

# MARY IMMACULATE SCHOOL

August 2021

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>:** student supplies drop off day

**Aug. 24<sup>th</sup>:** first day of school; 12pm dismissal

**Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>:** 12pm dismissal; TK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade parent meeting at 5pm via Zoom

**Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>:** 12pm dismissal; 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade parent meeting at 5pm via Zoom

**Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>:** 12pm dismissal; no school Mass; 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade parent meeting at 5pm via Zoom

**Aug. 30<sup>th</sup>:** Hot lunch begins

**Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>:** Back-to-School Night Parent meeting at 5pm via Zoom; school raffle; chocolates fundraiser begins

**Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>:** STAR Window I begins

**Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Back-to-School Open House 5:30pm-7pm

## WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Dear Mary Immaculate School Parents and Families,

On behalf of the faculty and staff, I want to welcome you to the 2021-2022 school year. We are looking forward to a great year filled with learning and academic growth. We, at MI, recognize that in order for children to succeed, we need to build a strong partnership. Your help and support will make a great difference in your child's education. Please guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that he/she attends school daily and on time, completes classwork assignments, reads on a daily basis, eats a healthy breakfast, and comes to school ready to learn.

The faculty, staff, and I feel very blessed to be part of this community. We thank you for your support and look forward to a great year filled with many blessings and academic growth.

God bless you,

Veronica Macias, M. Ed  
Principal

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***“Individually, we are one drop.  
Together, we are an ocean!”*** -Anonymous

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## PARENT ORIENTATION MEETINGS

Teachers will be conducting Parent Orientation Meetings via ZOOM throughout the week of August 24<sup>th</sup>. You will receive an email from your child's teacher with the link to join the meeting. If you do not receive the link, please contact your child's teacher or call the school office.

## STUDENT SUPPLIES DROP OFF DAY

Student supplies will be dropped off on Monday, Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>. I will send the schedule next week. There will be a photo booth that day, if you want to bring your child and take a welcome back to school photo. There will also be ice cream for our students.





## Welcome to MI

On behalf of Mary Immaculate School, I would like to welcome our more than 30 new students and families. We are very excited to have you as part of the MI family! We also welcome two new additions to our faculty, Ms. Veronica Sandoval, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, and Ms. Denise Crosby, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Homeroom Teacher. Ms. Sandoval has 15 years of teaching experience, including experience in administration as a vice-principal. I had the blessing of working with Ms. Sandoval at my previous school. Ms. Crosby has 21 years of teaching experience and comes highly recommended from her previous school. They will be a great asset to MI! Welcome to the MI Family!!!!

2021-2022

## Contact Us

### Mary Immaculate School

10390 Remick Ave  
Pacoima, CA 91331  
818-834-8551  
[www.maryimmaculateschool.org](http://www.maryimmaculateschool.org)

## WASC/WCEA

Our school will complete the accreditation process this school year. The accreditation visit is scheduled for Feb. 8, 9, and 10, 2022. The WASC/WCEA Visiting Committee will be here visiting classrooms and meeting with teachers, students, PTO/parents, and Fr. Abel. We will finalize the writing of our Self Study prior to the accreditation visit. Please note that pupil free days have been scheduled in order to complete the Self Study and prepare for the accreditation visit. We ask for your prayers as we complete the accreditation process.

## ELECTIVES

Our school will continue offering Coding, Music, and PE for our students. In order to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infections, we have made changes to Music and PE. Our music class will follow a similar format as last year, but class will be conducted in-person. Ms. Thomas will emphasize on how to read music notes, beats and rhythm using different objects and technology, music history, and music appreciation. PE will be conducted outside on the playground between the school building and social hall. This will allow for enough space to keep a safe distance between our students as well as provide shade and protection from the sunlight. Sharing of any sports equipment will be minimized. If any equipment is utilized, it will be disinfected. There will also be a handwashing station for students to wash their hands at the end of their PE class.

## COVID-19 VACCINE AND TESTING

We understand the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine and testing. 95% of our faculty and staff are fully vaccinated. Staff member(s) who have not been vaccinated will need to get tested weekly as required by the state of California. Students who have been vaccinated, please submit a copy of the vaccination card to the office by Wednesday, August 25th. We would like to keep track of the percentage of students fully vaccinated. The information will remain confidential and will not be shared with other parents or students. This will be used for data purposes only. The information will also help us decide on a quarantine process in case of a COVID-19 infection or outbreak in the school. We are also highly recommending all students to be tested for COVID-19 before the first day of school, especially if you recently traveled out of state or outside of the country. Testing can be done at county sites or through your medical insurance. Copies of the test results can be dropped off at the office or emailed to Mrs. Vargas at [hvargas@maryimmaculateschool.org](mailto:hvargas@maryimmaculateschool.org) before the

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first day of school. Copies of the COVID-19 vaccine and/or testing can be submitted to the office when you drop off your child's school supplies on Monday, Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

