



July 26, 2017

Dear St. Joseph School Parents,

I hope our annual Back to School letter finds you well and you are each enjoying your summer with friends and family. As summer comes to an end, the Home and School Officers and school staff are already hard at work preparing for a smooth start to the new school year. As we have done for a few years, during Student Orientation, August 8, we will hold our first Home and School General Meeting of the school year. It is very important to attend this meeting to learn important information from our principal, Mrs. Rose, as well as information about upcoming Home and School events and opportunities. Our school needs your time and talent, and we look forward to your participation. We will have tables set up so you can sign up to assist a Home and School committee. By having our first Home and School meeting during Student Orientation, there will be more time at Open House on Thursday, August 17, to spend in your child(ren)'s class.

Orientation and Welcome Back Breakfast and Home and School Meeting

Tuesday, August 8, 8:30 to 9:45 a.m.

- Students should arrive by 8:30 a.m. to their classroom (homeroom assignments are posted on the classroom doors).
- Students are to bring their backpacks with all their labeled school supplies.
- Parents and younger siblings are invited to enjoy coffee and refreshments in the gym starting at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will begin promptly at 8:45 a.m.
- Families can pay home and school dues during the meeting. Dues are \$65 and should be paid by August 8, 2017. After September 1, 2017, dues will be \$75.
- Parents will be able to purchase lunch tickets, pay Booster Club fees, buy extra yearbooks, etc.

Just Give 5!

A few years ago, we began our “Just Give 5” campaign, focusing on each family giving and documenting at least five volunteer hours between the first and last day of school. We are so grateful to those of you who answer this call, and many of you give well above the 5 hours each and every year. We simply could not accomplish our goals without your hard work. You will see our “Just Give 5” theme again throughout the school this year. We want to do more to encourage and recognize your contributions. We are still available to help match your time and talent with an area of need in the school. We understand that not all volunteer opportunities occur when you are signed in at the school office. Hard work often takes place off campus, or at times when the office is closed, and we now have a way to track those hours with an online form. Please see the “Home and School” section of the school’s website for more details, <http://www.stjosephcs.org/home-school>.

Volunteer Opportunities

St. Joseph Catholic School has many committees that require the support and dedication of volunteers to make our school a success. This past spring, we sent out a short survey that gave families an opportunity to provide feedback on Home and School and to volunteer for different committees for the upcoming school year. If you did not complete the survey in the spring, you may do so at this time by clicking [here](#). If you are new to the school and would like to complete our **New Parent Survey**, you may do so by clicking [here](#). You may also volunteer for committees on Orientation Day. Please note that the signups for “Homeroom Mom” and “Paper Packet” occur on Orientation Day outside your teacher's classroom.

Volunteer and Visitor Policy

For anyone needing to be Livescanned (new parent or renewal), please see our website for the proper paperwork and appointment instructions (in the Parent Volunteer section). The Criminal Background Check form must be brought to **our office** within a few days of your Livescan appointment (either before or after) so we may take it to the Catholic Center for your official clearance/approval.

Anyone needing to take a *Protecting God's Children* class should visit the Virtus website to see a listing of available classes in the Diocese of St. Augustine (click [here](#)). The schedule is being updated frequently. You may take the class at any parish in the diocese at any time, simply bring us your Certificate of Completion when you receive it.

Important Dates

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| Friday, August 4 | Last day to complete online volunteer surveys |
| Monday, August 7 | New Parent Orientation (K-8 th), Cody Enrichment Center, 7:00 p.m. |
| Tuesday, August 8 | Student Orientation (K-8 th), School Campus, 8:30-9:45 a.m. |
| Tuesday, August 8 | Home & School Meeting, School Gymnasium, 8:45 a.m. |
| Tuesday, August 8 | Mandatory iPad meeting for 6– 8 th students and parents, School Gymnasium, 10:00 a.m. |
| Wednesday, August 9 | First Day of School, K-8 th |
| Monday, August 14 | Pre-K Parent Orientation, 6:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, August 15 | Pre-K Student Orientation, 9:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday, August 16 | First Day of Pre-K |
| Thursday, August 17 | Open House, K-8 th Parents, 6:30 p.m. |
| Friday, August 25 | “Welcome Back” Family Bingo Night |

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this letter and to consider all the information enclosed. We are looking forward to a great year working with all of you toward the goal of making St. Joseph Catholic School the best for all of our students, families, faculty, and staff.

Sincerely,

Melissa Denson

Home and School President

Melissa.denson@comcast.net

Phone: 904-333-4003