



4690 Bald Eagle Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
Phone: 651-429-7771
Fax: 651-429-9539
Email: contactus@frassatiwbl.org

May 21, 2021

Dear Frassati Parents:

As we prepare to close the 2020-2021 school year, I write to advise you on the issues of class size and transportation for the 2021-2022 school year.

Class Size

The staff, students and families of Frassati Catholic Academy have followed the health and welfare guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis (ASPM). The guidelines were put into place to assist us in mitigating the real dangers of COVID-19.

One of the guidelines at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year required six feet social distancing between students. Based on this requirement, we reduced the maximum number of students in each classroom. The six-foot rule was in place on January 7, 2021, when we began the registration process for the 2021-2022 school year. In the registration materials, I advised you that Frassati would maintain class size for the 2021-2022 school year based on the recommendations of the CDC and MDE.

The CDC published new recommendations for schools on March 19, 2021, reducing the social distance requirement from six feet to three feet. This recommendation was adopted by the MDE.

We will use the three-foot social distancing requirement to establish class size for the 2021-2022 school year. The added space will allow us to welcome the new families who want to send their children to Frassati. The proposed number of students per classroom for 2021-2022 is a few more than this year but fewer than the allowable number without social distancing.

I share this news with you since it is a change from my communication with you in January. This increase in enrollment will not affect our commitment to maintaining a safe, in-person learning experience for our students, staff and visitors. We will continue to follow the recommendations from the CDC, MDH and MDE.

Transportation for 2021-2022

Prior to COVID-19, the bus times for Frassati Catholic Academy students allowed us to begin school at 7:35 AM and end the day at 2:10 PM. [That was also the schedule for many years for the students of St. Mary of the Lake and St. Pius X.] For the 2020-2021 school year, our morning bus schedule stayed the same but afternoon pick-up changed to 3:15 PM. I am grateful for your accommodation to that change in the schedule.

Since February 2021, I have been in communication with district officials, attempting to reestablish our transportation schedule for 2021-2022 according to the pre-pandemic schedule. Sadly, those efforts have been unsuccessful. Though the WBLAS approved a transportation plan on April 16, 2021 that will have young students starting earlier in the day, the students from Frassati are not included in that early start. In a letter sent to Frassati on May 12, 2021, the district advised that our morning bus time will be 9:35 AM and our afternoon time will be 4:00 PM. That schedule is unacceptable. I have communicated our disappointment to the Superintendent and the School Board and asked them to reconsider their plan, since the schedule offered to our students contradicts the research cited by the district for having younger students start earlier in the day.

My intention for the 2021-2022 school day at Frassati is to begin at approximately 7:30 AM and end at approximately 2:10 PM. As we continue to talk with district officials, I am soliciting bids from other transportation companies that will accommodate our schedule.

I know the transportation issue is an important one for many families. I will continue to update you as information becomes available.

I am grateful for your patience and your cooperation during this past year. I pray that you and your family enjoy these last days of a very challenging but rewarding year and enjoy a peaceful and safe summer.

Peace,



Patrick Gallivan

Principal