



St. James School

Giving children WINGS to fly!

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DECEMBER PARENT NEWS

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

We want to thank you for being vigilant with mask wearing, handwashing, social distancing, and quarantining if your child or a family member is sick. Because of your efforts and the school's sanitation procedures, we are keeping our students and staff safe.

During the holidays, we ask that you follow the advice of Akron Children's Hospital to wear masks, whenever in public or in a private home if you are with people not in your primary residence and to limit travel outside your home.

After Christmas we plan to return to in person school on Monday, January 4th. Virtual learners will begin new lessons on January 4th as well. We will advise you if there are any changes to this plan due to changing conditions with the virus.

We wish you a joyful Christmas and a new year filled with many blessings,
Kathy Kettler

Dates to Remember:

12/17 Diamond Fundraising
Pick up 3:00pm

Bring in Food, Hat or
mittens for the needy

Out of uniform Christmas
spirit theme

12/18 Mass 9am

Christmas Luncheon

Class Parties 2pm

12/19 – 1/3 Christmas
Vacation

1/ 4/ 21 Classes resume In
School and Virtual

SCHOOL NEWS

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



The children in pre-school through 6th grade have prepared a Christmas program for parents, families, and friends to enjoy virtually. Each class is part of telling the Christmas story, complete with artwork, poetry, and music. The program will be posted on our private Youtube channel on Friday, December 18. All families will receive a link to the program via email and text. We hope you enjoy our virtual Christmas pageant!

CLASSROOM CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Due to COVID the class parties will be simple this year. Parents are not permitted to attend but are permitted (but not required) to send a pre-packaged treat that can be shared with the class.

Sarchione's in Waynesburg has graciously given us gifts for each child, to be passed out at the Christmas parties. The children are making a poster to thank the Sarchione's for their kindness. We want them to know how much we appreciate their good wishes to make our Christmas parties extra special.

EXPECTATIONS WHEN STUDENTS ARE ABSENT

- 1) **Keep kids home if they are ill** - You are doing a good job checking your children and keeping them home if they have any signs of illness. We appreciate your vigilance.
- 2) **Absence due to illness** - When a child is home for a few days due to illness, they should take it easy at home and make up their work when they return to school. They will have the number of days absent to get the work completed. The student will be marked absent for the days they are out of school.
- 3) **Absence due to Quarantining** - When a child is home because they need to quarantine due to possible exposure to someone with the virus, they should log in to Google classroom and do the assigned work each day. The teacher will then be able to grade it and keep the student's records up to date. When students wait to turn in work, it makes the teacher's job very difficult. The student will be marked present in school only if daily assignments are turned in.
- 4) **Virtual Learners** - The children who are working virtually at home should turn in their assignments in google classroom daily, again so the teacher can assess their progress, provide feedback and assistance if needed. When an assignment is turned in several days or weeks late, the class has moved on and the opportunity for assistance is lost.

SNOW DAYS

When Sandy Valley Schools are closed due to bad weather, St. James is closed. You will receive a text from St. James, normally by 6:30am, alerting you that we are closed. If the text doesn't come through or you are wondering if we are open, check our facebook page at St. James Catholic School – Waynesburg for the latest school closing info. If we are open but Malvern, Minerva, or Carrollton are closed it is up to parents to bring your children, depending on your assessment of the safety of the roads in your area. Please call the school if you decide not to bring them so we know they are safe with you.

ADVICE FROM AKRON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Akron Children's oversees the school health services of 40 school districts throughout northeast Ohio, and has helped advise schools on how to adapt safety precautions during the pandemic.

"Right now, we are seeing the most middle and high school students in quarantine since schools re-opened," said Michele Wilmoth, director of School Health Services for Akron Children's. "The virus spread seems to be coming via sports, after-school activities, sleep-overs and other gatherings but it's certainly a challenge now for the districts."

Dr. Bower urged families to follow the guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local health agencies since the beginning of the pandemic:

- Wear masks, whenever in public or in a private home if you are with people not in your primary residence.
- Maintain social distancing guidelines of at least 6 feet.
- Wash hands frequently.
- Limit travel outside the home.

"We know it's a sacrifice, but we strongly urge families to change/downsize their normal holiday plans," said Dr. Bower. "Children can be asymptomatic carries of the virus and could definitely put older family members at serious risk. The vaccines will be here, but, until then, only a change in our behavior will keep us safe from this current surge in virus."