



August 2024

Dear Parent(s) /Guardian(s) and Students:

Welcome to our 2024-25 school year! Our school year is set to begin on **August 27 with freshmen and transfer students in attendance** which will include the distribution of new computers to all students along with schedules and pictures taken for their student IDs. **Students in grades 10-12 will be expected to attend during designated times on August 28.** Please see the **orientation schedules** to verify the dates and times your student needs to be on campus. **Bus transportation does not begin until August 29, which is our first official day of classes,** so you will need to provide transportation for the students for these very important meetings.

We will be welcoming some new faculty members along with 125-plus new students including freshmen, transfers, and international students. Among our new hires is our Benilde Program Director, two English teachers, a math teacher, a social studies teacher, a theology teacher, PE teacher and a guidance counselor. We will continue to provide numerous learning and teaching strategies while maintaining a strong focus on rigor, ensuring all our students are college ready upon successfully completing all course requirements. Each of our faculty members may be reached via email and always respond in a timely manner as do our guidance counselors. Your child's success is our foremost priority and communication is key to this happening. **Please note: Students in Algebra 2 and Pre-calculus as well as other advanced math classes are reminded that they must purchase their own graphing calculator (TI-84 or 84+) as we do not provide them.**

Additionally, please make sure you and your student review the student handbook carefully in relationship to all policies pertaining to dress code, mandatory study, as well as eligibility criteria for students to participate in athletics and/or activities at Saint Raphael. These were created to ensure that *all* our Saint Raphael students are held accountable for their choices in an equitable and just manner. Remember that all students should be in their first period classes by 8 a.m. with the school day ending at 2:09 p.m.

Our tardy policy has proven to be quite effective so please make sure you review that as well. Regular attendance is essential. If a student is to make satisfactory progress and receive credit for his/her year's work, parents must be sure that their children are absent only when necessary. **Family vacations are NOT considered as excused absences,** so please plan accordingly. Random absenteeism will count towards the 10-day rule as explained in our policy and your student's grades may be penalized as a result. You do not want to be put in a position with the possibility of losing 10 points off your semester average!

Please note that PSAT and SAT schoolwide testing will take place on October 16, with more information to follow as we get closer to that date.

Thank you for entrusting your child with us and please reach out to me should you have any questions regarding your child's academic success.

Sincerely,

Judith D. Baxter

Judith D. Baxter, Vice Principal of Academics

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