

Dear Parents,

Covid 19 has affected and continues to affect every facet of life as we knew it. Today I must address the After School Program. Our program was one of the first in the Diocese. It was established approximately 35 years ago. The program welcomed students from all grades whether their parents worked or not.

However, this year will see changes to that policy. Covid has required that we re-imagine space within the building. We are using almost all the space for classrooms. This leaves a minimum of space for the After School Program. We still have to follow the CDC, NYS and NYC Health Departments regulations for social distancing. Students can only be placed in family groups or the same cohort group they are in during the school day and remain socially distant as well. For example, a sixth grade student from Cohort 6A cannot be in the same group as a student from Cohort 6B. We simply do not have the room to accept the same numbers of students as in the past. I am sorry to disappoint the parents, but that is the reality of school life in 2020. We have to severely limit acceptance into the program. I ask you, if you have another option for child care that you use it.

Here are some of the new rules for acceptance into the After School Program:

- 1) You must show proof that BOTH parents or in a single parent household the one parent is working fulltime or between 1:30 and 6:00 PM.
- 2) We are only accepting students in Grades K to 6. (If we have room, we may consider admitting 7<sup>th</sup> Grade students at a later date.)
- 3) We will not enroll Pre-K or 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students into the program this year.
- 4) ALL students MUST agree to wear masks at all times.
- 5) ALL students MUST agree to stay socially distant within their assigned group.

Here are some points for parents to consider before registering in the After School Program.

- 1) Because of the shortened academic day the students' time in the program will be longer than in past years.
- 2) We do not have use of the gym for activities. The gym is being used to house the First and Second Grades. We cannot bring other students into that space.
- 3) The parking lot is crowded and a less than ideal spot for recess.

Limited registration will take place in the basement lunchroom September 9, 10 and 11. Specific details will follow. It has saddened me to paint such a dismal picture of the year to come in the BSCA After School Program. But it is a reality we must face.

Ms. Celmer