August 21, 2014

Dear Parent:

Welcome to the 2014 – 2015 school year. Each year teachers, staff, students, and you – our partners in education – begin the year with energy and enthusiasm. We have had a great first week. We welcomed over 100 new students and six new staff members. New teachers are Mrs. Gina Rachko in Kindergarten, Mrs. Georganne McHugh in third grade, Mrs. Allison Krzyminski in grade 6, 7, and 8 music, Mrs. Jennifer Marra in art for grades K – 3, and Mrs. Ariela Paula in grade 6, 7, and 8 Spanish. We are very pleased to have them join our faculty.

On Wednesday, we gathered for our first all school Mass. As a faith community, we pray each day not only for each other but with each other. Prayer and faith formation are integrated with our school day. We begin each morning with school-wide prayer and finish each day with closing prayer. During the week we celebrate either all-school Masses or section level Masses. Throughout the day teachers formally instruct and witness the gospel by their presence and through all of their interactions. It is this dimension that gives focus to our ministry in Catholic Education.

Parent Orientations. Parent Orientations will take place next week. These are very important meetings and I strongly encourage you to attend. The goals of orientation - meeting your child’s teacher, receiving an overview of our year’s program, and allowing us to meet you – help to establish a positive relationship that supports the education of your child.

Middle School Orientation, Grades 6, 7, 8 is Monday, August 25, at 7:00 pm in the Family Center of the East Campus.

Elementary School Orientation, Kindergarten – Grade 5 is Tuesday, August 26, in the church at 7:00 pm.

Both orientations begin with a general session for all parents. They are followed by classroom presentations. Support staff and specialists will also be available.

Teachers in all grades prepare handouts that further describe instruction, activities, goals, and procedures specific to their class. Important future dates are shared and time to ask questions and receive answers is provided.

Thursday Envelope. This is our fifth year of being able to communicate with our families electronically. We are ready to implement further paperless communication. The Thursday Envelope for this week only will contain hard copies. Beginning next week, everyone will receive a Constant Contact message where they will access Thursday Envelope items. Occasionally, there will be items that require hard copies…family emergency medical forms, benefit dinner invitations, etc. and these will be printed and included in every Thursday envelope. But these occasions will be few. We will have on hand in each office a supply of hard copies of most forms sent electronically, in case there’s a family who has trouble printing these at home. Please continue to send forms, notes, etc. back to us via the Thursday Envelope, as you always have done.
Frequently Asked Questions about Thursday Envelope.

Will I receive an envelope every week? Yes. It will probably be empty but it is a reminder to look on line for school and community news. Initial the date on the envelope and send it back to us on the following Friday or Monday at the latest.

What do I do if I don’t have access to electronic communication? Through Constant Contact we know all of our families have email addresses. However, please contact us if a situation exists that limits your ability to receive data on line.

What if I can see the Thursday Envelope but cannot print forms, etc. that I should be filling out and returning? Extra hard copies of the forms will be available in the school office for you to pick up or for us to send home with a child. Eventually, our hope is that forms will be filled out online and returned electronically.

No matter what your questions are bring them to us so that we can help you find an answer.

Volunteers. We would very much welcome the help of additional lunch and playground supervisors. Three to four staff members supervise each recess period. Consequently, volunteers are not alone or without experienced staff supervisors. However, by increasing the number of supervisors, we offer students a safer and more secure playground experience. Volunteering for this activity is a wonderful way to be of service to the school and to get to know students as well. Volunteers sign up for as many days of the week or of the month as are possible. Some volunteer twice a month and some once or twice a week.

The middle school has a 35 minute lunch and recess period. Come with a friend or as a couple – mom and dad. Thirty-five minutes is all we need. The students are well-behaved outside and you are not alone. Staff members are there with you offering support and guidance.

The elementary building has a longer lunch and recess period because it has three lunch and recess sections. Supervision begins at 11:55 and ends with the last recess at 1:15. About one and one-half hours. Ideal for us would be a person or persons who would want to work every day from 11:30 to 1:30. Supervisors would begin at the middle school, cross to the elementary campus around 12:00 and supervise K – 5 students inside or out until 1:15 pm and then put away any leftover playground balls and jump ropes which takes time to 1:30. It’s a two hour paid position or 10 hours a week.

In-service for supervisors will be given once we have our group collected.

Don’t Forget School Pictures. Tuesday, August 26. This is a non-uniform day. Students are not required to wear uniforms. However it is not a jeans’ day. Non-uniform clothes need to be school appropriate.

Sincerely,

Sally A. Koppinger
Principal