



December 9, 2022

Dear Athlos Family,

During this time of year, we reflect on what we are thankful for and each year it includes all of the students, families and staff that we are honored to work with. We are grateful to all our students who put significant effort into their academics and their relationships with others. Our students come from many different backgrounds and cultures, and day in and day out they are learning and growing together through both difficult times and in celebrating their successes. We are grateful for the opportunity to meet all of the wonderful parents and guardians that are true role models for their student(s) and support our school. Finally, we are thankful to work amongst some of the best faculty and staff in the country. The staff at Athlos work tirelessly in motivating our students and each other to reach high levels of achievement and excellence. Each and every one of you inspire us every day to be a better educator, a better parent and a better colleague.

As we move into the New Year, please see some important information below!

### **INTENT TO RETURN 2023**

The open enrollment period for the 23-24 school year has begun! We are currently accepting applications for all grades for next school year. Help us spread the word by letting your friends and family know that we are enrolling!

What has previously been our Intent to Return process for returning students will be updated to our returning student Annual Update. You will receive information this spring on how to update your demographic information, emergency contacts and request transportation for the 23-24 school year. Additional details will be shared at a later date.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

When school is closed due to inclement weather, bad road conditions, or other emergencies, please listen to one of the following radio/TV stations for the announcements regarding Athlos Academy: KSTP – TV, KSAX, KSTP.com, 45TV School Alert Plus, Fox 9, WCCO Radio, WCCO Channel 4, and KARE 11. We will also send out all-school messages to families and staff. This would be a good time to check in with the front desk to make sure that your cell phone numbers and email addresses are updated in the system to ensure that you are getting these messages. You can also go to most stations and sign up for their alert system.

### **FAMILY RESOURCES**

*Marine Corps Commercial: "Toys for Tots" – Guard Duty.*

- The goal of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters that will assist them in becoming responsible, productive, patriotic citizens.
- We are able to accomplish this through the generosity of local businesses and corporate sponsors, and through the support of Catholic Charities Emergency Services who sort and distribute all the toys collected each season.

<https://st-cloud-mn.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/request-toys.aspx>

*Catholic Charities: Holiday Toys Program:* Toys for Tots is for children ages 0-14 who would not receive a Christmas gift without this program

- Children can be enrolled in only one holiday program
- Parent/Legal guardian and child must live in one of the following cities: St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Sartell, Waite Park, St. Augusta, St. Joseph, Rice, Kimball, Eden Valley, Watkins, or Royalton
- Registration for Catholic Charities Emergency Services Holiday Toys Program begins November 1, 2022, and continues **through December 9, 2022.**
- Distribution dates are December 13, 15, and 20, and is curbside pick-up at Catholic Charities Emergency Services, 157 Roosevelt Road, Suite #100, St. Cloud, MN 56301.
- For questions regarding registration or distribution, please call (320) 229.4560 and press 7, or email [ESToysfortots@ccstcloud.org](mailto:ESToysfortots@ccstcloud.org)

*Salvation Army:* Walmart and The Salvation Army are teaming up once again to help millions of children and families in need. Supporters can join our efforts by donating in-person at most Walmart Stores or online below.

- The Salvation Army Angel Tree program provides new clothing and toys to more than one-million children and families in need each year.
- Once a child is accepted as an Angel, donors like you can shop for their Christmas wish list. Simply pick a tag off the Angel Tree located inside your local Walmart store or follow the instructions below to shop online using Walmart's Registry for Good. Once the gifts are received, The Salvation Army will distribute them to families in need for Christmas morning.
- While the exact conditions of each local agency may differ, in general the following conditions need to be met in order to receive Christmas assistance from the Salvation Army. Many of these will also apply to other charities that offer help. Applicants can't be signed up for any other form of public holiday assistance, Angel Tree, or other programs through another local charity or non-profit agency.
- Individuals will need to bring picture identification and proof of their total household income (most recent check stubs).
- Social Security cards for all family members, as well as proof of residency (utility/phone bill), are required.
- Income qualifications are determined by your local Salvation Army center and/or The Emergency Food Assistance Program. Applicants need to meet income guidelines that are based on family size.

<https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/walmart-angel-tree/>

Again, thank you for all of your support and patience as we navigate these challenging times together.

