



Mount Carmel School

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January 2022 Update

Dear Mount Carmel School Families,

2021 is coming to an end, so everyone is excited to enter the new year. 2022 marks the start of new promises, resolutions, and life decisions. Here's hoping the new year brings us lots of new opportunities. Happy New Year to you and your family!

As we make our way through the 2022 new year, we want to share some important updates with you, which are bulleted below and explained in detail thereafter:

- Back to School: January 05, 2022
- Safety First: Morning Drop-off and Afterschool Pick-up Procedures
- First day of 3rd Quarter: January 11, 2022
- In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day: January 17, 2022
- STAR Reading & Math: January 18 to 21
- 2nd Quarter Report Card: January 27, 2022
- Catholic Schools Week 2022: January 31 to February 07
- Stay safe, stay vigilant, and stay healthy!

BACK TO F2F LEARNING:

Mount Carmel School will **resume classes on January 05, 2022 (Wednesday)**. Parents will be allowed to have their child participate in synchronous face-to-face learning or asynchronous remote learning from January 05 – 14, 2022. No Zoom option will be offered. On January 03 and 04, 2022, teachers will be allowed to attend a meeting, training, and prepare their classes and lessons for the opening of the 3rd quarter.

Should parents or guardians choose not to send their child to F2F learning and decide to avail of asynchronous learning, a parent or guardian must provide the school with a letter of intent. The letter must include the following information.

- Name of child/children
- Grade level
- Duration of the asynchronous learning, and
- Reason(s) for choosing asynchronous learning

Please email your letter to Ms. Luisa, the school's Office Manager. For F1-Visa students, this is subject to approval based on the USCIS Policies.



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SAFETY FIRST: MORNING DROP-OFF AND AFTER SCHOOL PICK-UP PROCEDURES

- As always, we ask for your patience, support, and understanding in keeping our children safe. Your child's safety is our number one priority.
- Please continue to follow our COVID-19 Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures.
 1. Continue to stay in your vehicle when dropping or picking up your child/children after school.
 2. Submit your child's name to the school submitters.
 3. Do not get out of your vehicle and wait at the gate/entrance.
 4. When entering school grounds to take care of business, please wear a mask or face coverings. Proceed to the security guard to take temperature and sign in.

I know it's an inconvenience to wait in the car during the afterschool pick-up. However, we are asking everyone's understanding during these difficult times. Please understand that this is a COVID-19 safety procedure we are following to keep you and your child safe. We will not jeopardize the safety of our students and staff for anyone's convenience. We are doing our best to do our jobs and keep everyone safe. Remember, we are still in a pandemic. Thank you for your kind patience and understanding.

Basic tips to keep everyone safe and healthy:

- **Stay home if sick:** Monitor your child's health. Stay home if they're sick. Call the school to let us know your child is sick.
- **Physical distancing:** Stay at least 6 feet away from people who are not members of your household.
- **Wear a face covering (mask):** Protect those around you. Wearing a mask or face covering helps reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- **Practice healthy hand hygiene:** Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

FIRST DAY OF 3rd QUARTER:

- January 11, 2022, second semester begins.

MLK DAY: NO CLASSES ON MONDAY, JANUARY 17

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote, in his famous Letter from a Birmingham Jail, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." On Monday, January 17, we join the rest of the nation in recommitting ourselves to justice everywhere and honoring a powerful legacy by celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day. While we will not have classes on this day, learning can and should continue, especially about what this day means to all of us, our nation, and the world. Learn more at www.nationalservice.gov.



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2ND QUARTER REPORT CARD: January 27, 2022

As stated in the handbook, “Report cards are issued quarterly as scheduled in the school calendar. Generally, parents/guardians pick up the report cards at the scheduled times, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic, 1st quarter report card will be issued through email via RenWeb. However, report cards will not be issued if there is an outstanding financial obligation that needs to be cleared with the Business Office. Upon clearance of any financial obligation, the report card will then be issued to the parent.” Please update your contact information.

- If you need to meet with your child’s teacher(s), please call the office to schedule an appointment or message the teachers directly. All meetings or conferences must take place after school.
- Please call the main office if you did not receive your child’s report card online

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2022: “FAITH. EXCELLENCE. SERVICE.”

We are excited to continue a cherished tradition at the school by joining Catholic schools across the nation in celebrating Catholic Schools Week from January 31 through February 7. The new theme for the week, “Faith. Excellence. Service.”, helps us recognize these core values of Catholic schools. As the National Catholic Educational Association noted in announcing the new theme, “As communities of faith, Catholic schools instill in students their destiny to become saints. Academic excellence is the hallmark of Catholic education intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person – mind, body, and spirit. Finally, service is fundamental to Catholic education and the core of Catholic discipleship. Service is intended to help form people who are not only witnesses to Catholic social teaching but also active participants through social learning.”

In order to keep our school family and the broader community safe and healthy, events and activities for this year’s Catholic Schools Week have been modified to follow COVID-19 mitigation guidelines set forth by the CNMI’s COVID-19 Task Force. A complete and detailed schedule for Catholic Schools Week 2022 will be posted on the school’s online platform once it’s finalized.

STAY VIGILANT. STAY SAFE. STAY HEALTHY.

Our diligent and collective efforts as a community have kept the CNMI one of the safest places in the world with one of the lowest transmission rates in the nation. Likewise, here at the school, we thank all our families for working with us and cooperating with our COVID-19 mitigation efforts. Whether teaching your children proper hygiene, complying with our procedures and



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protocols, or following traffic safety procedures, you have helped our school safely conduct face-to-face classes. However, we must not become complacent. We must remain vigilant. As such, remember the three simple Ws:

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- **Watch your distance** by maintaining a physical distance of at least 6 feet between yourself and other people you don't live with.
- **Wear a mask** in public settings around people who don't live in your household.

Wishing you and all of your loved ones, health, and happiness this new year. Remember, no matter what the year brings, you are loved and you are strong. Happy 2022!

Sincerely in Christ,



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Frances T. Taimanao
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