



July 31, 2013

Dear Parents,

With the school year rapidly approaching, I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that the faculty and I are looking forward to working with you to provide the best possible educational experience for your child. We appreciate the trust you have placed in us; please know we do not take lightly the responsibility of your child's educational well-being.

A warm welcome is extended to all our new families. To facilitate communication between home and family, weekly memos in addition to monthly newsletters will be sent home via email. We will also be setting up mentor families to help our new families get acquainted with St. Paul Catholic School. Please do not hesitate to contact your mentor family or the school office with any questions.

*Please join us at the New Parent Orientation Meeting on Thursday, August 15 at 10am
in the Cafetorium.*

Best wishes are given to the faculty who will not be returning to SPCS. Since the last communication in May, we have had four additional faculty members leave SPCS. Miss Erin Clark is pursuing her dream of becoming a missionary, Miss Tessa Brough is relocating out of the area, Mrs. Abby Nonnemacher is pursuing a full-time position, and Mrs. Wendy Edler. While we are truly sorry to see them leave, we wish them all the best in their new positions.

We are very excited to have the following faculty and staff for the 2013-2014 school year:

Mrs. Beverly Peirce – PreK

Mrs. Julie Wilson – PreK Assistant

Mrs. Kathy Matthews – Kindergarten

Mrs. Becky Spillar – Kindergarten Assistant

Mrs. Rachel Pedersen – First Grade

Mrs. Elaine Nanney – First Grade Assistant

Mrs. Lisa Struck – Second Grade

Mrs. Patricia Griffin – Third Grade

Mrs. Rachel Dillon – Fourth Grade

Mrs. Julie Orr – Fifth Grade

Mrs. Kathi St. Amant – Sixth Grade Homeroom; Grades 6-7 Language Arts

Mrs. Blair Hodge – Seventh Grade Homeroom; Grades 6-8 Science

Mrs. Erin Huppert – Seventh Grade Homeroom; Grades 6-8 Mathematics

Mr. Casey Dillon – Eighth Grade Homeroom; Grades 6-8 History
Mr. Daniel Hanley – Grades 6-8 Religion
Mrs. Julie Fink (will be on maternity leave 1st semester)—Grades K-8 Art; Grade 8 Language Arts
Miss Mary McMican – Long-term Sub for Mrs. Fink
Mr. Ian Werth – Grades PreK-8 Computers; Grades PreK-8 Music
Mrs. Maria Harbour – Grades K-8 Spanish
Mrs. Kaki Chambers – Grades K-8 Physical Education; Extended Day; Athletic Director
Mr. Andrew Pieretti – P.E. Assistant
Mrs. Christina Myerski – Grades PreK-5 Library; Front Office Assistant on Tuesdays
Mrs. Lorenda Ortega – Guidance Counselor (scheduled days – Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays)
Mrs. Linda Miller – Finance and Office Manager
Mrs. Julie Butler – Administrative Assistant (Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays)
Fr. Kevin McQuone– Campus Chaplain

Exciting things have taken place over the summer. Our maintenance staff has been hard at work getting the school ready for the first day of school. New lighting and fresh paint have really brightened the rooms and hallways; floors have been stripped and waxed, and carpeting cleaned. With such a fresh new look, it's hard to believe that ***this year we will be celebrating 50 years of St. Paul Catholic School!***

We are extremely pleased and excited to announce that our **Technology Program** has taken a giant leap forward. We have ordered Chromebooks (Google Laptops) for the Computer Lab, for K-5 classrooms, and one for ***each*** middle school student! Chromebooks use Google Apps which has fundamentally changed how students are learning and how teachers are instructing. Students are able to access their work from school, home or other places they work, and multiple users are able to collaborate on the same document, real time, even when they're not physically together. Students will write directly "to the cloud" and will no longer need flash drives or rely on our network storage. Much more information about our Technology Program will be presented at both the Middle School Curriculum Night on August 22 and at the PTO meeting on August 29.

We have also adopted a new math series for grades K-5 and 6-8, and a new science series for grades 6-8. **Math in Focus Singapore Math grades K-5.** Singapore Math promotes a deeper understanding of numbers and math concepts. It emulates the math program taught in Singapore where students have repeatedly ranked at or near the top on international math exams since the mid-1990's. Singapore Math is a well-balanced approach of visual representations and critical thinking.