## **WINTER BREAK EXTENSION**

When creating the current school year calendar, Athlos was committed to reducing the number of four-day weeks for families, scheduling students' return from winter break on Monday, Jan. 2, 2023. We have been made aware that by law all school districts are required to observe the federal holiday of New Year's Day on the day following the holiday when the day falls on a Sunday.

As a result, Athlos is correcting this error by making Monday, Jan. 2 a non-school day in observance of New Year's Day and extending winter break by one day. Winter break is now Monday, Dec. 19 – Monday, Jan. 2, with students returning to school on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

It will not be necessary to have a make-up day due to adding this holiday for students because there are just enough instructional hours scheduled to meet the required state requirements. However, this does put Athlos close to the minimum should more than the five e-learning days be needed for inclement weather.

## **STUDENT AMBASSADORS**

The Student Ambassador Program is a leadership opportunity for students in fourth through eighth grades. In this capacity, Student Ambassadors assist in welcoming prospective families, help new students acclimate to our school, volunteer in school wide activities and events, and provide support for service-learning projects with younger students.

A Student Ambassador displays strong performance character, takes initiative, and is always helpful. This year's Student Ambassadors are excited to be a part of the program and look forward to opportunities to support their school, meet new families, new friends and introduce them to the Athlos community. Our next meeting will be held on December 15.

## **PARENT AMBASSADORS**

The Parent Ambassador Program plays an extremely important role in the marketing and support of our school community. The Ambassadors work in collaboration with the school leadership team, Teacher Ambassadors and Student Ambassadors to reach out to new or prospective families, support school volunteer needs, and provide essential role modeling for members of our school community. The next meeting will be held in person on December 13, 2022 at 5pm.

## **ANIMAL/FREE DRESS DAY**

December 16 is DRESS UP LIKE AN ANIMAL DAY! We welcome family members to participate if you drop off or pick your student (s) in drive line!

## **FREE FOOD PROGRAM – EVERY MEAL PROGRAM**

Athlos is partnering with Every Meal Program, a non-profit organization that coordinates and runs weekend food programs in Minnesota schools. Our partnership with these organizations will enable students who sign up to receive a free bag of food to take home at the end of scheduled weeks. It's completely free and your family's privacy is protected-you just need to sign up! Each bag typically contains a fruit, vegetable, protein, rice/pasta and a soup or boxed meal. Questions and requests to join the program can be made to Chloe Smith at [csmith@athlosstcloud.org](mailto:csmith@athlosstcloud.org).

## **STUDENT OF CHARACTER AWARDS**

As always, we will continue to develop and foster a school environment that values and demonstrates high levels of character amongst all adults and students within our school community. Please reflect on how as a family you can reinforce character development at home

by engaging in conversations about what the 12 traits look like in your family's home. The character trait development that we teach in school will have deeper meaning if our message is consistent at both school and home.

Each month, twelve students across grade levels will be chosen based on the Athlos Character Trait that they represent. If awarded this honor a student's picture will be placed in the main hallway for the month and they will receive a letter and certificate from the Principal to their listed address.

The Athlos Character traits include; integrity, initiative, focus & self-control, courage, humility, social intelligence, grit, leadership, creativity, energy & zest, curiosity and optimism.

### **VALENTINE'S FLOWER FUNDRAISER**

Starting Tuesday, January 3rd, we will begin to sell cards and carnations for \$1.00 to students, staff and parents for our Valentine's Day Flower Fundraiser. Purchased cards and carnations will be delivered to students on Valentine's Day. More information to come after winter break.

### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Dec. 9	Butter Braid Order Pick-up 4-5:30pm
Dec. 13	Parent Ambassador Meeting 5pm
Dec. 16	Spirit Day – Animal Day
Dec. 19-Jan. 2	No School – Winter Break
Jan. 20	Spirit Day – Hat Day
Jan. 26	Quarter II Completion
Jan. 27	No School – Teacher Professional Development
Feb. 14	Valentine's Day Fundraiser
Feb. 17	Spirit Day – Dress Up Day

Again, thank you for your trust and support, we appreciate you all. Stay healthy and safe. Have a wonderful winter break with your loved ones.

Warmly,  
Your School Leadership Team

Ms. Cahalan, Principal  
Ms. Daniels, Assistant Principal  
Dr. Geraghty, Director  
Ms. Hill, Director of Operations  
Ms. Smith, Special Education Coordinator

Athlos Leadership Academy St. Cloud, MN