



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
CATHOLIC PARISH & SCHOOL

July 17, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians of SVdP School,

Happy summer months to you. I pray you are enjoying this time away from a daily routine and that your vacation and stay-cation plans have been refreshing. I am looking forward to going back to Nashville for a few weeks toward the end of July. I will be on our annual community retreat followed by days of celebration when some of our Sisters will receive the habit, and profess vows. These are joyful days for our community, which refresh us and prepare us to return to the apostolate, bringing the fullness of Christ, His truth and His love, to those whom we serve. I promise to pray for each of you during my retreat and ask your prayers as well. I look forward to seeing you in about a month.

God bless you,  
Sister Dominic

Please find below a variety of updates and news for your information:

## Staffing and New Hires

- Kindergarten: Miss Sarah Miller is replacing Alexie Salazar in the Kindergarten classroom. She is a new teacher graduating from Franciscan University with Early Elementary Ed and with an interventionist specialty. Fun Fact: Miss Miller is spending several weeks in Tanzania on a mission trip and will be moving to Denver in August. Please welcome her to Denver and to our community, and introduce yourself, especially if you have a child in kindergarten.
- Kindergarten: Nicole Thomason will teach in a long-term substitute position for Mrs. Ambrose who is scheduled to begin the school year on maternity leave. For those of you who may not know Mrs. Thomason, she is a veteran teacher, has taught art at SVdP for several years, and will have three children at the school. She is familiar with the culture, the families, and the expectations within the school. Mrs. Ambrose will continue to be in contact with Mrs. Thomason to ensure a smooth transition. Welcome (back) Mrs. Thomason!
- Classroom Support First Grade: Mrs. Dee Wingert will be providing daily part-time instructional support in the first grade classrooms.
- Second Grade: Sister Mary Celeste is the new Dominican Sister taking the Second Grade classroom. Sister is experienced in teaching many grade levels and is a joyful Sister with a heart for wonder at God's goodness.
- Middle School: The entire Middle School is remaining the same in terms of staffing. However, a few changes in teaching assignments: Mrs. Brown will teach 8<sup>th</sup> Algebra and Social Studies and 7<sup>th</sup> Social Studies. Miss Merrion will teach 6<sup>th</sup> Social Studies and Math and 7<sup>th</sup> Pre-Algebra. Mrs. Sullivan will teach 8<sup>th</sup> Language Arts and Literature, and 7<sup>th</sup> Language Arts. Mrs. Papich will teach 6<sup>th</sup> Language Arts and Literature and 7<sup>th</sup> Literature.
- Resource: The Resource Department will remain mostly the same. Mrs. Davidson- Talley and Mrs. Mellentine both work the RTI plans in support of teachers Grades 1-3. Mrs. Davidson Talley will continue to support and assist Middle School teachers in helping students with specific needs. Mrs. Mellentine will provide additional instructional support to fourth grade teachers.
- Preschool/Montessori Track: Assisting Mrs. Salazar is Mrs. Sally Jane Michaud (Mee-show). She has taught both in a Montessori classroom and a traditional early childhood classroom. Because she is raising a family, she wanted to work part time and this is an amazing and perfect fit. God's hand has been evident in the entire preschool expansion project; so many answers to prayers!
- Student Advocate (Formerly entitled "Counselor"): Miss Emily Donahue will be the new Student Support

Advocate. Miss Donahue is a recent graduate of Franciscan University with a degree in psychology. She has a wonderful human and Christian formation and will be able to share that with our students. She will run the new Second Step Program (curriculum attached) along with teachers in the elementary grades, and she will run the Created for Greatness (C4G) program in the Middle School. She also will be helping students to navigate conflict as it arises, either on an individual or whole class basis. Her office is being renovated this summer. It will be located on south end of the second floor hallway, where the old storage closet was (which was the original front office of the school building in 1927).

- Librarian: We have a full-time librarian! Bridget Edmonds is an experienced teacher and lover of books and libraries. She will take on the entire library position from teaching classes to maintaining the collection, running a parent volunteer program, and coordinating the book fairs. She will be a huge support to teachers and students alike and will help to create a library program that is a central resource for the school. She will also be the staff liaison for our Student Council.
- Business & Finance Support: Mrs. Joyce Haberkorn is now working in the front office of the school. Many of you know Mrs. Haberkorn from the business office as she helps with the collection of tuition and distribution of financial aid. Mrs. Haberkorn is a part-time employee who typically works a full day on Wednesdays and Thursdays and is a great addition to our front office team. She can be reached at the school at extension 132.
- Still hiring for the Language Program: We all knew Mr. Carey was irreplaceable! What had been a sufficient number of Latin teacher applications last year, has dwindled. Because of the success last year, I mistakenly believed that sustaining this position would not be so challenging. With the nearby seminary, the Augustine Institute, and an entire Classics Department at DU and CU, I thought the resources would be deep enough to keep the position filled with experienced and qualified teachers. This has not been the case, so it leaves me praying and discerning the next steps. I am currently consulting with several people of experience in building a program to ensure that we invest properly in a useful and sustainable language program. I will keep you updated and informed as to how that could impact the start of our school year.

