

Dear St. Raphael School Parents,

As we prepare for a school year unlike any other we've ever known, all of us on the Home & School board want you to know we've never been more committed to supporting our students, our school families and our dedicated teachers and staff.

In the midst of dealing with so many unknowns, we're doing all we can to continue to offer our students their favorite events and activities while providing our teachers and staff the support they need. So we're reaching out to invite you to renew your Home & School membership and join us in supporting our school family during this time. Toward that end, at the end of this message, we've provided links to activities and resources that can help us work together and stay connected during the school year, regardless of what the new year brings.

### ***Joining Home & School***

Home & School membership fees, as well as proceeds generated through our fundraising efforts, provide the funds needed to cover the costs of the events and activities we sponsor throughout the year. Your support provides many benefits for parents, students and teachers.

#### **Benefits for Parents**

- Access to DirectorySpot, an online school directory for SRS families with enhanced calling, email and directional capabilities
- Support for the school tuition/scholarship fund for families in need
- Opportunities to connect with other SRS parents

#### **Benefits for Students**

- Providing funds for the following special events and activities:
  - Rock the Challenge
  - Grade level retreats
  - Annual book fair
  - Spring ice cream social
- Updating and replacing playground equipment
- Purchasing supplies for the annual Christmastime Angel's Workshop for grades K-5
- Annual scholarships for two 8<sup>th</sup> grade students based on academic excellence, service and leadership

#### **Benefits for Teachers**

- Providing funds to purchase needed classroom supplies each year
- Showing appreciation for the teachers and staff by providing ongoing support, including special meals during conferences and other important events

#### **Benefits for the SRS Community**

- Hosting our annual Father/Daughter and Mother/Son events
- Hosting our annual Mardi Gras Family Fest and Junior High events

### ***Participating in our Fundraising Opt-out***

Another way SRS families support our school community is by participating in our annual Fundraising Opt-Out program. By making a one-time, \$125 per family, tax-deductible donation at the start of the school year, your family will be exempt from participating in any fundraisers we lead this year.

### **Opt-Out Benefits**

- The entire amount you contribute goes directly to benefit our students and is 100% tax-deductible.
- Your child will receive the same rewards (i.e., dress down days) as students who participate in fundraising programs throughout the year.
- Enjoy the convenience of a one-time payment while maximizing the impact of your giving.

### ***Sharing your time and talent***

Given the many unknowns we face as we head into the new year, we recognize we may not be able to move forward with some of our annual events and programs due to restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. But we remain hopeful that we can make some of these events a reality for our children and the entire SRS community, so we're asking for your help in chairing the following committees during the upcoming year.

- Angel's Workshop
- Father-Daughter Dance
- Hospitality
- Mardi Gras (Family Fest and Jr. High event)

In addition, we need Room Parents for all classes, K-8. Provided [here](#) is a complete list of H&S committees with a brief description of each. If you'd like to serve as a Room Parent, lead one of the committees listed above or assist with another committee on the list, please indicate your area of interest using the following link: [volunteer form](#)

### ***Pencil pouches***

This year, we continue to offer an easy option for ordering pencil pouches. Students use these for storing their crayons, pencils, markers, erasers, glue sticks, etc. Pencil pouches come in a wide variety of colors and can be purchased for \$10. Use the link in this form to reserve and pay for your pencil pouch today and it will be delivered to your child's room in time for our August 25th & 26th Meet & Greet events.

### ***Staying in touch***

With the possibility of our students participating in virtual learning this year, sharing information remotely has become even more important. We encourage parents to sign up for Remind to receive important text updates from Home & School. Directions for downloading the app follow:

- *New Remind App Users* - On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link: [remind sign up](#)
- Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app and "Join" SRS H&S by entering your full name and phone number or email address.

- *Current Remind Users* - If you already have the Remind App, simply go to your profile and select "Join a Class." Enter the class code "ccb2b." Once complete, click on "Go to my class."

If you don't have a smartphone, you can still sign up to receive text notifications. Text the message **@ccb2b** to the number 81010. If you have trouble with 81010, try texting @ccb2b to (440) 249-0616. (Standard text message rates apply.)

***Access the FACTS system now to sign up, to opt-out, to volunteer***

Click on the link to the FACTS payment system below to join or renew your membership for Home & School, to opt out of fundraising for the year or to order pencil pouches. Conveniently pay online via credit card or ACH. *Please note that paper checks are no longer accepted.*

<https://payit.nelnet.net/form/AWZqKy41>

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Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working with you to make this the best year possible for all of our students and school families.

Sincerely,

Your 2020-2021 Home & School Board