



109 N Manoa Road Havertown, PA 19083 610.446.9198

August, 2020

"...But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm... Do not be afraid and we together with Peter, cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us." Pope Francis

Dear Sacred Heart Families,

It seems so long ago that we gathered together as a school community. I hope this summer has been one of rest and rejuvenation. As we gear up for the reopening of school, I feel blessed to work alongside dedicated teachers and supportive parents as we continue to live the mission of our school and mold the moral and academic growth of our students. I believe in the mission of the Church and understand that our schools and our children are its future. We continue to form their conscience with Catholic values and cultivate critical thinkers. Together, I look forward to working with you and our teachers to promote the success of all our students during these unprecedented times.

In preparation for the new school year, much work is being done here at school. The following improvements are underway:

- New classroom flooring;
- Classroom painting;
- Stair treads leading down to the gym;
- New lobby carpet;
- White board installation;
- Cleaning and sanitation;
- COVID-19 safeguards.

We thank Mr. Mike McGann and his crew for many hours of hard work and dedication.

Please note the following as the new school year begins.

Student stationery items have been purchased by school and will be disseminated to students on the first day. Parents will receive a total cost due per student in September. All other required supply lists were given to students back in June.

SHS will continue the **Hot Lunch Program through McGillicuddy's**. Online orders will now be facilitated by McGillicuddy's staff and lunches can be purchased Monday-Friday for all grades, PreK-8. To sign up, go to <https://mcgillicuddys.schoolbitez.com/#/signup>

To login, go to <https://mcgillicuddys.schoolbitez.com/#/login>

School safety continues to be a priority for SHS, particularly during the Coronavirus. SHS has been awarded a **COVID-19 Health and Safety Grant** in the amount of \$8200. Necessary PPE and classroom technology will be purchased with this money. *Additionally, Father Nordeman hired a cleaning company to be onsite Monday-Friday from 11:00-1:00pm to assist our school maintenance.*

The **Giant A+ School Rewards Program** has been discontinued at this time. To better align with charitable pillars of Changing Children's Lives, Eliminating Hunger and Healing Our Planet, a new program will be introduced later this school year.

BOX TOPS for EDUCATION continues digitally! *Please see the attached document for more details.*

SHS also continues to participate in the **Staples Classroom Rewards Program**. Submit your receipt number online and our teachers receive 5% back in rewards.

SHS welcomes all NEW students on Tuesday, September 8. New students are invited to see their classroom and teacher between 2:00-3:30pm. Hopefully this will help alleviate those first day jitters!

School parking lot – Due to social distancing mandates, morning drop off will look differently this year. All car riders will enter the school parking lot from West Chester Pike and form a car line up to the main door. Students will enter the building one car at a time. **School doors will be open between 7:45 – 8:10AM.** When leaving the lot, all cars must exit via West Chester Pike. There will be NO exit on Manoa Road. Bus riders and walkers will enter the school building at designated doors and remain socially distanced under the supervision of SHS staff.

School begins for Grades 1-8 on Wednesday, September 9 with a 12:00PM dismissal – buses provided. No CARES.

The **Kindergarten Drive-thru Meet and Greet is Wednesday, September 9, 10:00AM for families A-J and 10:30AM for families K-Z.** Enter the lot from West Chester Pike and form 2 lines, one for Mrs. Congleton on the right and one for Miss Meloro on the left. Please remain in your cars and don't forget your school supplies and paperwork. **Opening day for Kindergarten is Thursday, September 10** with dismissal at 12:00pm. No CARES for Kindergarten.

Bus transportation is provided for students who are eligible according to the Township guidelines.

PreK Drive-thru Meet and Greet is September 10 from 9-10:00am. Enter the school lot from West Chester Pike and form a car line to the main door. Mrs. McGoldrick and Mrs. Crimi will welcome you. You may also drop off your school supplies and paperwork. Opening Day for PreK is **Monday, September 14.**

Parents must submit a daily Online Health Checklist to ensure the health and safety of our students each day. Checklists must be submitted by 7:30AM each morning. ***Please make this part of your new morning routine!*** Students are not permitted to class until the checklist is received. It is recommended that paper copies of the form be on hand if internet access is unavailable. **If you check "Yes" to anything on the list, your child must stay home from school. Please call our school nurse to discuss a plan of action. In the event of any student absence, parents are requested to contact the school office before 8:30AM to report the child's absence that day.** You may leave a message if before school hours.