## General News

- Extended Care: We have the stability of the same staff returning to Extended Care: Teresa Gill and Ana Salazar along with program director Monica Wooley. The extended care room is moving in order to make room for the second preschool classroom. Extended care will now be held in the cafeteria and John XXIII room of the church building.
- The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) Level I training is being offered at our school this coming year. Sister Mary Rose, O.P. is a trainer for the program and will be coming to Denver four separate weekends to complete the entire Level I training. If you are interested in being trained, please request a registration form from the front office.
- Facilities and Cleaning: An ongoing priority for the school and facilities team is to restore the cleanliness and upkeep of our older building. Much effort has been put into a deep clean of rooms, carpets, and hallways, with replacement blinds and broken windows, and fresh paint. It is a large building and an old school, and more will be needed in the years to come. The fifth grade classrooms are being re-carpeted which will eliminate the trip hazards from unseemly seams.
- New Preschool Classroom: Thank you to Mr. Joe Powers, parent at our school, for his work in renovating the former extended care room to be a beautiful new preschool classroom prepared for the Montessori Track. The room is awaiting fire inspection and State approval, but we invite you in to see the changes. Mr. Powers company did an amazing job and we are grateful for his good work and his financial contributions in this effort.
- Administrator's Office: My office (Sister Dominic) has moved to the third floor in the office near the fifth grade classrooms, which was formerly the counselor's office. I look forward to seeing the students more frequently and being a presence in the MS hallway during transitions.
- Enrollment: As happens in the summertime, we have had a few families leave due to relocation and several more families come to SVdP. We hold a steady enrollment between 410-415. This is about 15 more students than we started with last school year. Please keep talking about the school and sharing the good things about SVdP with your friends. Word of mouth is the number one way to increase enrollment. We have a waiting

list for one of the preschool sections and we have a waiting list (or VERY near it) for Kindergarten. These are hopeful signs for the future.

- The Outdoor Learning Lab: We are progressing! Thank you to Jon Crabtree and Jim Garofalo, parents at the school, who are working on the progress and completion of this project. They expect the construction of the project to be completed by August 21<sup>st</sup>, the start of the new school year. See additional page below for current and anticipated breakdown and use of funds.
- Logo Change: Some of you have heard talk of a possible logo change. We do expect one in the next year or two, but not this coming year. When the logo changes, we will announce it by the early spring of the year prior to its change. Additionally, there will be at least one year of grandfathering in the old logo on uniforms.
- His Holiness Benedict XVI says “Thank You”. In response to a spiritual bouquet sent across the Atlantic. You may remember the Clergy Appreciation Event held by the Church this past spring, at which time spiritual bouquets were given to the local clergy and religious, and to His Holiness Benedict XVI, among others. Benedict XVI kindly wrote back expressing his gratitude and sending a few papal cards. Let us remember to pray for our clergy throughout the universal church.

## Looking ahead to 2017-2018

- Dress Code Information: Find attached the [Dress Code for the 2017-2018](#) school year. Since you are receiving this in advance of the start of the school year, and because the changes are minimal, I thank you for your efforts to shop for clothing according to these guidelines.
- Handbook: At the following link find the [2017-2018 Parent Student Handbook](#). Families new to the school should plan to read the handbook cover to cover. It is long, but by signing the final page, you acknowledge that you are aware of and willing to follow all policies in the handbook. For those who have already read the handbook cover to cover, you may do so again, or following is a recommendation to become very familiar with the policies:
  - o Read it if you never have
  - o Read carefully the highlighted sections which indicate some changes in wording or in policy
  - o Read carefully certain sections every year: discipline, tardiness / attendance / absence procedures, grades, and communication
  - o Use most other topics as reference as needed
- Student Information System: We are upgrading to Option C for our student information program. It is a similar concept, but superior, to the Fast Direct which it is replacing. More information will be coming via email and at Back to School Nights including your login for viewing grades.
- Website: We expect the Website to be ready for the new school year as well. Mr. Jay Ezell has spent nearly a year on this work and we are looking forward to a nicer looking site with easier navigation.
- Spiritual Theme for 2017-2018: As was announced at the last school Mass, the rising 8<sup>th</sup> Grade has selected the spiritual theme for the year. The Scripture they chose emphasizes our commitment to service which is essential to the charism of our patron, Saint Vincent de Paul, and helps to give our new SVdP Serves program a deeper Christian root. *Whatever you do for the least of my brethren, you did to me.* Mother Teresa loved this Scripture and used to teach people with her hand, extending one finger at a time and saying slowly, “you did it to Me.” We want to teach our students to love Jesus and to love Him as He is present in our neighbor. He so closely associates Himself with each of us that it is true to say that the good turn or the ill-will we do toward another, Jesus accounts as done to Him. This is a great examination of conscience as well as impetus to do good from a pure heart.

