

**The Mission of Holy Spirit Catholic School is  
to develop independent, life-long learners who can and will live for Christ.**

September 4, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Back to School Night for Parents this week. I promised to recap the items I spoke of that evening so that you did not need to take notes. Here goes:

- After receiving several calls and emails from parents concerned about our school calendar, I poured over the Archdiocesan requirements and the calendar hours to see what was wrong. The policy for Archdiocesan schools is that they are to be in session 1,150 hours per year. When I again counted our instructional hours per day, I found that we were 10 minutes short each day. So to rectify my error and to bring us in line with what is required, I will be adding the following days back into our calendar:

We will have a full day of school on Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>; Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>; Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday May 26<sup>th</sup>. Our last day of school is being moved to Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup> and it will be a noon dismissal that day.

I will also be asking the Holy Spirit Advisory Council to assist me in evaluating the number of hours that we feel best fits the students in our school for future years. Since the Archdiocesan policy requires 1, 150 and we know there are local Catholic schools at varying hours (1,172 through 1,200), I feel it best for us going forward to have a policy to which we adhere that will be in the best interest of our students balancing both quality with quantity. I apologize for my error on the calendar. Believe me, this is not an error I will make again! ☺

Please be advised that the Parent/Student Handbook is being amended as follows:

- Pg. 14 – Holy Spirit Hoodies **may be worn** as uniform attire this year if they are in good condition (no holes, faded logo, etc.). If hoodies are old/worn, they may be worn to and from school and outside at recess and parents will be notified that they can no longer be worn as part of the school uniform.
- Pg 17 – Archdiocesan Schools are to be in session for a minimum of 1,150 hours per school year NOT 1,170 as stated in the handbook.
- May Crowning, Benediction and the Living Rosary will NOT be held on Saturday, May 1, 2010 as indicated on the school calendar but WILL BE HELD on Monday, May 3, 2010.

I hope you were able to attend one of the Back-to-School events that were conducted this week and that you found the information shared with you was valuable. Representatives were available to speak about HSPA, the Gala and of course, any time you can have face time with your child's teacher always proves to be of interest.

Again, thank you for paying close attention to the traffic pattern (adopted last year) and for driving slow and cautiously as our precious children move through the parking lot.

**Calling all Parents who have computers in their homes:** I have heard many parents lamenting over whether to get the children an email account or not, where to place the child's computer, how much computer time to allow children to have, what to do when things you never expected begin to happen, how to say "No" to their child when other parents say "Yes," etc. In order to help our Holy Spirit families deal with the ever changing world of technology, we will be **offering a free program entitled "Keeping Your Kids Safe Online"** sponsored by Sunflower House, the Overland Park Police Department, and the FBI's Internet Task Force. This important program is open to all PARENTS regardless of the age of your children, is free, and will be held on Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the gym. **I urge ALL families to attend. Even if you think the Internet would never be a problem or that you are techno-savvy enough to keep your children safe.....think again and come out for the night. You will be glad you did!** In our continuing attempts to always keep the children safe, we at Holy Spirit School believe this program to be an invaluable tool to have in your bag of parenting skills. RSVP's would be appreciated in order for the set up of the gym. Please email [mmcgill@hsschool.net](mailto:mmcgill@hsschool.net) (Our school Counselor) of your interest in attending.

**Holy Spirit Parent Association (HSPA)** is seeking a few good moms/dads to fill two openings they have this school year. If you are interested in chairing the Decorations Committee for Gala or taking on the responsibility of Co-Chairs for Gala 09-10 along with the Killilea family, please contact Amy Ebert, HSPA President, at 013-768-7745 or [alebert@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alebert@sbcglobal.net). Your time, talent, and treasure are always appreciated at our school.

#### **A few reminders...**

- **All volunteers at our school are to be VIRTUS trained.** Please check the Leaven or the go to [www.archkckcs.org](http://www.archkckcs.org) and check out the Protecting God's Children section for dates/times/locations of the upcoming VIRTUS sessions. All VIRTUS training must be done BEFORE you can volunteer at school.
- Please stop by the School Office and pick up your School Handbook...a really valuable tool to use throughout the school year...several procedures have been updated by as requested from the Archdiocese.
- Thanks to the generosity of HSPA, School Directories are available for sale in the School Office for the low...low...price of \$5.00; many parents buy two...one for the car and one for home...think about the convenience!
- As announced at Back-to-School night, the former EDline communication vehicle will no longer be used to send emails; we will be using our School Admin database; therefore, it's critical to you and your children that we have your current email address; please notify Jan Petelin if you have changed your address...much thanks!

