

August 22, 2008

“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.” ~James 4:8

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the first few days of school 2008-2009! It was wonderful watching all your children enter our building this week. It was even more endearing to see all of you with your cameras, smiles, and some tears. Going back to school or going to school for the first time is a momentous occasion. Please help your child share all that they experienced this week. It's a grand occasion!

Wow! It was great seeing the Church and St. Elizabeth's Hall packed on Sunday. I loved worshipping with all the families and then visiting with you as you came by for your Parent/ Student Handbooks. Thanks to everyone who waited so patiently in lines to pay fees, sign up for lunch, talk with Nurse Julie, etc. Thanks to the students who eagerly went to meet their classroom teachers and visit with friends around the building. And a special thanks to all those who staffed every table and gave of their time to make Orientation Sunday a huge success. We are truly blessed.

As you can see, the format of the Friday Newsletter has changed slightly. Each week, you will hear some of my thoughts/kudos/musings on the week and learn about upcoming events, which I call "Odd and Ends." Plus, as was done last year, if there are any special news from HSPA, the Advisory Council, CYO Sports, etc. that will be included as well. If there is something your group wishes us to place in the Friday letter, please have it in the office by Wednesday and type it up (or email it to me) exactly as you wish the copy to appear. We'll be happy to include those items that are important to our family members.

Thanks to everyone for following the new traffic pattern and the coning of the parking lot. Please do not drive over, around, or through the cones! We place them there for the safety of the children. Remember, keeping the children safe is everyone's responsibility. If you are not familiar with the traffic pattern for before and after school, please consult your Parent/Student Handbook. If grandparents or relatives will be dropping off or picking up the children, please alert them to the pattern as well.

If you haven't yet noticed, the Handbook calendar pages are out of order. So for those of you who may be worried about any new changes I have planned, please know that I did not create a new order for the months with August coming after September or February coming after December. ☺ It was just a printing error.

The handbook also has an error on page 9 under the heading "All Students". Toward the bottom of that paragraph, it should read: "**Ugg's, Crocs, ballerina slippers, etc. are NOT allowed.**" The only permissible shoes to be worn are tennis shoes that are closed in at the toe and heel.

Due to the reconstruction of the Church, we will have one (1) weekly Mass with all students in grades 1 – 8 attending. For the first Mass of the year, it will be held on Thursday, 8/28, at 8:30 a.m. in the gym. For all weeks following until we have access to the Church, all school Masses will be held on Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. in the gym. Beginning in September, there will be no school masses on Thursdays.

For those with children in Grade 5 who may be interested in Beginning Band, I wanted you to know that Sauna Clark, our band director, will be student teaching at a public school in Missouri until October 27th. Due to this fact, Beginning Band will not begin until the week of 10/27. For those who have already paid your activity fee for band, please know that we will be prorating the amount you should have paid (to compensate you for the 7 weeks band will not be held) and issuing refund checks to you for that amount.

Also, Concert and Jazz Bands will continue to meet from 2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. under the instruction of Mr. Lavin, our technology instructor. Who knew he was also a musician! Then, Ms. Clark will resume direction of these two bands when she returns in late October. If you have any questions/concerns regarding these matters, please contact me directly at 492-2582.

As we move through this year, I have asked the faculty and staff to keep in mind two special words: Patience and flexibility. I am asking that you, too, keep those words in the forefront of your mind when calling or stopping by the school. There are a few of us that are new (especially in the front office.....me and Jan!), and we will do our best to provide you with what you need; however, it may take us a just a while longer to get everything down.

While discussing the front office, it is with great sadness that I have to announce that Mrs. Joan Cansler has resigned from her position of School Secretary. Mrs. Cansler's last day will be Friday, September 12th. As Mrs. Cansler explained it to the faculty/staff, she believes that following the 4th Commandment (Honor your father and mother) is vital at this juncture in her parents' lives. She will be assisting her parents and working part-time with her brother in the family business. She will be missed. So patience, flexibility, and always prayer...vitaly important this year.

Odds and Ends

1. There will be a Eucharistic Celebration for Special Needs Children and Families on Saturday, August 23 at Savior Passtoral Center, 12615 Parallel Parkway, KCKS 66109. Most Reverent Joseph F. Naumann, D.D. will be the celebrant for this mass.
2. Parents of 8th Grade Algebra Students – Please ask your child for the letter that went home with them today from me.
3. The Café opens on Monday, 8/25.
4. Back to School Night for K-6 Parents will be on Tuesday, 8/26. Everyone will first gather in the gym at 7 p.m. before being dismissed to the classrooms.
5. Back to School Night for 7-8 Parents will be on Thursday, 8/28. Everyone will first gather in the gm at 7 p.m. before dismissal to follow your chid's classroom schedule.
6. Our first all school Mass will be held on Thursda, 8/28, at 8:30 a.m. in the gym.
7. There will be no school on Monday, 9/1, in honor of Labor Day.
8. Homework Zone begins on Tuesday, 9/2, for those who have registered for this after school program.
9. The 6th grade students will be taking the ACRE test (very similar to a standardized test on Religion and faith concepts) on Friday, 9/5. If possible, please have your child at school, on time, that day. ☺

