used this year unless it has a water bottle filling station. We are recommending two bottles of water. One for the morning and one for the afternoon.

Band- Since we are trying to keep our students within cohorts, we will not have a traditional band at least for the first semester. Individual lessons will be provided within our building by Nathan Miller, South Winn Band Director.

PE & Music- These classes will rotate on a six day cycle and will be held outside as much as possible.

Art- Students will have art class twice during a six day cycle K-8.

Exploratory- 5-8 grade students will complete units in financial literacy, technology skills, typing, Spanish, & life skills (sewing, cooking & cleaning to name a few) Students will remain in their assigned classroom and teachers will be rotating this year.

Social Work- Students will participate in a weekly social skills lesson. Our social workers will also work with kids on an individual or small group basis.

Title 1 reading, special education, & English Language Learners- These students receive services within our buildings from South Winn teachers.

Keystone AEA- We also receive services in the area of occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy for those students who qualify.

End of the day:

3:00 Students get on the bus in Spillville
3:10 Students who ride the shuttle buses or early route buses leave.
3:17 Walkers and students getting picked up are dismissed
3:35 Late buses depart

Homework Club- We will still provide homework help on Tuesdays and Thursdays until 4:30. Please make arrangements with your child's teacher if you would like to take advantage of these services.

I encourage you to contact your child's classroom teacher if you have any further questions. It will be so wonderful to be back together again.

Blessings,
Kristin Kriener, Principal
Jenni Busarow, Lead Teacher

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