



St. Joseph Hill Academy Elementary School

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Summer 2019

Dear Hill Families,

As these first few weeks of summer have brought with them some hot and humid days, I hope that you have had some time to relax and spend time with your family and friends. Back when I was in elementary school, my favorite thing about summer was freedom from a routine. The hot summer sun allowed for more time spent outdoors, late nights with no scheduled time for bed or waking up. Summer meant eating in the yard or at the beach (even if I ate a little sand). The most stress came from listening for the ice cream truck and having enough time to run home for money before it drove past. I hope this summer is filled with as many pleasant memories for our students and their friends.

There were so many wonderful things that happened this school year that I can't believe it all came to fruition. This was a year of many firsts. We had our first field day in September, our first elementary school pep rally and 8th Grade sports dinner, Mother-Son Bingo, and who could forget our performances of Elf and Aladdin. All were wonderful additions to an already jam-packed calendar. Our staple events were stellar as always, including, but not limited to Trunk or Treat, Christmas Tree Lighting, Christmas Carnival, book fair, plant sale, art show, Sweetheart Dance, and the amazing Fashion Show. Finally we ended our last few days here at school with a wonderful talent show, planned and executed by Mrs. Innocente. None of these events would have been possible without the help of our dedicated parent volunteers, family association, and teachers. I am grateful for the time and energy that everyone dedicates to our school community. We have many exciting things planned for next year and I look forward with great anticipation to another year filled with innovative new programs and ideas.

Academically we continued on our mission to provide an exceptional spiritual and academic education. I am proud to announce that our 8th grade graduating class received one million dollars in scholarship money. We are proud of their amazing accomplishments and wish them all God's blessings in high school. Our teachers are in the process of preparing for the new school year and many are taking a variety of professional development courses during this summer to hone and sharpen their skills. We will continue to focus on small group instructional practices using a variety of technology in Math and ELA during the upcoming school year. Many of our staff will be here over the summer working as part of our wonderful camp Koala. Our maintenance staff are busy working on upgrades to our building and campus. We passed our triennial asbestos inspection. As the building is not in use for a few weeks, our cleaning crew is here emptying classrooms and polishing floors and painters are touching up several areas, including the painting of our cafeteria.

St. Joseph Hill Academy summer work has been uploaded to our website. Please work with students to complete these assignments over the next few weeks. In addition to these summer assignments, as students relax and unwind, I encourage them to read and practice their math skills. This will keep them focused and better prepared to start school in September.

I am quite pleased to announce that all of our faculty and staff will be returning in September. There are some faculty updates to share with you. We are excited to welcome back Mr. Pablo who will be teaching 6th Grade Science and co-instructing Science labs with Ms. Harris in 7th and 8th Grade. Additionally, they will both be putting their science knowledge and skills to use in grades 1 through 5 as the co instruct Science and STEM labs with their colleagues in those grades. Mr. O'Keefe, who filled in for Mrs. Blackburn during her maternity leave at the beginning of last year, and substituted for us in all grades, will now be our permanent Academic Intervention teacher for grades 1 to 8. In this capacity he will work with our teachers and Mrs. Pane, our Academic Intervention Service Coordinator, to assist with small group instruction and early intervention.

Our first full day of school is Thursday, September 5th. Please keep in mind there is no bus service until Monday, September 9th. For the Pre-K and Kindergarten students, school begins gradually; please see your individual letters from the teachers that can be found on our school website. Aftercare begins on Monday, September 9th.

Our *Meet the Teacher Nights* are scheduled on Wednesday, September 4th at 6:00 pm for PreK 3 & 4 and 7:00 pm for Kindergarten. Grades 1 to 8 are scheduled on Thursday, September 5th at 6:00 pm. A *New Parent Information Wine and Cheese Meet and Greet* is scheduled for Wednesday, August 28th from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm in our 4th floor gym. I encourage all new parents to attend and ask all current parents to please consider attending to share in the evening and meet new parents. More information will follow. I look forward to speaking to you that evening. When looking at the calendar, please be aware that events throughout the year are tentative and subject to change. Checking the monthly calendar is a good way to stay informed. A detailed list of the beginning of the year events will be sent by our Family Association in August.

Incoming 6th through 8th Grade parents, please be advised of a change to our technology plan. We have decided to migrate to a one to one Chromebook program as opposed to the use of iPads. This will allow full use of all of the apps in the G Suite and full use of all Google Apps for Education. Additionally, this will cut back significantly on the inconsistent use of the iPads in the upper grades, as it will not allow for games to be downloaded. Of course, if you have already purchased an iPad for the incoming 6th Grade it will be perfectly acceptable for use this year. We strongly encourage you to consider the purchase of a Chromebook as they will be a requirement for students in grades 6 through 8 for 2020-2021 school year. This year's incoming 7th and 8th grade may continue using the iPads if they wish, with the understanding that they will not be used during the 2020-2021 school year. Devices are purchased directly through the school using the attached form. A copy of the form can also be found under parent resources. This form can be filled out and emailed or mailed to Mrs. Riccardi in the finance office.

It is imperative that you visit our school website: www.stjosephhillacademy.com . The site will provide you with all of the necessary information to prepare for the new school year. A copy of this letter and all pertinent information will be located under the Parent Resources Tab.

Additionally, letters from our PreK and Kindergarten teachers containing details regarding the start of school can be found there. It is important that these be read to insure a smooth beginning. The site also contains information on Aftercare, after school clubs, uniforms and a variety of other vital information. This information will not be emailed to you so please be sure to log on to our school website: www.stjosephhillacademy.com and look under the Parent Resources Tab as soon as possible.

All immunization documents are due to the office by Thursday, August 1st. Please do not delay in addressing this important matter, since we are required to exclude children from school in non-compliance situations. These documents can also be found on our school website: www.stjosephhillacademy.com , along with other pertinent information regarding procedures for the new school year under the Parent Resources Tab.

Please access our school website: www.stjosephhillacademy.com and click on the Centennial Tab to purchase an amazing Centennial Grand Prize Raffle, make a donation, and view Save the Date information. The School Store tab is now active and will link you to the High School's Spirit Shak store. There you can order a variety of Centennial items. Additional information will follow for special T-Shirts orders.

Link for Grand Prize Raffle: <https://secure.etransfer.com/SJHA/Centennial.cfm>

I wish you all a peaceful summer full of God's blessings.

Mr. Hansen
Principal

