September 18, 2014

Dear Parent;

Our first quarter is a week beyond the halfway point...hard to believe, but true! Students and teachers have settled into a “back to school” rhythm. Classes have begun taking turns planning all-school and section-level liturgies...and have or will be participating in Penance Services with the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It has been a great start to the school year!

Traffic Reminders: With the influx of many new students and families, (and as a reminder to our returning families) we feel the need to review our traffic flow plan. Please look for it in the Thursday Envelope this week. I want to especially point out a couple of areas of concern:

1. Before school, when dropping students off in the parking lot to cross Main Street...cars enter the far north entrance and line up SINGLE FILE heading south toward the K-5 Drop-Off. Please DO NOT double up cars in this area. Stay in line to exit left (north) at the light, or circle back north to turn right onto Main Street towards Sautters.

2. Again, before school, please DO NOT come into the Parish Center lot and drive behind the church to get close to the elementary school. You are going the wrong way! Buses are exiting and children are put at risk.

Thank you for being especially vigilant when it comes to our procedures put in place for the safety of all children!

Cell Phones in School...Did you know? Cell phones are not allowed in school without the written permission of the principal or assistant principal. (Permission to Carry a Cell Phone form is available in the school office.) Circumstances may require a student to carry a cell phone for after-school activities. If that is necessary, parents must submit the request and reason for it in writing. If approved, the cell phone must remain turned off and out of sight in the student’s backpack for the entire school day and on the bus. Items that are confiscated by staff will be held in the office. Each violation will be recorded for disciplinary action. Students who choose to bring these items to school are solely responsible for them. St. Joseph School will not be responsible for items that are stolen or damaged.
**Eighth Grade High School Visitation.** Eighth grade students visit the area Catholic high schools each year in preparation for their transition to secondary schools. The visits are designed to give students a brief overview of each high school’s program. The dates for this year’s visitations are October 1 and 2. In addition Fr. Joseph Newman, the director of admissions from St. Francis de Sales High School, will visit SJS eighth grade students on October 10. He will present a class designed to help students with the High School Placement Test scheduled for December 6. St. John’s Jesuit High School will host a Practice High School Placement Test at 8:00 am on Saturday, September 27. It is for students who have completed 7th grade and intend to take the High School Placement Test in December. A flyer with addition information is included in today’s Thursday Envelope.

Tomorrow, September 19, teachers will participate in a diocesan – wide in-service. There is no school for students.

Enjoy the long weekend!

Sincerely,

Sally A. Koppinger
Principal