



Mary of Nazareth Catholic School

A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence



September 14, 2021

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your continued patience as we work out the kinks of arrival and dismissal at Mary of Nazareth School. This is a complex task that has been challenging in ways we have never previously experienced. Actually, it has given many of us the blues.....the carpool blues.

The Carpool Blues

*Oh yes, oh yes It's only the first week of school
And we agree dismissal has not been so cool.
At this time we all are experiencing the carpool blues
Does Mr. Friel even have a clue...s?
Are we ever going to get in a groove?
When is this line ever going to move?
The blues, the blues they are hard to endure.
Dismissal is taking too long, that is for sure.
Please, please tell me - is there a cure
For the afternoon dismissal blues?
Couldn't this be solved with a yellow school bus!
Just be happy you are not us.
It's hot and it's humid and we do really care,
In fact so much we are sacrificing our hair.
Thank you for your patience, it shouldn't be too long.
We will pivot and modify and come back strong.
So if your suffering from the carpool blues,
Please know it's a priority - we are walking in your shoes.*

Important Data Impacting Carpool and *Potential Modifications Under Consideration*

- We cut off use of the KFC parking lot because it was being used by families to circumvent the carpool line. *This decision is being revisited.*
- In previous years, Aftercare has served upwards of 100 children per day which creates tremendous relief to carpool. In the first five days of aftercare, we have had a high of 40 students and a low of 23 students with an average of 30. This has caused the numbers of cars in dismissal to swell. As more parents are working from home, this trend may continue.

- After school clubs have not started. As they do, this will likely provide relief at dismissal.
- We have observed a significant drop-off in multiple family carpools. *Please consider carpooling with a MoN family in your neighborhood*
- Currently there are 341 families at Mary of Nazareth School, the largest number ever.
- We have three grade levels who have never participated in dismissal, and they need time to learn the routine and their carpool numbers. This accounts for 125 families and cars, 37% of all families. There are 131 students in Pre-K through grade 1. Pre-K students must be walked to their cars by an adult for a parent signature. *Moving Pre-K and K dismissal to another location is being considered.*
- The shrubs on the Road to Nowhere have been trimmed now that the massive wasp nest I described at the HSA Meeting last Wednesday has been removed. Thank you, Mr. Carr.
- Lately, morning carpool has consistently been 25 minutes and traditionally arrival has been finished in 20 minutes. Moving arrival up 5 to 10 minutes is a possibility, however, it will require a shift in staff arrival time, faculty prayer, and morning responsibilities.
- Many cars are lining up far in advance of drop off and arrival. Cars arriving on campus at 8:10am and at 3:25pm will likely spend less time in the carpool line and likely drop off and pick up at the same time in the horseshoe. I encourage families who live close by to help us 'game' the system, especially if you have older students who transition seamlessly into their school day.
- As the line is extending further than we have ever experienced previously we have observed the space between can be shortened. *Please stay 'tight' in line to ensure we minimize backing up on Seneca Road.*
- *We are currently looking at our carpool APP to increase efficiency by reviewing the coding identifying opportunities to improve functionality.*

The purpose of this email was threefold. Firstly, we are on it and actively looking to identify opportunities for improvement. Second, to provide context for what we are currently experiencing. Lastly, we are all in this together. Hopefully this togetherness begins to end every day closer to 3:30pm - for everyone's sake.

Sincerely,



Michael Friel
 CEO and Principal
 Mary of Nazareth School