## Summer Volunteer Opportunity

The chickens need your help! If you would consider giving some time to helping to paint the coop when it arrives, we would be very grateful. The coop is expected to arrive at the very end of July and would need to be unpacked and painted within a day or two. If you are interested and able to give time, please look for an email giving details of a meeting time and date.

## Outdoor Learning Lab – Finances and Progress

On behalf of children and chickens (in *that* order) we LOVE our donors. Thank you!

Total Raised at Gala on March 4<sup>th</sup> (with prior and cash subsequent donations to the Lab) = \$87,010

In addition to the donations, following is a list of donations in-kind:

\$2,000	Elcar Fence – permanent realignment of space
\$400	Temporary security fence negotiated through AJ Kirkegaard
>\$8,000	Original architectural design & ongoing implementation by Elevate by Design
>\$9,000	Donation of labor, wood, consulting by AJ Kirkegaard
TBD	Alameda Nurseries – at cost negotiated through Elevate by Design
TBD	Pavers – at cost negotiated through AJ Kirkegaard
\$1,500	Asphalt removal – at cost negotiated through AJ Kirkegaard

### Actual Expenses to Date:

#### Construction:

--	Electric and Water – beneath asphalt	\$15,000 (completed in March)
--	Asphalt Removal	\$1,500
--	Elcar Fence realignment to enlarge space	\$1,965
--	Carolina Coop – a home for chickens	\$9,403
--	Temporary/Quarantine Coop	\$489
--	Additional Security items (locks, etc)	\$39.10
--	Security Fence	\$400 (connected/donated by AJ Kirkegaard)

#### Hatching, Raising Current Chickens

--	Various (food, heat lamp, incubator, bedding)	\$452.37
--	Chicks	\$52.50
--	License with City of Denver	\$25

#### Instructional:

--	Curriculum Prep & Resources	\$52.44
--	Curriculum Consulting & Development	\$2,000

Advertising Banner \$155.50

**Total Actual Expenses to Date \$29,633.91**

### Anticipated Expenses:

Bricks/Pavers	\$2,000
Donor Recognition - Engraving	\$3,450
Asphalt Demolition and Removal	\$1,500
Professional Development x3 years to embed into school	\$11,000
Instructional Materials	\$11,000 (high estimate)
Gardens and Landscape	\$20,000 (praying for at-cost donations)
Garden Tools/Accessories	\$1,500
Greenhouse*	\$10,000-\$20,000
Spring Planting*	\$2,000

Total Anticipated Expenses

\$60,450

Phase II

Weather Station	\$1,500
Camera and Equipment	\$3,500
Solar Panel	TBD

\*Grant Opportunities:

We have great talent among our parents. If you are willing to write a grant, or know someone who can take a lead in this process there are two grants we'd like to request:

- 1) Whole Kids Foundation, associated with Whole Foods, gives a \$2,000 grant to specific school gardening projects. We could use this for spring planting in our gardens. Please let Sr. Dominic know if you would be willing to work on this in September/October, or if you could recommend someone
- 2) Matching grant for a greenhouse. Greenhouses come in many shapes, sizes and qualities. For a school, we will need a structure that can withstand wind and snow load, particularly as it is a place that children will frequent, and this is a hefty expense – somewhere between \$10,000 and \$20,000. There is not a specific grant identified for this as we are narrowing the pool to those grants which would likely contribute to private/faith-based elementary or middle school. With a matching grant we would be able to get our first choice of greenhouse for the space allotted to it.



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Students in good standing with regard to wearing the uniform will adhere to the following:

- Shirt tails are tucked into uniform pants, skirts, slacks, shorts at all times.
- Pants and shorts are worn at the waist, not at the hips.
- All clothing is sized properly; oversized, baggy, or sagging clothing is not acceptable.
- All uniform items are neat and clean; no frayed, torn, badly faded, or stained items are worn
- T-shirt worn under clothing are solid white
- Bandanas and hats are not to be worn unless there is a medical condition that requires such items. Written notice from the doctor and approval by the administration is required.
- All articles of clothing have the student's name on label.
- T-shirts other undergarments are not visible.
- Simple athletic shoes are worn. Shoes are in good condition. The primary colors of the school tennis shoe, including laces, complement our school uniform (white, black, navy blue, gray, red, or brown). All colors on the shoe will reflect school colors. Shoes will be tightly fastened (laces or velcro) and will provide ample ankle support for PE class (no Ked-like shoes). Shoes will be free from glitter and other decorations. No wheelies or lights are allowed, and no high tops will be worn.
- Jumpers, culottes, and skirts will not fall shorter than within 1" above the knee cap.
- Short shorts will not be worn.
- Leggings, yoga pants, and other tight outerwear will not be worn unless being used as a tight underneath the skirt in cold weather.
- Items worn into the building for warmth, such as non-uniform sweatshirts, coats, gloves, or other purposes (such as sunglasses, sweatbands, etc) will not be worn into the classroom or in the building once school has started.

