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Back to School - What Can Parents Do to Prepare for school?

Parents play an essential role in the development of their children's faith and life. Planning ahead, and looking for ways to collaborate with your school provides an excellent way to begin the school year. In addition, becoming involved affords parents the opportunity to be acquainted and forge collaborative efforts to support your schools.

Each school is developing new procedures and enhanced protocols intended to ensure the health and safety of all students, teachers, and staff.

- 1. Check your schools website** for a return to school plan or other important information so that you and your child will be prepared for the new school year.
- 2. Prepare for the transition.** Before school starts, share positive memories from your grade-school days, and take advantage of any school open houses or meet-the-teachers events.
- 3. Follow your school's Facebook page** and check its main website for information about any registration or orientation activities.

- 4. Register Students** as soon as possible so that all students can focus on instruction from Day one.
- 5. If you are moving** to a new school and need to provide documentation, contact your school for information about how to complete the registration process.
- 6. Make sure** your school has your updated contact information, including phone number(s), email address and home address.
- 7. Look for information from your school** about distribution of laptops for students who need them for online learning. as well as any parent or student guides for remote learning if your child will working remotely.
- 8. Remember,** you are the expert when it comes to your child; you are your child's best advocate. Research shows that students whose parents get involved are more likely to be successful.
- 9. Stay positive.**

The pandemic was beyond our control; this is not where anyone thought we would be several months ago. Your children will react to how you are feeling and to what you are saying. Assure them that everything is going to be okay and remind them that we are here to support them in these unprecedented times.

Above all, family prayer is one of the best ways parents can foster faith in their children throughout the school year. Catholic schools are amazing spaces to learn and grow in faith as a family. Working together can get start off the new school year in a positive direction and we'll be stronger for the experience as we move forward.

"Catholic education is above all a question of communicating Christ, of helping to form Christ in the lives of others." – St. Pope John Paul II