



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
CATHOLIC PARISH & SCHOOL

August 12, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians of SVdP Catholic School,

The summer is winding down quickly and we have just one week of vacation time left. I hope and pray you have been able to slow down and take time with your family, especially with your children. Children usually grow much taller over the summer because they get so much extra sleep. And as they grow physically with the help of food, exercise and rest, they need help to grow spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, and socially as well. These latter ways of growing also take commitment of time each and every day.

Perhaps in the next week, or even during the first weeks of school, you can take some special “alone time” with your school-age child/ren to talk about ways they can expect to grow in the coming year, and how they can commit to a plan that will enable them to grow in age-appropriate ways in all these areas. For our spiritual lives, we need *daily* contact with God, learning to live in faith and thanking Him for all the circumstances of our day, even the circumstances that we would not have chosen if it were up to us. For our intellectual lives we need to be attentive to the lessons taught us, either formally in the classroom, or informally through family, through friendships, through nature, through reading. Intellectual growth develops to the degree that we cultivate a sense of wonder at all life has to offer, but it, too, requires a commitment of time to study in a way that is deeper than merely completing homework, and rather directs one to seek the truth. Next, our emotional lives can bring great joy to the experience of life, and it has the other edge of the sword that can bring great sorrow as well. To grow in our emotional lives often means not allowing our emotions to dictate our thoughts and actions, but enjoying them in their right place. Christ Jesus taught us how to live, and when our emotions would run ahead of us and lead us into thoughts/actions that are not Christian, we realize this is an area for needed growth. Who of us has not regretted a word said in anger or in gossip because of the way we were feeling at the time? Who of us has not told a “white lie” because we felt afraid of what someone would think of us if we told the truth instead? Growing in the emotional life means learning to feel our emotions without allowing them to dictate our choices. Finally, our social lives become most fruitful and enjoyable when we realize that friendship and community grow when we give of ourselves. We are in the image of God who finds ultimate joy in giving of Himself. So, when we give of ourselves to another person in friendship, or in service to our community, we grow in our social lives and receive far more than we give.

I encourage you to take time with your children in the next couple of weeks to reflect on their growth. Are they able to recognize growth in themselves? Are there areas of growth that you can affirm in them, especially those areas that they cannot see in themselves? Children love to be affirmed in this way, and they need it! Perhaps you can pray together asking God to show you how you can help your children become the saints He made them to be. There is no other life plan that will make them as happy as God has planned for them to be.

With prayers for your families,

Sister Dominic, O.S.B.

NOTEWORTHY

I am pleased to introduce to you our new hires for the positions which were not filled as of the last correspondence. Please join me in welcoming the following teachers/staff to our Saint Vincent Family:

Mr. Carey	Latin K-8
Miss Gonzales	Academic Support 1-8
Mrs. Hoffman	Ark K-8
(Mrs. Bancroft and Mr. Carey	Library)

Below are some items of interest for you. Please take time in the next couple of weeks to complete the required forms and to review the other forms/opportunities for the coming year. I am looking forward to the start of the year and to getting to know you and your children in the months ahead.

REQUIRED FORMS – TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD

These forms are all housed under [Forms and Resources](#) on the Parent tab of the school website. For your convenience, the list below links directly to each form required.

- [Parent Handbook](#) (changes are highlighted in yellow)
- [Signature page](#) for handbook to be printed, signed, returned at Back to School Night
- [Technology Acceptable Use form](#) (required before students may use school technology)
- [General Fees Form](#)

ADDITIONAL FORMS OF INTEREST

- [Hot Lunch Order Form](#)
 - o Sack lunches and lunch in classroom on third Thursday monthly (no hot lunch provided)
 - o ****Milk is ordered *one time for the entire year* through the school forms and resources tab online. This is a separate order from hot lunch this year.**
- [Hot Lunch Informational Flyer](#)
- [Medications](#) process for medications to be administered at school
- [Carpool Reminders](#)
- [Extended Care form](#)
- [McKaila Ball Scholarship](#) flyer
- [Walker Release form](#)
- [School Calendar](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 13: Community Day Cleanup 8:30am–12:00pm contact Joey
- August 14: New Family Ice Cream Social from 4:00pm-6:00 pm on the lower playground
- August 17: Class lists posted
- August 20: [Used uniform date](#) (see attached flyer) 10:00am-12:00pm in school lobby
- August 22: Back to School Coffee 7:30am-8:30am in the Garden Room AND noon dismissal
- August 25: New Family Orientation (parents only) 6:30pm-8:00 pm auditorium
- August 30: Back to school night for preK-5th