<https://forms.gle/k3YbyymGtsNwBPcL6>

The **CARES** after school program will begin on Thursday, September 10. CARES is not available the first day for half day Kindergarteners. Refer to the school calendar for CARES dates to note. Due to COVID-19 safeguards, the new hours for CARES are 3-5pm Monday-Friday and is capped at 25 students. Application packets are available in the school office and will be accepted only if space is available. CARES is directed by Mrs. Kristine Donaher. She can be reached through school at 610.446.9198 or kdonaher@sh-school.org

The following items are available each day for purchase: **Milk - \$0.55 Juice - \$0.55 Snacks - \$0.55**

Be sure your parent portal is activated and updated on **OptionC Software**. OptionC is used as our online grading software and school communication tool. Pertinent announcements as well as emergency closing information are communicated through OptionC. Additionally, *Sacred Heart News*, will be blasted via email to all school families each Friday. **All new parents will receive instructions to gain access to OptionC during the first week of school. It is important that your contact information is current including cell phone and email.** You can monitor your child's academic progress and update your parent profile when logged into OptionC. Please contact the school office if you need assistance updating your parent profile.

Uniform guidelines can be found in the Handbook on the school website. The maroon color is no longer an option. The color change to red is now required for all families. **Gym uniforms** are to be worn on the student's assigned gym day. They gym uniform is also an option for PreK students. All uniforms can be purchased through Flynn and O'Hara. *See attached form for ways to order.*

SHS Uniform Thrift Store - Please visit the SHS Thrift Store on the top floor of Everett Hall to purchase gently used, donated uniform items at a discounted price. For families new to SHS, Everett Hall is the building directly across the street from the school. The Thrift Store will be open periodically throughout the school year. *Upcoming thrift store hours will be held on September 3, October 1, and November 10.*

Safe Students Online (SSO) - With more and more students learning virtually and increased use of social media over the summer months, online safety is very important.

In the fall, we will kick off a new year with SSO for all existing and new families for grades 5-8. This is a free service for all families and strongly encouraged to safeguard your child's personal online experiences. More information will come.

Dates to note (The complete school calendar is posted on the school website):

- September 8 New Student Welcome, 2:00-3:30pm
- September 9 Opening of school for Grades 1-8; Dismissal at 12:00PM
Kinder Drive-thru Meet and Greet 10:00am and 10:30am
No CARES
- September 10 Kindergarten HALF DAY, No CARES for Kinder
Grades 1-8 FULL DAY, Buses Provided; CARES Begins
PreK Drive-thru Meet and Greet, 9-10AM
PreK Back to School Night, 7:00PM (Virtual)
- September 14 Opening of PreK
- September 18 Opening School Liturgy, 8:30am
- September 24 Back to School Night K-4, 7:00pm (Virtual)
- September 30 Back to School Night 5-8, 7:00pm (Virtual)

We continue to pray for Mrs. McGill, Mrs. Ciminera, Mrs. Persia-Tomko and Mrs. McCormick as they move on from SHS. May they be blessed with God's continued grace and protection as they embark on new and exciting chapters in their lives.

Congratulations again to Mrs. Geesey and her husband on the birth of their beautiful son, Brayden! She will return from maternity on November 9. Mrs. Jessie Curtin, our librarian will teach middle school ELA from September 9-18 and Mrs. Michele Hall will assume coverage for the remainder of the time.

SHS welcomes **Miss Sara Meloro**! She will teach Kindergarten, Section B. Miss Meloro graduated from Immaculata University with a BA in Elementary Education and Special Education. She completed her student teaching practicum at St. Thomas the Apostle School in first grade. Sara also possesses experience as a paraprofessional for autistic and non-verbal students.

We are also excited to announce **Miss Melissa Hefferan** as our new first grade teacher! Miss Hefferan graduated from Cabrini University with a BA in elementary Education and Special Education. She completed her student teaching practicum at Garrettford Elementary School in first grade. Miss Hefferan has also had a variety of field placements while completing coursework at Cabrini allowing her to gain experience in several grade levels both in the public and private sector.

Welcome **Miss Catherine Campbell** as our new second grade teacher! Miss Campbell graduated from Immaculata University with BA in Elementary Education and Special Education. Miss Campbell worked as a student teacher in second grade at Avon Grove Charter School. She also possesses experience as an assistant teacher at Bright Beginnings Learning Center and Colegio Immaculado Corazon in Lima, Peru.

Lastly, **Mrs. Debbie Vasek** joins the SHS community as our new Administrative Assistant. Mrs. Vasek earned a B.S. in Business Administration and possesses experience in home health administration and communications. She lives in Chadds Ford, has three children and enjoys community service.

We wish a very warm welcome to all our new SHS faculty and staff!

Enjoy the remaining days of summer and I am so excited to see all of you again in September! Don't forget your mask!

Warmly,

Mrs. Theresa Schmidt, M.A.Ed
Principal

