

August 31, 2009

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! As always, the beginning of the year is full of promise and 2009-2010 is loaded with learning and events for both parents and students. The following is useful information to start out the year.

- **FORMS**-Insure that all forms are completed and returned to the classroom by Thursday, September 3rd. You will have completed: yellow information form, initialed the pink emergency release form, and retreat field trip form.
- **COMMUNICATION**-Please communicate with your child's teachers if you have any planned absences, tardies or appointments. A short e-mail is all that is needed and teachers will be able to provide any missed work.
- **ATTENDANCE**-Be aware that after 3 tardies the homeroom teacher will contact you to inform you that the fourth tardy will result in a detention. Students should be seated in their homeroom by the time the bell rings at 8:25am.
- **FUND RAISING**-Students are expected to participate fully in the school fund raising activities. The Jog-a-thon is the first up, held on Tuesday, September 15th, with the letter writing on Wednesday, September 9th. Make sure your child brings in addresses at that time.
- **DUTIES**-Students will be responsible for activities outside of regular school time. Classroom, hall, grounds clean-up and patrol will be completed in teams on a rotating schedule. Students should not plan on leaving the floor until 3:15pm at the earliest.
- **UNIFORM**-The school dress code as stated in the St. Joseph's handbook will be strictly enforced.
- **FREE DRESS**-The 1st Tuesday of each month and birthdays are free dress days. Have your child bring in a note if it is their birthday, and help them celebrate by bringing in treats for them to share with the class at the beginning of the day. Students must be in appropriate clothing. Please double-check your child's free dress before he/she arrives at school.
- **HOMEROOM PARENT** - Parent volunteers are always welcome. Thanks in advance for helping out.
- **ADVISORY**-The advisory program provides a safe environment for students to learn more about themselves and to talk about adolescent issues. Advisory groups of about 8 students will meet on Tuesday and Thursday morning for 30 minutes beginning in September. Each advisory group will participate in three service learning days where students work as volunteers throughout the community. These will take place on November 13; February 5; May 28.
- **CURRICULUM NIGHT**-7pm, Tuesday, September 8th. You will have the chance to rotate through your child's daily schedule.
- **HIGH SCHOOL** There will be an informational night to let you know how to go about this important application process. Put Thursday, October 15, 7:00 pm on your calendar. Even if you have gone through the process it is important to attend this meeting for clarification of any procedural changes.
- **PASSION PLAY**-The Passion Play is an integral part of the curriculum here at St. Joseph, and as such, it is required that every student participates. The dates for the presentation of the Passion are for Sunday, March 28 at the 5:30pm mass, and for Good Friday, April 2 at 11:00am.
- **RETREATS**- The 8th grade has two retreats this year, one in the fall – Friday, September 4, and one in the spring – Wednesday, June 2. The fall retreat emphasizes the students' roles as

leaders of the school. While the spring retreat focuses on personal reflection and commemoration on their time at St. Joes.

- **COMMUNITY SERVICE**-In order to foster an individual who contributes to the global community, each 8th grade student has to complete a minimum 20 hours of community service outside of school. This must be completed by May 21st.
- **Student lead conferences** – There will be one scheduled conference which takes place November 23rd - November 25th. The students and parents participate in a Night of Celebration Wednesday, June 2 at 6:00 pm. This celebration is a culmination of their retreat and time as students at St. Joseph.
- **Graduation name** – Please print your child’s legal name on a 3X5 card and then date and sign it. We need all names by Thursday, September 3rd.

Have a great year,

8th Grade Staff