

Mrs. Theresa Signorile  
Principal

Mrs. Denise Olsen  
Assistant Principal

Mrs. Michele Twomey  
Assistant Principal

Father Arthur Mastrolia  
Pastor

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November 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Per Governor Cuomo’s micro-cluster strategy, schools identified as being in a yellow zone must conduct required bi-weekly testing of a random 20% sample of the in-person faculty, staff, and students, ages 5 and up, to continue in-person instruction. Schools not complying with this requirement will be forced to switch to full remote learning immediately, which is exactly what we do not want to happen.

Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of New York and St. Clare have engaged the services of SOMOS Community Care to conduct the required bi-weekly random testing in our schools. This test is easy, quick, and safe. The nasal passage is wiped with a Q-Tip-like swab and is not a rapid COVID test. It is a short swab that only swabs the nares (front part of the nasal passage). Please do not confuse this swab with the Nasopharynx (NP swab).

**For SOMOS to administer a COVID-19 test to your child, your consent is required. We strongly encourage you to sign and quickly return the attached [consent form](#). We need to test 20% of our school community to stay open. Testing for St. Clare School is scheduled to take place one day next week. (Preschool will NOT be tested since they are under 5 years of age).**

**Please know that the entire faculty and staff will do everything that we can possibly do to make the testing of our students as easy as possible so that we can resume our normal school day. Their safety and comfort are, first and foremost, our main priority. Your child will be escorted to the testing room by either Mrs. Signorile, Mrs. Olsen, or Mrs. Twomey and we will remain with them until their test is complete and they are back in their classrooms.**

**If you do not consent to your child being tested, your child will not be permitted to attend in person instruction and will be assigned to Cohort C, Remote Instruction, for the remainder of the quarter.**

**\*\*Please let me know if you have *any* concerns. We are focused on making this a brief and gentle experience for our students, led by trained, qualified testers.**

Testing will occur in a secure, isolated space in our building, designated solely for this purpose. Student cohorts will remain separate from each throughout the testing procedure. Once again, by thoroughly and accurately completing the attached forms, your child's time in the testing process will be minimal.

If your child is tested, we will let you know they were tested and provide the information on how and when you will receive the results. Results are typically provided within 48-72 hours.

Keep in mind, there is a goal in this for all of us! Under the new guidance provided by the governor's office, if the testing results show our positivity rate among the 20% random sample of in-person students ages 5 and up, staff, and faculty is lower than the yellow zone's current seven-day positivity rate, testing will not continue at our school.

The consent paperwork must be completed and returned by Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> for Cohort B and by Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> for Cohort A for the students to remain assigned to their in-person cohort.

**\*\*Please note, students over the age of 5 who do not provide [consent](#) for the random bi-weekly testing will be required to switch to remote instruction, Cohort C, immediately for the rest of this quarter which ends February 1<sup>st</sup>\*\***

**Thank you,**

**Theresa Signorile**

**Principal**