## Girls' Uniform

- Plaid jumper or culottes (K-4)
- Plaid skirt or culottes (5-8)
- Red or navy polo style shirt with school logo
- The maximum number of buttons on a shirt that may be unbuttoned is the top one
- White Peter Pan Collar (K-2) can only be worn under jumper, as indicated in the Dennis Uniform Brochure
- Navy slacks or cords
- Khaki slacks (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades only)
- Light blue polo style shirt with school logo (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades only)
- Navy or khaki shorts, first and fourth quarters only
- Leather belt (solid brown or black) must be worn if wearing shorts or slacks
- No makeup is allowed
- No nail polish is allowed
- No more than two sets of stud earrings (stud earrings are the only earrings allowed)
- One religious medal, cross, or crucifix may be worn on a simple chain.
- No body piercing or tattoos allowed
- One finger ring
- One watch—should not be a distraction to other students
- Socks are worn so that they are visible above the shoe line. They will be one solid color from among the school variety (white, black, navy blue, gray, red, or brown). No more than one additional color will accent the sock and will be a small portion of the sock, such as can be covered beneath a single business card.



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- Solid red, white, black, or navy tights
- Red SVdP pull over fleece with zipper at the neck (no red hoodies)
- Navy V-Neck Cardigan Sweater w/ SVdP logo(K-4)
- Navy V-Neck Pull-over Sweater/Sweater vest w/ SVdP logo (K-8)
- No leggings
- Hair should be clean, well-groomed, with no extreme styles
- Hair should not fall down in the eyes; bangs may not be below the eyebrows
- Fake hair pieces, including feathers worn in the hair, are not allowed
- Hair accessories should not be a distraction to other students

## Boys' Uniform

- Navy slacks or cords
- Red or navy polo style shirt with school logo (no turtlenecks or long-sleeved shirts worn under short-sleeved shirts)
- The maximum number of buttons on a shirt that may be unbuttoned is the top one
- Khaki slacks (6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> Grades only)
- Light blue polo style shirt with school logo (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades only)
- Navy or khaki shorts, first and fourth quarters only
- Leather belt (solid brown or black) must be worn if wearing shorts or slacks
- No earrings
- One religious medal, cross, or crucifix may be worn on a simple chain.
- No body piercing or tattoos allowed
- One watch—should not be a distraction to other students
- Socks are worn so that they are visible above the shoe line. They will be one solid color from among the school variety (white, black, navy blue, gray, red, or brown). No more than one additional color will accent the sock and will be a small portion of the sock, such as can be covered beneath a single business card.
- Red SVdP pull over fleece with zipper at the neck (no red hoodies)
- Navy V-Neck Cardigan Sweater w/ SVdP logo (K-4)
- Navy V-Neck Pull-over Sweater/Sweater vest w/ SVdP logo (K-8)
- Hair should be clean, well-groomed, with no extreme styles
- Hair should not fall down in the eyes; bangs may not be below the eyebrows
- Hair may not extend below ear lobe or shirt collar
- Facial hair is not allowed

## 8th Grade Privilege

- 8th grade girls and boys may wear a blue hoodie with logo and initials

## Gym Clothing

- School Uniform Clothing

## General Guidelines for Out-of-Uniform Dress

1. All items must be clean, without holes, and in good condition. No torn, frayed, oversized/undersized clothing is permitted



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2. Shirts, blouses and/or dresses must have sleeves and may not be tight-fitting
3. The cut on any clothing must measure four fingers from the collarbone, or higher
4. Shorts, culottes, skirts, and dresses must not be shorter than within 1” above the knee cap
6. Pants/jeans may not be form-fitting
7. Leggings can only be worn under a dress or skirt
8. All words or visible advertisement on clothing should be in keeping with the mission and atmosphere of the school
9. No writing should be on clothing covering the bottom
10. No undergarments should be visible
11. A closed shoe with socks must be worn

If Out-of-Uniform Dress clothing is inappropriate, students may select from the used uniform closet or may opt to call parents to ask them to bring other clothing to school. When a parent is unreachable, the school reserves the right to select from the uniform closet for the child. In either case, the child forfeits the privilege of the next dress down day.

Other Uniforms: Girl Scout and Boy Scout uniforms may be worn on meeting days.