

Saint Agnes Academy

SINCE 1957, A CATHOLIC PARISH SCHOOL FOR PRE-SCHOOL TO GRADE 8
30 Carson Ave, Dalton MA 01226

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Dear Saint Agnes Academy Community,

WE MADE IT!

The past several months have been filled with surprises, challenges, and stress. Our regular routines were disrupted. We had to engage in teaching and learning in new ways that often have felt challenging and off-balance.

As I reflect on the last few months, I am impressed by the ways that students, parents, teachers, staff, and community members have all stepped into additional roles in so many different ways. I am so beyond grateful to everyone who has helped to lead Saint Agnes Academy forward during this challenging time.

As parents, many of us experienced our own "Spirit" Week:

Meltdown Monday!

The teacher/mother/cook/nurse has quit (Me) Tuesday

All 3 students dropped out Wednesday

Internet bad connection Thursday

Kitchen snacks are gone Friday

Grandma After School activity has been canceled Sunday

But, Parents! We made it!

As educators, we had to engage with our students in new ways while reassuring them and continuing to support them academically and emotionally. Many of us discovered that students managed in surprising and unexpected ways and we had to evaluate and reevaluate and adjust to fulfill the need of each ever-changing situation. Through it all, we tried to search for strategies to serve student learning needs in the absence of our traditional methods.

I had the privilege to hear story after story describing the resilience, creativity, and determination shown by many of our selfless teachers.

But, Teachers! We made it!

On this last day of school, I know that many questions remain about how the 2020-2021 school year will look and how can we ensure we all have the resources, tools, and skills necessary to succeed in this new world.

Our Reopening Committee, including parents and teachers, will meet at the beginning of July to reflect on the experiences, evaluate the lessons we learned, and come up with plans.

Parents and teachers have always shared an important partnership, but with COVID-19, we are **truly** in this thing together. As ways of teaching and learning changed, relationships between teachers and parents changed too.

The idea of full partnerships took on a whole new path with greater significance. Educators came to appreciate and depend on parents in new ways, and many parents came to better understand and appreciate the role that educators play in the growth of their children.

There is much to be gained from our experiences of the last few months and the learning opportunities will be used by everyone when we return to school.

As many questions seem unanswered, one thing is for sure: The majority of our students need their school and they will be glad to rejoin teachers, staff and friends. When they return, we will be ready for their arrival.

It was my absolute pleasure to be your principal for this year! I am looking forward to welcoming you all next fall! I hope to see you all tomorrow at noon for the end of the year parade!

The report cards will be sent home.

The reopening committee's first meeting link for July will be emailed next week.

Have a wonderful summer!

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