More information about Math in Focus K-5 will be given at the PTO meeting on Aug 29.

Prentice Hall Mathematics Common Core 2013 is a research-based program with a unique blend of print and digital components. It pairs innovative technology features with quality content to ensure students remain engaged as they build problem-solving skills and develop conceptual understanding. Lessons include built-in homework video tutor help—narrated by real teachers—that cover key concepts of the day's lesson, providing support for the students at home or at school. Each lesson engages the students through online active math activities. These activities give students the chance to review and practice important math concepts in an interactive environment.

More information about Prentice Hall Mathematics Common Core will be given at Curriculum Night, August 22.

McGraw Hill/Glencoe Integrated iScience Series Grades 6-8. The middle school science integrated curriculum is designed around the 5E Learning Cycle and will be enhanced with frequent use of the Google Chromebooks. The 5E Learning Cycle is supported by research to **Engage** the students, allow them to **Explore** the topics of study while being able to **Explain** what they have learned. Each lesson is then **Extended** further beyond the scope of basic knowledge. Finally the student is **Evaluated** on the material in order to assess if the student successfully attained the necessary concepts. Google Chromebooks are an added daily and innovative benefit in order to maximize the students' 5E experience allowing them to develop the necessary skills for high school and beyond.

More information about McGraw Hill/Glencoe Integrated iScience Series will be given at Curriculum Night, August 22.

Orientation Day, August 15. All families are invited to come to school on Thursday, August 15, anytime between 9:00am and noon to bring in school supplies, meet the teachers and turn in forms. Please remember to return the following forms which were in the back school packets or they can be found on our website:

- Medical Condition
- Milk Order
- Extended Day Program
- Volunteer
- Yearbook
- Image Release
- Hoodie Order

Please join us August 19 for Back-to-School Dinner. The PTO is sponsoring a Back-to-School Dinner on August 19 from 5-7pm in the gym. We hope you can join us for this free, fun event to help "kick off" the school year.

Middle School Parents, please mark your calendar for August 22. Curriculum Night for middle school parents is scheduled for Thursday, August 22. We will begin at 6:30pm in the cafetorium. Please make every effort to attend this very important, informative meeting.

First PTO Meeting, August 29. Please join us for the first PTO meeting of the year which is scheduled to begin at 6:30pm in the cafetorium. After the meeting, parents will be invited to meet with teachers in grades prek-5 to receive important information regarding classroom procedures.

Volunteers are needed. No school can be truly excellent without the help and support of the parents. Research has shown there are dramatic benefits when parents are involved in their child's school/education. Please consider volunteering in the school. We are asking that the Volunteer Forms that were sent home in the Back to School packets be returned on Orientation Day, August 15. This form can also be found on our website.

Calendar Dates for August:

August 5-9: Office Open, 8:00am-12:00pm

August 12: Office CLOSED

August 13-15: Office Open, 8:00am-12:00pm

August 15: Orientation Day, 9:00am-12:00pm
New Parent Meeting, 10:00am in Cafetorium

August 16: Office CLOSED

August 19: First Day of School for ALL students PreK-8
Noon Dismissal
Back to School Dinner, 5:00-7:00pm, in the gym

August 20: All Students PreK-8
Noon Dismissal

August 21: Noon Dismissal

August 22: Regular Day of School, 7:50-2:45
Campus Cuisine begins
Middle School Curriculum Night, 6:30pm in Cafetorium

August 23: Mass, 8:30am

August 24: Chefs' Challenge, 6:00pm Paul's on the Bay

August 28: Homeroom Parent Meeting, 8:00am in Cafetorium
Athletic Meeting, 6:30pm in Cafetorium

August 29: PTO Meeting and Curriculum Night PreK-5, 6:30pm in Cafetorium

August 30: Mass, 8:30am

Working together as a team of teachers, staff and parents, I know we can ensure and promote a strong Catholic identity while continuing to enhance strong academic standards. I am truly looking forward to a fabulous 2013-2014 school year!

Sincerely,

Lorelei Darga
Principal