

July 10th, 2020

Happy Friday,

I hope you enjoyed the warm week! Our superhero maintenance team—John, Alan, and Dave—have not only kept the temperature in the building nice and cool, but they also have been busy getting our building ready for re-opening. They just finished adding lockers down the hallway so that all our students will have an individual space to store their belongings this fall.

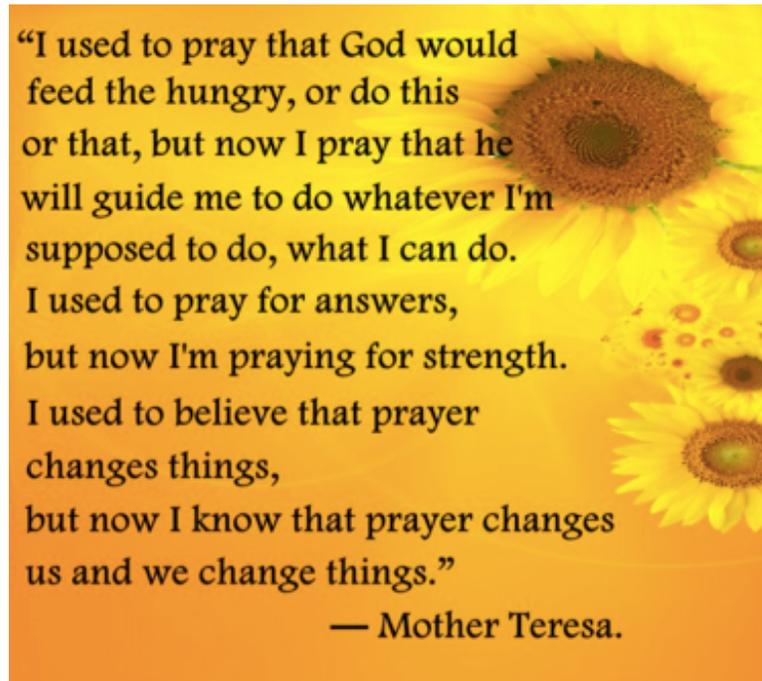
Thank you for taking the time to complete the parent survey. The information you provided will be so helpful for finalizing our plans. The positivity and resilience of our school parents was evident, and there was valuable, critical feedback to help guide our team working on the re-opening plans.

The Archdiocese released its protocols Monday for Catholic schools to follow for re-opening. Come September 1, we plan to be open each school day for in-person learning for all our students. With our numbers and space available, we are confident to be able to safely re-open. The Minnesota Department of Education will release its plans the week of July 26. It will be nice to know what our greater community is doing, and it will help us make decisions about things like bussing. For families that are not ready to send their child(ren) back, we will have remote learning available. We have two healthcare professionals, both parents of students at Good Shepherd, that have offered to look over our plans, as well as the School Advisory Board. We are fortunate to have so much lawn space to use outside, wide hallways, and decent sized classrooms. We also have a lot of windows, ventilation, a gym, social hall, and a multi-purpose room. These spaces will all be safely utilized, and we will do our best to mitigate the risk of spread. We are still finalizing thresholds for instances that illnesses arise, as well as pickup/drop-off procedures, and more. Again, I thank you for your patience and grace as we work through this. Our goal is to share our plans with you sometime during the week of July 20, with the awareness that the plans made in July could change prior to September.

I also want to note how blessed we are to have teachers who want to come back to school and teach in person. The eagerness to get back into the classroom was obvious during our first Education Task Force meeting. It was so refreshing to listen to the team brainstorm ways to continue what we do at Good Shepherd, and to work on adding creative concepts, rigor, service projects, and models to help our students flourish in their classes this coming fall. We have some exciting changes in store. We are working to create a nature play area. A neighboring childcare center has graciously offered us wood from their 106-year-old oak tree! The Men's Club is going to help with this project, and if you're interested in assisting, please reach out to me. We are also excited about implementing our

new math curriculum this fall, as well as adding an entire new preschool room. We also plan to offer a socially distanced movie and bingo night this summer.

Finally, I shared the following quote with our teachers this week, as it is something that has resonated with me lately. Hopefully, you can find it as useful as I have.



Keep hope and have a great weekend,

Stevi Evans
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