



Love of Learning Faith in God Service for Others



July 9, 2020

Dear Little Flower Families,

I hope you are having fun and getting some time to relax and read this summer. It seems that daily in the news we are being confronted with speculation of what school might look like in the fall. I know that for most of us this is a top priority as we work together to design a safe and instructionally effective way to reopen. I thought that early July might be a good time to remind all of us where we stand, what we know, and when we will know more.

Little Flower's reopening moves will be guided by the parameters designed by the Archdiocese of Washington's task force of experts in conjunction with broader expertise offered by the Centers for Disease Control. We expect to receive these parameters on July 15th and then we will have two weeks to process these guidelines and to customize a reopening plan for Little Flower. Staff and parents will all have an opportunity to offer input into the flexible parts of our plan. Although pandemic conditions are fluid and we haven't yet seen the ADW guidelines, in almost every scenario we are returning to classrooms, in smaller groups, with additional precautions. It is most likely that we will not be alternating days or doing alternating half-day schedules.

In early August, families can expect specific information regarding procedures for safety precautions, arrival, dismissal and lunch. At this time we also intend to share specifics about schedules, groupings, and school supply lists, to include some new 2020 items such as face masks. We expect that the school will be a busy place during August as we implement our plan and prepare for the return of teachers and students. I will make myself available to parents who might want to address individual concerns.

We are excited about adding some new members to our staff when we return on September 1st. Please join me in welcoming:

Kim Lawson will replace Ms. Ella Feldman as a PreK lead teacher. Mrs. Lawson brings a wealth of training and experience. She designed and innovated PreK programming at Silver Spring Day School. Mrs. Lawson is committed to teaching the whole child and to ensuring that students' first experiences with school are positive. She is a parishioner at St. Bernadette's and is looking forward to being able to share her faith daily as part of her teaching. We are excited to have her join our all-star PreK team.

Emma Millar (yes, she is Mrs. Millar's daughter) will be our new Spanish teacher. Miss Emma impressed us with her love of students and her very natural teaching abilities.

During our interview, it was clear to see that she not only brings Spanish proficiency but a real talent for making learning come alive. We are thrilled that she agreed to join our team.

Alexus Etheridge will switch from aftercare to a full time position as our second grade teaching assistant. Alexis is a familiar, smiling face and a favorite of many students. Her commitment, her upbeat attitude and her ability to connect with all students make her a very valuable addition to our staff.

Many staff members and parents have reached out and asked what they can do to help. We are a faith-filled community that believes in God's care and the power of prayer. Please pray for me and our dedicated staff. As we embark upon a particularly challenging school re-opening, please ask God to guide our decision-making process. Join with all of us as we pray daily for the health and well-being of our children. Let's remember to put our fears and concerns in Christ's hands and pray that he continues to bless our LFS family.

Sincerely,
Ms. Favret