



Mary of Nazareth Catholic School

A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence



August 26, 2022

Dear Parents,

Maintaining a safe and secure school environment for all members of our school community is vital to our mission. As such, the Administrative Team has worked extensively over the summer months with the Mary of Nazareth School Board of Directors Strategic Planning Committee to prepare for the 2022-2023 school year. We have extensive guidelines and plans for several types of safety emergencies and critical instances. Immediately following the tragic school shooting in Uvalde, Texas we engaged in a detailed review of our existing emergency plans and began meeting, planning, and collaborating to further ensure our students are as safe as possible and our faculty are prepared. Please note the following updates:

- Mary of Nazareth School has engaged a Maryland based security company, RESIST10, to conduct a Risk Assessment and Vulnerability Study. This assessment will focus on deterrence, training, and preparation for an intruder. It does not include an assessment of our vulnerability in the case of severe weather, chemical spill, bomb threat, etc. which are separately covered under the School Emergency Response Plan. We expect the results of this assessment prior to our September board meeting. Recommendations will be shared with the community as deemed appropriate by the MoN board.
- The School Emergency Response Plan has been updated and it will be reviewed with the entire faculty and staff during teacher in-service week, next Tuesday.
- The entire faculty and staff will also receive active shooter training (ALICE) during this in-service.
- In addition to ongoing and sustained communication with the Montgomery County Police Department, the MoN School Emergency Response Plan will be uploaded to MCPD site before September 5, 2022.
- Security Upgrades Summer 2022
 - New campus-wide PA system installed with funding from the MD Aging Schools Grant.
 - Walkie-talkies have been purchased for every classroom with funding from the MD Safety Grant.
 - The Emergency Response Plan has been shared with the Archdiocese and MoN board.
 - Improved outdoor lighting.
 - An additional CCTV screen will be added to the main office, increasing the number of CCTV hubs to 3 in the school building.
- The Parent and Student Reunification Plan is in the Parent and Student Handbook you reviewed in TADS prior to registering your child at Mary of Nazareth School. This Student Reunification Plan is [HERE](#) and shared in the first several parent newsletters every September. Please read it.

I would like to thank Mrs. Schultz, Mr. Carr, and Ms. Kobrine, the Board Strategic Planning chair, for their continued support and astute collaboration as we prepare to keep the community safe in perpetuity. Please have every confidence this has been a main priority this summer, as it is every summer. We look forward to providing further information when the appropriate opportunity presents itself.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Friel".

Michael Friel
Principal and CEO