

MARIAN ACADEMY

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Carifesta Avenue
Georgetown
Guyana, S.A

August 31, 2020

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Greetings to the Marian Academy Family! This is my follow-up letter promised to you in the Memorandum sent to you earlier on in August, in which I announced the reopening of school on September 21, 2020 for the academic year, September 2020 to July 2021. I trust that you and your loved ones are keeping safe and well and living in hope for better days. So much has happened since March 2020, where we have entered a “new world” – a new way of living.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created the largest disruption of education systems in history, affecting nearly 1.6 billion learners in more than 190 countries and all continents. Closures of schools and other learning spaces have impacted 94 per cent of the world’s student population, up to 99 per cent in low and lower-middle income countries. (UNICEF August 2020)

It has affected so many aspects of our lives such as the financing of education, which has left us with severe challenges. Both parents and the academic institutions have to develop innovative ways to overcome these challenges. This crisis has stimulated innovation within the education sector. We at Marian Academy have taken on approaches in support of education and training continuity. Distance learning solutions were developed using the Zoom and Google Classroom to a large extent, while a few teachers found Skype, WhatsApp and other medium useful. Thanks to quick responses by our staff and the generosity of e Networks and one parent, Mr. Bernard Persaud. Miss Duff and Mr. Persaud worked assiduously to set up classrooms, while other teachers learnt quickly to tailor their classes to what worked for them using their own resources such as computers and internet services as they worked from home. We are grateful for their generosity.

For this academic year we are launching out on a new online platform as we seek a more comprehensive, yet more manageable system for all. This will involve training and everyone including parents will be assisted in getting use to the use of the platform. Again, we seek your patience as we do this in a systematic approach. We well get to everyone.

The school has invested in the Microsoft Teams online platform and our Staff are presently undergoing rigorous training to be ready for September 21, 2020. Each child will be given his/her own email address and only this address will allow the student or parent to access the classrooms. When these are ready students will be notified as was done last term.

These changes have also highlighted that the promising future of learning, and the accelerated changes in modes of delivering quality education, cannot be separated from the imperative of leaving no one behind. During the online classes from March to July, we were mindful of a few children affected by a lack of resources or enabling environment to access learning. As far as we were informed arrangement was made for these children. We are therefore asking if there

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are children at Marian without resources, which their parents bring this to the attention of the school immediately. Please write a letter to the Principal indicating the name of the child and the class the child is in, and state whether it is lack of Computer / Tablet or Internet. Contact number or email address should be included.

Requirements

At the end of term School Reports were distributed along with the Book list and regular Class Requirements. **These materials will be required at the start of classes for the academic year.**

- **Textbooks and other school material**
- **Computer or Tablet and Printer**
- **Internet connectivity**
- **School Uniform**

The students will be given timetables and will follow the schedule for school. Your Form/Class teachers will give you your Timetables before the start of classes. **Students should be dressed in their Uniform for classes.** For Primary Classes:

School begins at 8am

Break at 10 -10:30

Lunch at 12-12:30

School ends at 2 p.m. Grade 6 students will be notified of the additional schedule by your teachers.

Parents are expected to provide the environment necessary for learning, free from noise and distractions.

Payment of Fees

School fees are to be paid into the Republic Bank on Account number before entry in the online classes, September 21, 2020.

Please see below details of tuition for the new academic term - Christmas Term 2020 (September - December 2020).

- Nursery Level \$46,000 (fees - \$45,000 plus PTA Dues - \$1,000)
- Primary Level \$61,000 (Fees - \$60,000 plus PTA Dues - \$1,000)
- Secondary Level \$86,000 (Fees - \$85,000 plus PTA Dues - \$1,000)
- Sixth Form Level \$101,000 (Fees - \$100,000 plus PTA Dues - \$1,000)

* PTA Dues - \$1,000 per family

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Bank: Republic Bank Guyana Limited
Branch: Water Street
Account Name: Marian Academy Inc.
Account Type: Chequing
Account Number: 962356535744

A scanned copy of receipt of **payment slip** may be sent via email to the following email addresses; or other evidence of payment may be dropped off at the school office.

- accountant@marianacademy.edu.gy (Mrs. Samantha Young)

- "Taneka Taylor" <ttaylor.marian@gmail.com>

I will keep you updated on the Marian Academy website: marianacademy.edu.gy.

Let us pray for an end to this Pandemic. And know that we are all in this situation together. You can count on my prayers for you and your family and I also count on yours. I look forward to seeing your children on line.

With every good wish,



Sister Opal M. Harper,osu
Principal