August 25, 2016

Dear Parent:

**Middle School Orientation.** Thank you for your presence on yesterday evening, though it was brief. I had increasing concern for you as tornado watches turned to tornado warnings. As your cell phones and ours signaled an increasing number of warnings, I wanted to make a decision that was in your best interest and that of the children you had at home. I did not want to wait until it was so late that you could no longer safely get home to your children. The cancellation of the second part of orientation, classroom presentations, and the evacuation of the building took place at 7:40 pm. It is that part of orientation that we are rescheduling. I will be sending home tomorrow with each middle school student the date and time for the reschedule of classroom presentations.

**Parent Orientation, Grade K – 5.** This is a reminder that Kindergarten through Fifth Grade Parent Orientation will take place tonight beginning in the church. Please join at 7:00 p.m. for the general session. Following a brief introduction to the evening, orientation moves from the church to the classrooms where individual classroom teachers will talk with parents about the coming year. These sessions will be presented three times beginning at 7:40 p.m. Though there is rain predicted for later this afternoon and this evening, we do not have notice of severe weather.

**Camp Storer.** Students in the sixth grade will participate in an Outdoor Education Program at Camp Storer on September 7, 8, and 9. This is a reminder that Camp Storer Orientation Meetings will take place on Tuesday, August 30, for students (12:30 – 1:30 in the Family Center), for Cabin Leaders (3:15 – 4:00, in Mrs. Steirer’s classroom, and for parents (5:30 – 6:45 in the Family Center).

**Field Trips.** Diocesan guidelines specify that volunteer drivers on field trips be at least 25 years of age and show proof of both a valid driver's license and current insurance. Classroom teachers will request this information throughout the year as field trips approach. This information must be included at the time you volunteer.

**Non-Public School Low Income Eligibility, 2016 – 2017.** It is becoming increasingly important for St. Joseph School to know the number of students who qualify within this federally supported initiative. There are several programs and grants that may be available to the students of St. Joseph that are at least in part dependent on the number of students who demonstrate eligibility. Free lunch benefits at St. Joseph School are among them. Enclosed in today’s Thursday Envelope is additional information and Eligibility/Application Form. If you believe you qualify, please complete the form and return it in a sealed envelope, addressed to Mrs. Sally Koppinger, Principal. Please mark the envelope, CONFIDENTIAL.

**Picture Day.** This is just a reminder that our School Picture Day is tomorrow, Friday, August 26. The order packet was included in last week’s Thursday Envelope. If you did not receive one, please contact Mrs. Patti Bell, on Friday morning between 7:30 am and 8:30 am. Picture Day is a non-uniform day for
students. They may “dress-up” for their picture, wear casual clothes, or wear their uniform. However, it is not a Jeans Day. Casual clothes must be school appropriate. Please check the dress code for details.

**Confirmation Kick-Off Event.** The annual Confirmation Kick-off event is set for August 31st at 6:30 pm. All Youth wanting to make their Confirmation in the spring must be in attendance with at least one parent.

**First Annual Youth Ministry Fair. 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm, East Campus Family Center.** Parish Youth in Grades 6 – 12. Students in St. Joseph School grades 6, 7, and 8 are encouraged to attend this event. Information will be offered about the many ways for young people to be more involved in St. Joseph Parish. In addition, information about how to earn service hours will be offered. Parents are welcome.

**It’s Time to Pull out Those Yard Signs!** Show your school pride and display your St. Joseph School (SJS) yard sign now through September 15. We want the community to know the extent of our St. Joseph School Family…dedicated to faith, academics, and service. New yard signs are available in the school office.

Sincerely,

Sally A. Koppinger

Principal