September 3, 2015

Dear Parent:

During yesterday's all-school Liturgy, we recognized the 2015 – 2016 Student Council and prayed with them as they pledged their commitment to our student community. Led by Student Council president, Kathryn Riddle, members of the council pledged their best efforts to work together to make St. Joseph School a place where the presence of Christ is evident in words and actions. Msgr. Metzger then challenged council members to put their lives at the service of others and through that service come closer to Christ. Students in grades one to eight promised their cooperation by reciting the Code of Conduct Pledge:

- As I begin this new school year, I promise to follow the St. Joseph School Code of Conduct.

- I understand that my school can be a safe and Christ-filled environment only if I do my part to treat all members of my school family with respect and caring.

- I will do my personal best to be a good listener, to be truthful, and to be trustworthy.

- In addition, I agree to behave appropriately and respectfully during inside or outside recess time.

- With my cooperation, this will be a successful year.

The Student Council members this year are: Kathryn Riddle, President; eighth grade representatives, Jake Eltschlager, Caleb Walker, and Ellie White; seventh grade representatives Reece DiSalle, Emma Hoyt, and Kelsey Leamy; sixth grade representatives Sammy Giordano, Mateo Gomez-Castro, Raphael Yazii; fifth grade representatives Alex Britt, Molly Pointinger, and Devyn Riley; and fourth grade representatives Anna Kelly, Vivian Palko, and Vasisht Ramineni.
**Safety.** All visitors to our school (Elementary and Middle School) must register at the school office. No visitor (parent or guest) is allowed to by-pass the office and go directly to any part of the school buildings. All staff members have been instructed to send “unauthorized visitors” back to the office. I realize that may feel harsh if you are a parent but, as I am sure you understand, our purpose is to provide a safe environment for your children as well as one that is free from interruption. If you accompany your child’s entry into either building because he or she is tardy, please stop at the school office. Mrs. Patti Bell (Elementary School) or Mrs. Shelley Perna (Middle School) will give you further instructions about checking your child into school.

**Camp Storer.** On Wednesday, September 9, our sixth graders, three teachers, and ten SJS parents will leave for Camp Store. Camp Storer provides an opportunity for students to study pollution, cold-blooded creatures (frogs, snakes, and other reptiles . . .), and pioneer crafts. Group goal setting and challenges are also part of the program. A very special thank you to the parents (cabin leaders for the three days at camp) who will accompany our sixth graders. Students, teachers, and cabin leaders will return on Friday afternoon.

“**Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God.”** (Mt. 5: 3-10)

**Our Prayers for Peace.** As we approach the anniversary of September 11, 2001 we are reminded that on this day our hearts will ache for all who have suffered because of terrorist attacks. As Catholics, we draw upon our faith to make this anniversary a time to remember, a time to deepen our commitment to discipleship, and a time to strengthen our active participation in an effort to build a more just and peaceful world. True peacemaking can only become a reality in our world today if it is a first-matter in our hearts.

Sincerely,

Sally A. Koppinger
Principal