

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We welcome you and your child(ren) back to school and are prayerfully hopeful for heavenly protection amid the continued challenges of this school year. We are especially happy to welcome our newly registered families and we will do our best to make your stay with us a positive and productive one. To that end, we are including in your Parent Communication Folder, "Restore Your Joyful Heart" by Allie Johnston, an encouraging booklet for Parents and Caregivers.

Since our end-of-the-year letter, the following Faculty adjustments have taken place: Mrs. Edna Cahill (7C) has taken a leave of absence for family reasons and will be replaced by Mrs. Courtney King who is moving up from 3C. Mrs. Donna Hofmann (LS) will now take 3C, and Miss Brittany Rainier, Pre-K4C will not return and be replaced by her capable aide, Mrs. Tracey Brangan and her aide, Eleana Gissinger. Learning Support students will be channeled into our CORA and/or Catapult Programs. We are very grateful for the service of our departing teachers and wish them the very best!

The following information explains the contents of your Parent Communication Folder:

1 - PARENT COMMUNICATION FOLDER – The "Return to School" side contains information that must be completed at home, in full, and returned to school by September 8th. (In the future, information will be posted on the school website, preceded by a blast.) The "Keep at Home" side contains everything you must keep at home to guide you through the school year. Please keep this information in a safe place for future reference.

PARENT COMMUNICATION FOLDER ("Return to School" side):

1. **STUDENT SUMMARY FORM:** (gold) Complete one for each child in school.
2. **STUDENT EMERGENCY CARDS:** (white, index card size) Complete three for each child (two for the office and one for the nurse). **E-mail address is absolutely necessary.** They must be kept up-to-date. Please let us know if any changes occur during the school year and we will adjust your cards.
3. **SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM FORM:** (blue) One per family. If your children stay in school for lunch, please complete the form and return it with the Lunch Fee Envelope (white) and payment enclosed for the month of September. This envelope will be returned to you before the beginning of each month, September through May. The fee is \$10 per child, monthly (or more than one month) to pay our lunch moderators.
4. **DIRECTIVES for DROPPING-OFF/DISMISSING STUDENTS:** (green) Complete one for each child and return bottom portion(s).
5. **HOME & SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:** (Fee Envelope) We look forward to working with our new Home & School Board: President Kathaleen McGinley, Vice-Presidents Jennifer Anderson & Lauren Carr, Secretary Nicole Cheeseman, and Treasurer Kelly Comitolo. We anticipate 100% membership and look forward to your enthusiastic involvement in various activities.
6. **PHYSICAL EDUCATION PARTICIPATION FORM:** (white) Complete one for each child & return bottom portion.
7. **REGISTRATION FOR OUR PARISH SCRIP PROGRAM:** Purchasing gift cards with a percentage of each one going toward school fees for Catholic education. Complete form if you wish to be a steady participant.
8. **4 FORMS POSTED AND REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED FOR EACH CHILD AND RETURNED TO SCHOOL: 1-COVID-19 WAIVER, 2- IPAD & CHROMEBOOK AGREEMENT FORM, 3-TECHNOLOGY PARENTAL PERMISSION FORM, AND 4-THE RESPONSIBLE USE POLICY FOR TECHNOLOGY FORM.** All are found on the school website under forms.
9. **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING:** Also posted on school website but only one per family to be signed and returned. Whew! TY!

PARENT INFORMATION FOLDER (“Keep at Home” side – in a handy place.)

10. **SCHOOL CALENDAR/HANDBOOK**: Extra calendars may be purchased (\$10)
11. **LUNCH SCHEDULE** – (Please see Calendar/Handbook for specifics). Please note that we ask for orders/payment the day before the scheduled hot lunch to facilitate tallying of orders and getting the orders to the hot lunch providers at a convenient time. We will begin our hot and cold lunch programs the first full week of school (9/13) with no Brown Bag Express lunches this year. Students who are absent or forgot to bring their lunches may place their hot lunch orders with Mrs. Costello before 9:30 A.M. It may also be called in at (215-632-1342) if you realize a lunch was forgotten and you are at work or a distance from school, and, if your child realizes lunch was forgotten, we automatically provide one (OLC-HUB) and next day payment is fine. The above consideration means no lunches are to be purchased elsewhere and brought to school.
12. **MORE ABOUT SCRIP PROGRAM** – (tan tri-fold & orange List of Stores) We encourage you to continue to purchase gift certificates from the rectory for many of our neighborhood places of business and beyond! Use the percentage of money you save as a tremendous opportunity to pay your school fees/tuition while you make purchases for your families. **Many parents take orders for gift cards from their neighbors and family members and this can be very helpful financially. Check out the hours and take advantage of this WIN-WIN situation!**
13. **TUITION PAYMENT PLAN FOR GRADES 1 to 8** (yellow)
14. **PHYSICAL EDUCATION RUBRIC**: (lavender) Directives for gym class.
15. **HOME & SCHOOL “WELCOME FLYER” & UPCOMING MOVIE NIGHT EVENT**
16. **PRICE LIST for STATIONERY, GYM UNIFORMS, & FLEECE PULLOVERS**: Orders may be sent to the school office in a clearly marked envelope at the beginning of any school day.
17. **LETTERS for TEACHERS**: Please read carefully and keep for future reference.
18. **SACRAMENT CLASSES**: Parents/Guardians of Grade 8 students receiving Confirmation on Saturday, December 18th and Parents/Guardians of Grade 2 students receiving Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in the Spring, will find booklets in your folders to assist you in helping us prepare your children for these sacraments. A Confirmation Parent Night will be scheduled for Wednesday, September 29th at 7:30 P.M. in the Lower Church. A combined Parent Night for both Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will be on Wednesday, October 27th at 7:30 P.M. in the Lower Church.

FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL: Staff will meet for Orientation on Tuesday morning, September 7th, in the Upper Church, after Mass, with Father Babowitch presiding and plans clarified for proceeding through the new school year. Mindful of COVID Protocol, masks/face shields will be in play and since the school has been cleaned and sanitized, parents/guardians will again view the taped Parent Meetings at home on your scheduled parent night (please see school calendar). Grades 1 to 8 will report on Wednesday, September 8th between 7:30 & 7:45 A.M. (Kindergarten opening is staggered.) Dismissal on Wednesday and Thursday will be at 2:45 – full days. Please send students to school with snacks (recess) and lunch. New students may report to school at the double doors behind the Church where they will be welcomed and directed to their homerooms. CARES (Children Are Receiving Extended Services - before/after day care) will begin on Wednesday, the first day of school (9/8). Registration forms for the program may be sent in the first day your children come to school. On Friday, dismissal will be at noon to celebrate surviving the first two full days of school. These first few days will have a relaxed schedule to offer the students the opportunity to reunite with their classmates. Pre-K classes will begin on Monday, September 13th.

CALENDAR ADJUSTMENTS: Please make the following adjustments on your school calendar, for September: Tuesday, 9/21, PREP classes will be from 4:00 to 5:00 P.M. to accommodate students in Charter/Public Schools who have had dismissal times changed. Friday, 9/24, will “Fitness Friday” instead of “Football Friday” to offer students the option of any favorite sports team’s attire. Scheduled activities will involve elements of various sports and challenge the students to participate to the best of their ability and motivated to be physically fit in mind and body! These activities are geared to the age of our students and capably planned and supervised by Miss M. Kramer, our Physical Education Teacher and her adult and student aides.

SPECIAL CLASSES: Science Lab begins on Monday, September 13th. Students in Grades 3 to 8 will have weekly Spanish classes using the computer based Duolingo Program. (Mrs. Costello will create assignments and issue grades for these students as she did the past school year.) Grades K to 2 will begin a basic introduction to Spanish, weekly, with the guidance of their teachers. These classes, as well as Technology and Physical Education, begin September 20th.

CASUAL FRIDAYS: Donation Dress-Down Days are well-received and anticipated by the students. They are greatly appreciated by those who benefit from your kindness as a result of Pediatric Cancer, Juvenile Diabetes, Autism, personal tragedy, etc. Mindful of large families and budget constraints, we always request a donation of **any** amount. Notification of these days will be on the school website and in the students' homework copies.

AND FINALLY...

Please help us by having your children come to school:

On time, between **7:30 and 7:45 A.M** when teacher supervision is available. (Prior to 7:30, students may go directly to the gym. They need time to unpack, get organized, settle in, and prepare for the day ahead. Prepared with schoolbags, books, copies, pens, pencils, erasers, rulers, etc. (Outside of name and homeroom on all school items, lunch kits & gym wear, **no other artistic renditions are to be made on any of the above.**)

Observing the School Dress, Homework, and Discipline Directives, faithfully. (Please do not allow your offspring to edit the handbook, especially the dress code. If you are no-nonsense in this regard, you are preparing your child (ren) to take rules seriously and act responsibly.

With lunches/snacks that they will eat and drink, not waste or barter (Please do not overload their lunch kits - get small, sturdy box-like juice containers (4 to 6 ounces) if they cannot handle 8 ounces). With money for snacks, lunches, supplies, etc. in clearly marked envelopes which must include their full name and homeroom. Snack orders should be in on Thursday (9/9) for the following week. (See School Calendar/Handbook for specifics.) On school nights, limited exposure to TV, computer, music, cell phone, video games, etc. Please continue to check their messaging and whereabouts on social networking sites and consider limiting cell phone use during homework time to avoid collaboration (copying) from friends. If cell phones are brought to school, they must be turned off and left in the schoolbag/backpack. We appreciate your cooperation in working with us in all of the above.

Continue to value spiritual enrichment as a family by staying close to Christ and each other by regular/virtual Mass/Church attendance. Your weekend plans should always revolve around the Mass/Worship schedule. Survey says, children who regularly attend Church services and have meals with their families, are reinforced to avoid the pitfalls of alcohol, drugs, inappropriate behavior, etc. AMEN!

Please keep this information handy for future reference. (In addition to the usual monthly attachments, there are a "few" more that should prove helpful throughout the school year & beyond.) Also, be sure to check the school website www.olcalvaryschool.org regularly for updates and general information. Feel free to call or e-mail us at any time if you have questions, concerns, anxieties, sleepless nights, heartburn, etc. (**If you reach us first, before going to Social Media, Mrs. Costello and I will not experience concerns, anxieties, sleepless nights, heartburn, etc. Consider us your Rescue 101 app**). Bottom line, we care about and appreciate you and yours, as well as your support, cooperation, and encouragement. Let us pray for a school year that is blessed - with a goodly measure of success – and a mini-mum of stress, especially during these challenging times. (We continue prayers for our citizens, supporters, military, and NATO allies in Afghanistan as they face great risk attempting rescue and relief...)

With warm regards,
Sister Mildred

