



**HOLY FAMILY**  
ACADEMY

601 North Laurel Street  
Hazleton, PA 18201  
Phone: (570) 455-9431  
[www.holyfamilyacademy.info](http://www.holyfamilyacademy.info)

September 6, 2019

Dear HFA Families,

As we wrap-up the second week of school and our first week of full days, I wanted to touch base on some of the items that were touched on during Back to School Night. It was great seeing some many families in attendance. It's always an exciting event where you get to meet your child's new teacher(s) and hear about all the new things going on at HFA. With that, I know that many of you are unable to attend for a variety of reasons so I felt it was important to send out a summary of some of the highlighted items that we covered.

**1. New Testing Provider and Schedule**

HFA will have a new testing provide that will take place of the Terra Nova Test. Our testing system will happen three times throughout the school year and cover Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. NWEA is the new testing company we will utilize and all testing will be done on computers. The testing will provide valuable information for us on student readiness and student growth. We will use the data provided to measure growth over the school year as well as to help guide our instruction.

**2. STREAM Initiative**

In conjunction Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools Office, we are launching a new initiative called STREAM, which stands for Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. STREAM will enhance our current curriculum, encourages problem solving, critical thinking and innovation, along with developing essential technology skill sets. STREAM empowers learners to incorporate Catholic identity into every aspect of the curriculum through student-directed, project based learning. This initiative will be an ongoing process that will be fully integrated by 2022.

**3. Attendance**

It is vital for your child to attend school regularly. An extensive number of absences can have a negative impact on learning and performance. If you are absent, please do everything in your power to collect missed assignments and work with the teachers to get

caught up. Please give the teachers/main office advance notice when coming in for our child's assignments and materials.

#### **4. Dress Code and Student-Parent Handbook**

Please read the dress code policy and student-parent handbook. Return the sign-off page for both to the school ASAP.

#### **5. Dismissal at the end of the day**

We know that you are excited to greet your child at the end of the day and your child is excited to see you as well. However, please try to stay back about 25-30 feet from the gate where students come out. When the crowd gathers close to the gate, the teachers have a difficult time seeing you and the kids have a hard time finding you in the crowd. We try our best to be as efficient and quick as possible but we also want to make sure each student is accounted for and safe.

#### **6. Clearances**

We do require that you have your clearances on file with the main office if you are to volunteer or attend field trips as a chaperone. Included in the clearances will be Virtus Training. Our first Virtus Training class will be on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1pm here at Holy Family. If you don't have clearances on file then you will not be able to volunteer or chaperone a field trip.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the main office at (570) 455-9431.

Sincerely,



Mr. Jason Tribbet