**Fun Fair Needs Your Help!** We are still in need of volunteers Adult and Youth to supervise the games and activities of the night. If you are able to help, please email Amy Ebert at [alebert@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alebert@sbcglobal.net) or call her at 913-645-8621. We also need donations of two liter bottles of pop for the Pop Toss and baked goods for the Cake Walk would be appreciated. Please drop pop off in the St. Isadora Room (to the right as you enter the church) at weekend Masses September 5th and 6th. Please deliver baked goods to St. Elizabeth's Hall between 2:30 and 5:30 p.m. on September 11th. Youth volunteers will be available to assist.

**From the Art Room:** Jr. High students will be making masks this quarter. We need 20-30 bleach type bottles of any size in order to do this. The art room is also in need of any old yarn that you are not using. Thanks, Mrs. Palcher

**STUCO – Your Help Requested** - One million people in Kenya, including children, are living in the slums. The Holy Spirit Catholic School Student Council (also known as STUCO) has chosen to support the Kibera Community Self

Help Programme school this year. This school has 370 boys and girls; all of them are affected by HIV/AIDS. Seventy percent of the children are orphans. This school is a place where they are fed and can stay away from violence. Their school doesn't have any pens, pencils, or notebooks. STUCO would like to encourage our students and their families to help us in collecting packages of pens, pencils, paper, or notebooks for these boys and girls. Each class that has 100% participation will receive an Out of Uniform day. The class that fills up the biggest box of supplies will have an ice cream party! The drive will be held from September 3 to 11.



**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SELL TRASH BAGS!** Order forms are due on September 25<sup>th</sup> and can be submitted to the School Office. Thanks for your support of Holy Spirit School!

**Parent Sales Incentives:**

Each family that sells 10 or more rolls will be entered into a drawing for 2 free tickets to Gala 2009 (a \$70 value).

**Student Sales Incentives:**

1. Top 3 selling classrooms will receive the following:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place: Pizza party, Soda, & Out-of-Uniform day
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Soda & Out-of-Uniform day
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Out-of-Uniform day
2. Individual Prizes for Top 3 Students with the Highest Sales will each receive a \$50.00 Script Gift Card
3. **GRAND PRIZE:** The class with the highest student participation will receive a pizza party, soda, Out-of-Uniform day, and a \$5.00 Dairy Queen Gift card.

**Trash Bag Questions?** Please call or email:

Anna Tumberger 894-1132, [atumberger@everestkc.net](mailto:atumberger@everestkc.net)  
Bobbi Gassel 451-1568, [bobbi.gassel@macys.com](mailto:bobbi.gassel@macys.com)

**Odds and Ends**

- 9/7 Labor Day – NO SCHOOL
- 9/8 Homework Zone begins after school
- 9/9 Band Instrument Rental – 6:00-7:30 p.m. – AV Room
- 9/11 Fun Fair – 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- 9/13 Opening Mass for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our School – 6:30 p.m.
- 9/14 HSPA meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 9/15 Mandatory Confirmation Meeting for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents/sponsors – 7 p.m.
- 9/16 Chick-fil-A Night
- 9/18 No School for children – In-service for teachers.
- 9/23 Dress Up School Picture Day for Grades PS, K-1 (please note this change)
- 9/24 Dress Up School Picture Day for PS, PK, 2-8 (please note this change)
- 9/24 Parent Meeting – “Keeping Kids Safe On Line – 7:00 p.m. - Gym
- 9/25 Midquarter of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter
- 9/29 Mandatory Confirmation Meeting for all 7<sup>th</sup> graders and parents – 7 p.m.

Unless indicated, all school Masses during the year will be held on Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. in the Church. All are invited to attend.

In addition, please continue to visit the Holy Spirit website to view the School Calendar...updates are made on a daily basis as field trips and other events are added or...even...revised! =)

A thought to ponder this weekend....

**The most valuable gift you can give another is a good example.**

***"I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."***

***John 13:15***

Peace,

Michele Watson  
Principal