I contacted the CA Department of Education and requested assistance with COVID-19 testing for our students. My request was transferred to the LA County Department of Public Health, LACDPH. I was recently contacted by the LACDPH and submitted the form requested in order for them to assess the needs of our school. My goal is to provide students, faculty, and staff with weekly COVID-19 testing on campus, if my request is approved. In the meantime, we **highly** recommend students to be tested bi-weekly (twice a month). Please submit test results to the office. I understand that weekly or bi-weekly testing of our students for COVID-19 is not ideal, but unfortunately, it is our current reality and testing is needed to keep our students as safe as possible. The safety and well-being of your children and our faculty and staff are a priority to Fr. Abel, Mrs. Cisneros, and I. We want to do whatever we can to keep everyone safe. Please keep us in your prayers as we wait to hear back from the the Department of Public Health. I will keep you informed on the process of the request submitted to the LACDPH. Thank you in advance for your support! ☺

### **COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES**

As I informed you back in June, we received a directive from the Department of Catholic Schools, DCS, to prepare for in-person instruction for all our students. Principals received confirmation of this directive last week. All Catholic school students in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles will be returning to school on campus for in-person instruction. Remote learning will not be provided unless we are directed to do so by the Department of Catholic Schools.

The safety of our students is a priority to us; therefore, COVID-19 safety measures will continue to be implemented. We will continue doing temperature checks and health screenings in the morning. The health screenings will continue to be conducted by Registered Nurses who have kindly volunteered their time to help our school. We will follow the same procedure as we did last school year when we welcomed back our students on campus. The health screening will be conducted in the car line as students are being dropped off. We ask parents to please remain in your vehicle and wait until your child is checked and cleared by the nurses. Once your child receives a colored sticker that means he/she was cleared and you are able to leave. Once students are cleared, they will go straight to their classrooms where they will be supervised by teachers. Parents with children in TK or Kinder will need to park by the lunch tables and walk their child to the lunch tables where Mrs. Murillo and Ms. Flores will conduct the temperature checks and health screenings. This procedure for TK and Kinder will only be implemented in August and September and will be revised in October. Students in grades 1-8 who are having drop off anxiety the first week of school, we ask parents to please park in the parking lot and walk your child to the office. Mrs. Vargas, Mrs. Cisneros, or I will conduct the temperature checks and health screenings. Once your child has calmed down, Mrs. Cisneros or I will walk your child to the classroom. In addition to the morning drop off, dismissal will also continue to be in a car line format similar to the procedure we implemented last year. The only difference is that we will have two different dismissal times in order to avoid having extremely long lines. Students whose last names begin with letters A-L will be dismissed from 2:50pm-3pm. Students with last names M-Z will be dismissed from 3pm-3:10pm. Please pick up your child(ren) during your assigned time. The car line procedure in the morning and after school along with the temperature checks and health screenings will help us minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure or infection. I want to remind you that these procedures are only temporary. Once cases go down and it's safe for our students, we will return to our pre-pandemic procedures, so we ask you to please be patient and support our temporary procedures.

In addition to the morning and afternoon car line procedures, we have also made other changes. We will have a separate recess and lunch for students in TK-3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade. This will allow us to have 3-4 students per table and continue with distancing. Per LA County and state guidelines children and adults are required to wear a mask in the classroom, but they are not required to wear a mask outdoors. Therefore, we will ask students to wear their mask under their chin at

recess, lunch, and PE; however, if you feel more comfortable having your child wear a mask outdoors, please let your child's teacher know and talk to your child about pulling up their mask as soon as they are done eating. Lunch tables will be disinfected at the end of each recess and lunch. There will also be portable hand washing stations on the playground for students to wash their hands before going back to the classroom. Each classroom also has contactless hand sanitizers as well as air purifiers. Doors in all classrooms will remain open to allow for ventilation; however, main doors with access to the school building will remain close throughout the day for safety reasons. We also have a portable hand sanitizer station by each main entrance. We will continue following the 6ft distance in the classroom whenever possible. If 6ft is not possible due to the size of the class, we will implement a 3ft-4ft distance. We will also continue using desk dividers for all students. This will provide extra protection in addition to the masks and distancing. Water fountains remain closed; therefore, we ask you to please send enough water for your child to drink during the day. We will have additional water bottles and disposable masks in the office, if needed. There will also be no sharing of supplies in the classrooms. Please make sure your child has the supplies needed for school.

Our middle school department will continue with the block schedule. Music and Coding will also be taught in the children's regular classrooms. This will avoid different cohorts from using a particular classroom the same day, thus, help us prevent and/or minimize COVID-19 transmission. I will be going over the COVID-19 safety procedures more in detail at our Back-to-School Night meeting. Teachers will also discuss their classroom COVID safety procedures at their orientation meetings.

Thank you for your continued trust, cooperation, and support. I know that if we continue working together, we will make 2021-2022 a successful and happy year for our students.

## **A BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER**

Loving God, thank you for the rest and relaxation we enjoyed over the summer.

Today we pray for our students as they begin a new school year. Bless them with joy at seeing friends, excitement at new experiences, and a love of learning. Watch over all who learn, replacing fear with joy, anxiety with peace, and tiredness with energy.

May confidence be their foundation,  
may grace be their guide and  
may hope be their compass toward a bright future.

I pray they would have eyes to see  
the needs of those around them and a heart to love well.  
May they face each day with positivity knowing that  
no matter what comes their way, you are always by their side.

We pray for our school families. May the presence of your Spirit fill their hearts.  
We pray for our teachers. May you grant them wisdom, patience, and joy in serving their students.

In Jesus's name we pray, Amen.