

BLUE GOLD MEMO

SAINT ROSE *of* LIMA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

500 KINGS HIGHWAY | HADDON HEIGHTS, NJ | 08053



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August 2026

Welcome Back to St. Rose of Lima!

I hope everyone enjoyed a restful summer filled with time for faith, family, and the people who matter most. I am very happy to be back and excited to welcome our students and families for what I know will be a wonderful school year.

Although our students were away, St. Rose remained a very busy place this summer. New carpeting was installed in several hallways, classrooms, and the main office. The science lab received new flooring and the gym and stage floors were cleaned and resealed. These improvements have refreshed many areas of our school, and we hope to continue making additional updates in the future.

We have also continued to invest in the resources our teachers and students use each day. Classrooms in Grades 3–8 now have new interactive ViewSonic boards, and a movable board will be available for our younger grades. Our teachers are receiving training so they can use this technology effectively, and we hope to install more boards throughout the school this year.

Every classroom will also have its own Chromebook cart. Under our new Chromebook policy, devices will remain at school rather than travel back and forth with students. This will help us better maintain the Chromebooks while ensuring students have access to them when they are needed for learning. The complete policy and additional information will be shared with families soon.

Our curriculum continues to grow as well. Students in Grades K, 1 and 2 will begin using Amplify CKLA, our new English Language Arts program. Their teachers have been participating in training throughout the summer and are looking forward to bringing these new resources into their classrooms.

I also want to thank our families for supporting last year's dress-down days. Because of your generosity, we were able to purchase classroom supplies for every teacher. Each dress-down day may have seemed like a small contribution, but together they made a meaningful difference.

There is much more to look forward to this year, including welcoming our new faculty members and beginning our new lunch program with NutriServe. We are also transitioning to PowerSchool, our new Student Information System. More information about PowerSchool and what families will need to know will be coming soon.

These updates are about more than new floors, technology, or programs. They reflect our continued commitment to providing our students with a safe, welcoming, faith-filled environment where they can learn, grow, and become the people God is calling them to be.

Important School Information

- **First Day of School:** Tuesday, September 8 – students line up in the schoolyard with their homeroom class (7:30–8:00 a.m. for photos). In case of rain, enter via 3rd Avenue or gym doors. Parents and families will be permitted in the school yard on the first day of school, between 7:30am and 8:00 am to take first day of school photos in the playground/basketball area and the Rose Garden. ***This will be permitted on the first day of school ONLY.*** We appreciate your understanding on this matter.
- **Full Days Begin:** Wednesday, September 9 for Grades 1–8
- **Tuesday, September 8** Kindergarten Orientation is two sessions; one at 9am and one at 10am. Kindergarten families will be receiving further information about these sessions.
- **Wednesday, September 9** is Kindergarten first day. Kindergarten teachers and aides will be at the 3rd Avenue entrance to greet the kindergarten students.

School Drop off and Pick up Procedures

During the 2026-2027 school year we will using the same drop off areas and entrances to the school as last school year.

- **Arrival:** Students may enter between 7:45–8:00 a.m. via designated entrances. *Arrivals after 8:00 a.m. are tardy and must enter through the front door of the school and report to the office.*
 - Students should be dropped off on 3rd Avenue in the drop off zone. Students can ALSO be dropped off on 4th Avenue and Green Street and walk to the school entrances
 - Please be mindful of neighbors. Please **do not** block driveways or use nearby business parking lots.
 - There will be a staff member at the 3rd Avenue drop off in the morning to assist in Grades K-4 drop off. If a student in Grades 5-8 is bringing their sibling to school they will be permitted to enter the 3rd Avenue door or gym doors.
 - Students in Grades 5-8 will enter through the gym doors and go directly to homeroom
 - Please remember students will be allowed to enter the school building at 7:45am, not before that time. If they are registered for Before Care, it begins at 7:00am. This is a service provided at an additional cost.
 - The front doors of the school will **NOT** be used for students entering the school building until after the 8:00 morning bell.

Middle school students will be changing classrooms for each of their classes. They will be assigned a locker which they will be permitted to go to **ONLY** at certain times of the day.

During arrival and dismissal, parents are asked to remain outside the perimeter of the school fence. Please do not enter the area on the inside of the fence for the security of school property.

At dismissal, please do not park or idle in the morning drop-off lane. Keeping this area clear is essential for the safety of our students, faculty, and staff. It also prevents traffic from backing up onto Kings Highway, which we are required to avoid. Thank you for your cooperation.

Lunch Program

We are excited to be moving to Nutri-serve food management program for the 2026/2027 school year! All of the new pertinent information is included in this packet.

Communication

We use ***Constant Contact*** for weekly email school updates and our bi-monthly Blue & Gold Memos. ***School Messenger*** is used for timely phone messages and emails about important happenings at the school including school closings. Our Facebook page ***St. Rose of Lima School and Alumni Association*** is also for news. The school website is <https://stroseoflimaschoolnj.com/>. Please keep your contact information current so you can receive all messages.

The Handbook can be found on our website at <https://stroseoflimaschoolnj.com/about-us/academics-and-handbook/>. A link to our 2026-2027 Parent Student Handbook has also been put on Finals site. Please review it carefully, as there have been some changes this year. Please sign the acknowledgement form in Finals site stating that you and your child(ren) have reviewed the handbook carefully.

We are happy to announce several changes to the St. Rose Faculty family in September.

- **Ms. Olivia Smith** - will be joining us as our new First Grade Teacher from Haddon Heights School district. She has a Bachelors of Science degree in Elementary Education, formerly a St. Rose of Lima student and Rosebud employee and joins us after four years of teaching in Heights.
- **Mrs. Amiris Colon** - will be joining us as our new Third Grade Teacher. She comes to us from Resurrection Catholic School with a Bachelor Degree in Elementary Education and a Masters in Special Education.
- **Sister Karen McConnell, FMIHM** - will be joining us as a new Middle School Religion Teacher with a Bachelor of Arts in Education and Theology as well as Master of Arts in Moral Theology. She joins us after almost 40 years in Catholic Education in the US and across the globe.
- **Mrs. Melynda Morrone** - will be joining us as the new Music Teacher. She has a Bachelors Degree in Music Education as well as a Masters Degree in School Leadership with over 15 years in Music Education.
- We are also excited to announce that **Ms. Juliana May** will be joining our third grade hallway this year.

More information about a new Spanish Teacher to come!

As we begin this new school year, I am reminded of the words of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: *"The first end I propose in our daily work is to do the will of God."* Her words remind us that the work we do each day, whether learning, teaching, parenting, or serving, has a greater purpose when it is rooted in God's will.

May we begin this year with open hearts, ready to support one another and attentive to the ways God is calling each of us to grow. Together, may we continue to make St. Rose a place where every child is known, loved, and encouraged to become the person God created them to be.

Thank you for your continued support and trust. I look forward to seeing our hallways filled once again with the energy and joy of our students. May God bless our students, families, faculty, and staff throughout the year ahead.

Welcome back Falcons!

God bless,

Dr. Deirdre Rood
Principal
St. Rose of Lima School