October 9, 2014

Dear Parent,

As we prepare to close our first quarter of the 2014 – 2015 school year, we want to take a moment to remember what we do as Catholic School Educators and more importantly, why we do it. Those beliefs guide our daily practices, develop our policies, and frame our long-range plans.

We believe...
... St. Joseph School is not only a school but a community of Faith;

We believe...
...those that you entrust to us are not only students, but children of God;

We believe...
...we are not only educators, but Ministers of the Gospel;

We believe...
...the values we teach are not only character development, but a call to Holiness;

We believe...
...our courses of study are not only academic pursuits, but a search for Truth;

We believe...
...the purpose of education is not only for personal gain and the development of society, but for the Transformation of the world.

First Quarter Ends. Friday, October 10, is the last day of the first quarter. Our fall Intersession Week begins on Monday, October 13 and ends on Friday, October 17. Monday, October 20, is a professional development day for St. Joseph teachers and a non-school day for students. School will resume on Tuesday, October 21

Parent-Teacher Conferences – November 3 and 4. In support of our mission to foster collaboration between parents and school, parent-teacher conferences are scheduled each year following the end of the first quarter. These conferences give parents and teachers an opportunity to review progress and to provide intervention when needed. Your support of these conferences
continues to be inspiring. Mrs. Patti Bell will be developing the conference schedule during Intersession Week. Conference request information helps us to set a schedule that works best for your family. If you have not yet returned your form, either on-line or as hard copy, you may still do so… tomorrow.

**Halloween Parade.** Our annual Halloween Parade will take place on Friday, October 31, at 1:30 p.m. Children should bring their costumes to school in the morning. They will be given time to put them on after lunch. All students in kindergarten through eighth grade are invited to participate. Parents are welcome. The parade route begins at the school doors of the west campus, crosses the parking lot behind the church, proceeds to and along the driveway at Rosary Hall on the Lourdes University campus, and then returns to the SJS west campus, past the front of the church and back to the elementary school. Students from the middle school will join K – 5 students at the start of the parade. There are many places to stand and take pictures or just enjoy the varied and creative costumes that children wear. All visitors should park across the street from the elementary building in order to keep the school parking lot open for students as they parade.

**Costume Guidelines:** Please help your child choose a costume that is Catholic school appropriate.

- Costumes that are a little scary are usually all right, but gory costumes are not.
- Some middle school students like to dress as television/film personalities. In our experience, most of the time, that has been fine. However, they need to be cautious. The content of many reality TV shows is not intended for a middle school audience. Representation of those associated personalities would be unacceptable.
- **Students may not bring to school look-alike weapons that go with their costume.**
- Students are allowed to wear their costumes home. If their costume includes a mask, it will need to be carried or placed in their back-pack. The parade is followed by social activities in the K – 5 classrooms and by a Halloween Social in the middle school for grades 6, 7, and 8. K – 5 students are dismissed at the normal, end-of-day time. The social for grades 6, 7, and 8 lasts until 3:30 pm.

**Great Weather.** Students have really enjoyed the days of sunshine and pleasant weather. They have been outside almost every day for recess and come in for the afternoon with renewed energy and great smiles! We know that cooler weather is coming and remind all of our students that lightweight jackets or sweaters will soon become necessary. By the time we return from our Intersession break, the time change for the fall will be approaching. On November 2 the time “falls back” one hour. It is the weekend before our Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Sincerely,

Sally A. Koppinger
Principal