June 4, 2015

Dear St. Joseph School Families,

As we prepare for the close of the school year, I want to thank you for your commitment to the faith formation of your children. The most important thing we do as a Catholic school is to “proclaim God, provide time and space for the sacred, and promote standards for moral and ethical behavior” (Sr. Clare Fitzgerald, NCEA). Thank you for all you have done to make this a successful school year. Your generous spirit has helped us continue as a school of academic excellence. We see your support in so many places. Your volunteer hours number in the thousands. More than that, you value the mission of Catholic education – to call forth the unique potential of the whole child, body, mind, and spirit.

This year we have focused the faith formation for all students on the Beatitudes. In addition to the grade level curriculum that exists for all classes in Religion, teachers, working together, have helped students understand the meaning and application of the Beatitudes 2000 years after Jesus spoke them as the Sermon on the Mount.

For the poor in spirit teachers spoke of sacrifice, generosity, and kindness. For those who mourn, they modeled trust, prayer, and faith. For the meek, they spoke of humility and for those who seek righteousness, they taught about knowledge and holiness. When teachers explained Blessed are the Merciful and the Pure of Heart, they taught of forgiveness, prayer, and love. The last two beatitudes bless the peacemaker and the persecuted. With those, just as Jesus did, we teach of love, sacrifice, selflessness, and hope.

Dress Code. Last year parents and teachers reviewed the SJS Dress/Uniform Code and made a few recommendations for change. I want to review those with you and announce a few changes for the coming year.

For Girls: Any style of St. Joseph plaid skirt will be permitted in ALL grades. This way parents may choose the style that best fits their daughter.

For Girls: Fleece pajama bottoms or sweats in the same colors as is allowed for socks are permitted on cold weather days with the uniform. Girls wear them coming to and going from school or for outside recess. They are considered outerwear and must be removed in the classroom. Knee socks, tights/leggings in the colors indicated for socks may be worn in the classroom under uniforms on cold days.

For all students: Holiday socks are eliminated EXCEPT for the month of December when Christmas themed socks will be allowed. Socks for the rest of the school year must be PLAIN (no stripes, no logos, etc.) in the colors spelled out in the parent handbook.
For all students: Students may choose either leather (leather like) dress shoes/school shoes SOLID (not two toned) brown, (not tan), black or navy OR athletic shoes (like running, cross training, or walking). All shoes must tie, Velcro, or buckle. No slip-ons, high-tops, Sperry’s or Sperry-style shoes. Please use care when purchasing athletic shoes. Sparkles and lights are not allowed. When in doubt, check with the school before you purchase.

Graduations.

- Congratulations and our very best wishes to our graduating eighth grade students. Liturgy and awarding of diplomas will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, June 8.
- Kindergarten. As eighth grade students leave St. Joseph to go on to high school, kindergarten students will celebrate the completion of their first year with us on Monday, June 8, at 9:00 a.m. in the church.

Report Cards will be mailed for all students on Friday, June 12, 2015.

The New School Year.

- The 2015 – 2016 school year begins on Tuesday, August 18, 2015. Faculty and staff orientation and meeting dates are August 13 and 14.
- Back-to-School information will be sent to each family in early August.

Summer Hours. The school office is open all summer, though hours are adjusted. If you need to contact us after office hours, please leave a message and we will return your call.

On behalf of the faculty and staff, we wish you a safe and happy summer.

Sincerely,

Sally A. Koppinger
Principal