



SAINT ROSE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Pursuing excellence in faith, knowledge, and virtue.

August 23, 2021,

St. Rose Catholic School Community,

We are excited to open our doors to students tomorrow (grades K - 8) and Monday, August 30 (Pre-K) for the 243 registered students and nearly 150 school families! My faculty and staff have been tirelessly working to have their classrooms perfect for welcoming the students. Many may be unaware of the work and effort that educators put in before the beginning of the school year. With this being my 25th year of preparation for day 1, I can say that, while every summer is different, most educators begin working in their rooms and on lesson planning nearly a month before the arrival of their students.

Personally, the past two summers have been busier than usual in regards to school. The past two summers, we have dealt with COVID 19 and the constantly evolving guidelines from the state of California. As I revamped the 2020 - 2021 School Operations Plan many times last year, I anticipate it happening again this year. **Later this week, you will receive a link to a revised Operations Plan that will supersede the August 5th [Operations Plan](#) previously published. Whenever these plans are revised, I will notify you and highlight the meat of the changes for you.**

This past summer has been more challenging than ever before in regards to staffing. As you may know, we had "hired" two different Kindergarten teachers that later backed out. As a result, we have gone full circle, and Ms. Roza will return to Kindergarten for one final year while still serving as my Assistant Principal, although with fewer duties. **Last Tuesday, we hired a new teacher to teach middle school science, supplement the elementary classroom teachers science, and write grants for the school. It's hard to make this kind of thing up, but on Thursday, she called to notify me that she was backing out as she will be teaching full time remotely from California into her old school in New York City as many students have opted to distance learning this school year.**

With school beginning on Tuesday, this clearly was not how I wanted to begin the year. Starting on Thursday after the phone call and lasting through Sunday, many members of my staff and I worked together, tossed around ideas, and have come up with a short term solution until I can get the right candidate hired. **This short term solution has been completed internally with the basic parameters as follows:**

- **8th Grade Science (8:00 - 8:45): Jeannine Visbal**, who has taught science at St. Rose Catholic School for the past three years and is currently the 5th-grade teacher, will teach 8th-Grade Science. "Ms. V." already had some availability at this time as the 5th-grade students were to be in their Intermediate Band "special" during this time T - Th. We are expanding this program to five days per week (M - F) during the short term. We will build the programming that was to take place on Monday and Fridays into the remainder of the school week.
- **7th Grade Science (8:49 - 9:30): Jeannine Visbal** will also teach 7th-Grade Science. She would have been teaching math during this time slot in her 5th-grade classroom. Mr. Greaves, our Middle School Math teacher, will be coming into the 5th-grade classroom to teach math during this time slot. For years we have tossed around ideas such as having speciality teachers coming into the elementary school to supplement/teach subjects. We were planning on that with science this year across the grades, but it now looks to be that 5th-grade math will be the focus. Ironically, this may also be a win-win as they transition to middle school and get used to multiple teachers. This transition has been an identified area of growth for us and was one of my "focus points" from data from the past two Parent Satisfaction Surveys.
- **6th Grade Science (10:37 - 11:18): Ms. Roza**, initially slated to teach all Middle School Science, will still teach this level. Ms. Roza will be teaching this class at the time slots where her Kindergarten class has their "specials" (P.E., Music, Art, Spanish, Library), and thus the time that she is pulled from her Kindergarten students will be minimal.
- **Middle School Leadership Elective (2:03 - 2:45):** With Ms. Roza being back in the Kindergarten classroom, she will not be the lead teacher for this class. **Ms. Uribe** (our Middle School Religion teacher and Campus Minister) will be taking over this role with assistance from **Ms. Roza** with the school yearbook and middle school dances. Additionally, **Ms. Glunz** (our 4th-grade teacher) may also spend some time in the Leadership classroom.

While all of this is in motion, I am looking for the right teacher who is qualified, fits the school's needs, works well with faculty, staff, and parents, and will be suitable for the students.

New Items/Upcoming Events

August 24, 2021: The first day of school for K - 8 is upon us! Please feel free to walk your children onto school, to their classrooms, or even onto the playground to check out the newly remodelled schoolyard (we are nearly finished with just a few items such as two benches and recognition work to be still completed). **Please remember to follow the requirements listed in our [2021 - 2022 Operations Plan if you are coming on campus.](#)** As students may have quite a few supplies, they may drop them off in their classrooms or outside of their classroom if the door is closed. After dropping items off, they may proceed to the playground to have some free time until school begins.

"New Family" Orientation: We will be hosting **two identical New Family Orientations** this year. These are available and open to all new families who joined the St. Rose Catholic

Community before or during the 2020 - 2021 school year or the 2021 - 2022 school year. We will host these at **8:15 AM on Wednesday, August 25 and 7:00 PM on Thursday, August 26**. We have typically held these in the Parish Hall, but out of respect for our community's different COVID 19 comfort levels, we will host these outdoors in our **school courtyard**. **We will have some seating available, and bringing a lawn chair and a device that you can follow along on electronically is recommended.**

"Parent Volunteer" Orientation: I am excited to announce that **we will be allowed to have volunteers working with the children** "at the administration's discretion" per CDPH guidelines again this year. We will be hosting **two identical Parent Volunteer Orientations** this year. **These are available and open to all families who plan on participating in their service hour requirements in the presence of children. We will host these at 9:15 AM on Wednesday, August 25 and 6:00 PM on Thursday, August 26.** We have typically held these in the Parish Hall, but out of respect for our community's different COVID 19 comfort levels, we will host these outdoors in our **school courtyard**. **We will have some seating available, and bringing a lawn chair and a device that you can follow along on electronically is recommended.**

