

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well. I wanted to take this time to reflect on the blessings and challenges that face us as we move into the 2020-2021 school year. I feel blessed that our faculty and staff are deeply committed to the Church's mission. They see what they are doing as ministry, evangelizing and forming children in the Faith. They make us proud and their dedication and enthusiasm gives me great strength.

I think our belief that the mission of our Catholic School cannot be realized simply through virtual learning and remote teaching has been reinforced. Formation happens through relationships, through an experience of community, through being together in prayer, and through personal interaction. In that vein, the Lincoln City Catholic School principals are finalizing a draft to represent a unified posture for school opening in light of CDC/health department directives. We had hoped to have it ready for today, but a few important details still need to be decided. To that end, one thing that has been clearly emphasized by the Lancaster County Health Department is the wearing of masks throughout the school day, not just at transition times as we originally planned. The main reason for this is so that if a student or teacher contracts COVID-19, we would then likely not need to quarantine a whole class or section of classes. We will have more details forthcoming but wanted you to at least begin to consider this development with your family.

Another challenge that we must acknowledge, as brought into focus this summer, is that people in our country have not always been treated fairly. As is age-appropriate, we need to discuss what systemic racism means and how it impacts people. We can teach in ways that will help students have empathy and develop awareness of the needs of others.

To do this, we must provide our students with experiences with people from many different backgrounds and skin colors. Experiences help us form our values. Experiences help us apply the values of the Gospel in new situations. As ever, we count on our partnership with you, our parents, to help bring that to fruition. In light of these current challenges, I encourage you to consider making the [Serenity Prayer](#) part of your daily routine. There is much to navigate in these times, and we need the Lord's guidance more than ever. May God bless you as we begin this journey together. If we remain grounded in humility and faith and our belief that all things are possible through Him, are we not destined to succeed?

Yours in Christ,
Kevin

NEWS

School Opening

Our goal is to send out a document next week with details about the guidelines that the Catholic schools in the city of Lincoln will be following for the opening of school, based on recommendations of the CDC and Lancaster County Health Department and approved by the Diocesan Office of Education. This document will continue to undergo revision whenever needed as school approaches.

School Calendar

The updated 2020-2021 School Calendar can be found [HERE](#). It will remain tentative until August.

Emergency Contact

Each family must fill out an [Emergency Contact form](#) for the school. This is due by July 31st. You may return it to the school by mail at 1940 S. 77th St., Lincoln, NE 68506. You may also email a scanned copy or clear, focused picture to Emily-Klein@cdolinc.net.

NEWS

Student School Supply List

A supply list for 2020-2021 may be found [HERE](#).

Kindness Pledge & Technology Policy

Each year every St. Joseph student needs to fill out our Kindness pledge and Technology Acceptable Use Policy. The form for students in Kindergarten-2nd Grade is found [HERE](#). The form for students in 3rd-8th Grades is found [HERE](#). These forms are due back to the school by July 31st. You may return the forms by mail at 1940 S. 77th St., Lincoln, NE 68506. Alternatively, you may email a scanned copy or clear, focused picture of the signed form to Emily-Klein@cdolinc.net. Each student must sign his or her own form.

School Pictures

School pictures will be taking place before school starts this year on Thursday, August 13 from 2:00-7:30 pm in Resurrection Hall. More information on designated times or sign-up will be sent out the closer we get to the date. ***If COVID-19 necessitates a late start this year, the new picture day will be Friday, September 11.***

Parent Handbook

Please look over our 2020-2021 [Parent Handbook](#) and email JHEL-Info@cdolinc.net to confirm you have read and agreed to it. We need a response from every parent/guardian.

Note that COVID-19 guidelines are not included in the handbook since they may fluctuate throughout the year.

Updates from SFA

Some changes have been made due to the guidelines in place to protect us from COVID-19. Unfortunately, the ***Back-to-School Ice Cream Social has been cancelled.*** Therefore, students are now asked to bring their school supplies on the first day of school. If a student is uncertain where their classroom will be and would like to see it prior to the first day of school, please email Bridget Easley, SFA president, at bridgeteasley@outlook.com to schedule a private showing. Despite these changes, we are optimistic for a great start to the school year and look forward to other SFA-sponsored events, such as Walk for Christ, our annual school fundraiser that is currently scheduled for September 25!

Class Placement

Class lists with homeroom assignments will be posted after all Masses the weekend of August 1-2 for Preschool through 8th Grade. Please make sure your Tuition Agreement and registration are complete so your child(ren) are included on the lists.

Medical Forms

Medical forms can be found [HERE](#). There is a form for students who receive prescription medication and one for non-prescription medication. By completing the latter form, you give us permission to administer non-prescription medication for minor things such as headaches, painful braces, etc. Please print, complete, and return the appropriate forms to the school.

Uniforms

A copy of the Dress Code policy is included in the handbook. Please be sure to read it carefully as you prepare uniforms for next year. Parents of girls: please make sure that jumpers/skirts are long enough at the beginning of the year to allow for your daughter's growth. See this [FLYER](#) for detailed online fitting and ordering information. For uniform questions, please contact Dennis Uniform at 402-496-9911 or visit their website at www.dennisuniform.com. As a reminder, you are also welcome to shop our used uniform supply at school. All items are available for a free-will donation.

Lunch Prices

The prices for lunches and milk are as follows:

Student lunch—\$3.25

Adult lunch—\$3.75

Milk—40 cents

Online payment for lunches is at www.myschoolbucks.com.

1. Register for a free account.*
2. Look for a confirmation email with a link to activate your account.
3. Add your student(s) using their school's name (St. Joseph Catholic School-Diocese of Lincoln) and student(s) birthdate(s).
4. Make a payment to your student's account with your credit/debit card or electronic check.

****A program fee may apply. You have an opportunity to review any fees and cancel before you are charged. Note that due to COVID-19 precautions, lunches and salads from the hot lunch program will be provided in carry-out boxes for as long as necessary through the school year.***

Volunteer Information

School volunteers will be greatly minimized due to COVID-19 precautions. If you are interested in volunteering to help with cleaning/sanitizing during the school day, please contact Gloria Jundt at Gloria-Jundt@cdolinc.net with your information. She will respond to you after August 1.

Upcoming Events

August

6 Thursday: New Volunteer Orientation 6:30 pm

10 Monday: New Parent Meeting 6:30 pm

13 Thursday: School Pictures 2:00-7:30 pm

15 Saturday: Assumption of Mary

17 Monday: First Day of School K-8,
Noon Dismissal
Preschool Open House
11:00 am-12:00 pm

18 Tuesday: First Day of Preschool for
T/Th and M-F/STEM

19 Wednesday: First Day of Preschool
for MWF am and pm

25 Tuesday: Back-to-School Night
Kindergarten: 5:30 pm
3rd Grade: 6:15 pm
4th Grade: 7:00 pm
6th Grade: 7:45 pm

26 Wednesday: Back-to-School Night
1st Grade: 5:30 pm
2nd Grade: 6:15 pm
5th Grade: 7:00 pm
Jr. High: 7:45 pm

September

7 Monday: No School (Labor Day)

11 Friday: Noon Dismissal (Faculty Meeting)

Health Notes

Students entering Kindergarten and 7th Grade are required to submit Physical Exam and Vaccination Records.

All Students: Please turn in a record of your dental exams.

VACCINATE!

Summer is the time to catch up on vaccinations.