Middle School Orientation: **All middle school students will be attending our Middle School Orientation at 8:05 AM on the school yard on Thursday, August 26.** At that time, the students will get to know the middle school staff, go through the middle school handbook, and get prepared for the upcoming school year. **Parents are encouraged to attend (feel free to bring a lawn chair or two) so that they may hear what their middle school student hears.** For some reason, what middle school students hear, and what they report back to their parents can sometimes not be transferred correctly. **Students in grades 6 - 8 will also receive their Chromebooks after the meeting if:**

- **A parent attends the meeting, and student and parent signs the "Chromebook Release Form" or**
- **A parent prints the "Chromebook Release Form" from home and signs it, and sends it with their child**

Students who have not turned in a signed "Chromebook Release Form" will receive their Chromebooks once they have turned these in to Mr. Greaves. **The release form is located in the [Middle School Handbook](#), which is posted online.**

First School Mass: **Our first school Mass will be held on Friday, August 27 at 10:00 AM. Diocese of Monterey Bishop Danny will host it. Students must abide by the St. Rose Catholic School "Mass Uniform," as seen on page 26 of our [Parent Handbook](#).** Our school Mass is open to any parents who may want to attend. As we have many new students at our school who may be unfamiliar with a Catholic Mass, we will be hosting a **"practice Mass" on Wednesday, August 25, for all students in grades K - 8.**

St. Rose Catholic School Choir: We are pleased to announce that we will be able to have a school **Youth Choir once again**. Please see the communication below from our **Choir Director, Ms. Stefania Knight**. Additionally, you will find an informational flyer regarding Choir in the attachments.

Dear St. Rose Families,

I hope you are doing well and experiencing the many blessings of God and that you all had a healthy, fun, and relaxing summer! My name is Stefania Knight, and this is my 1st year as the Choir Director/Organist here at St. Rose School. I am excited to start the school year and I am looking forward to getting to know each one of you!

These have certainly been challenging times, but there is nothing quite like the power of Music to bring a sense of the power of God into our lives! For this reason, I wanted to take this opportunity to invite your children to our youth Choir and join us for this school year. We are looking forward to bringing back our traditions and to share the joy of music.

I would like to tell you a little about myself. I have enjoyed working with choirs for about 9 years. I have a Certificate Sacred Music Diocesan School of Music GDL, México. Where I learn to play piano and organ, orchestration, direction and Gregoria Chant (Latin and Catholic Studies). I also have a Certificate General Music from Cabañas Cultural Institute, School of Arts. GDL, México. I moved to the United States about 5 years ago and I live here in Paso Robles. For now, I work at a preschool as an associate teacher in Paso Robles, and I have been the organist of St Rose of Lima Parish for about 4 years. I am also happily married to my husband who by the way is a musician too but most importantly a great dad and husband. We are blessed to have a smart and energetic four-year-old daughter that makes our days bright like the moon in the sky.

As many of you know, I was the accompanist of the youth choir under the direction of Mr. Warren these past two years. I was saddened when Mr. Warren told me that he was going to move to Maryland. Lucky for us, the new online word is allowing us to have him closer than ever. We are truly blessed with his support and care, and I hope to continue with his hard and loving work in our music ministry.

The rehearsals are going to be held in the choir loft Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00pm to 5:00pm. Children might participate in extended day care if they need between the transitions. We are going to be offering flyers to invite children to be part of this life changing experience. Our first rehearsal is going to be on September 7th in the church. I invite you to bring your children or let them stay in the extended day for this first rehearsal so they can try and see if they like to be part of the choir.

I feel so blessed to have the opportunity to be a part of the St. Rose Catholic School family. Thank you for allowing me to share in the joy of your children. I am looking forward to seeing and meeting all of you soon!

Warmly with prayers, God Bless,

Mrs. Stefania Knight

Middle School Athletics: Be on the lookout for information coming home from Mr. Cooper regarding the Fall sports season. **Mr. Cooper** is entering his 4th year as our school Athletic Director and will also be coaching some of our offerings this school year.

August and September Dates to Remember

In all of my monthly newsletters (typically come out the first week of every month) please note that I will always put upcoming dates to remember at the end of the newsletter. These dates, however, may have to be altered during the time of the writing and the time of the event. **Always be sure to check out our up to date calendar located on our [website](#).**

August:

- 24 First day of School K - 8, extended care opens
- 25 New Family Orientation @ 8:15 in the school courtyard, Parent Volunteer Orientation @ 9:15 in school
- 26 Middle School Parent and Student Orientation @ 8:05 on lunch tables, Parent Volunteer Orientation @ 6:00 in the school courtyard, New Family Orientation @ 7:00 in the school courtyard
- 27 School Mass w/Bishop Danny @ 10:00
- 30 PTO Board meeting @ 8:15

September:

- 3 Minimum Day/Noon Dismissal, School Mass @ 8:30, Parent Handbook Agreement Form Due
- 6 Labor Day/No School
- 13 - 17 Renaissance STAR Testing Week 1
- 17 Minimum Day/Noon Dismissal, 8th Grade Free Dress
- 19 Catechetical Sunday Mass @ 10:00
- 20 - 24 Renaissance STAR Testing Week 2
- 22 School Pictures Pre-K - 3rd grade
- 23 School Pictures 4th - 8th grade
- 28 Professional Development Day/No School

I appreciate all of your support over the years. Most, if not all, schools are doing their best in navigating the COVID 19 pandemic and the associated public health mandates that go along with it. I am thankful for all of you that understand these situations, come to discuss policies/procedures with me with an open and understanding mind, and have faith and trust in my staff and I to guide your children through these times. Once again, I believe that the St. Rose Catholic School community is second to none!

Thank you
Trevor Knable

Principal, St. Rose Catholic School