

August 14, 2021

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; 1st Day of School; Extended Care; Friday, August 19th; Carpool; Mary's Children; Covid Update; Important upcoming dates; Handbook; and JR Cardinal Club.

Thoughts for the week: *Entrust your loved ones to Me; release them into My protective care. They are much safer with Me than in your clinging hands. If you let a loved one become an idol in your heart, you endanger that one- as well as yourself. Joseph and his father, Jacob, suffered terribly because Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other sons and treated him with special favor. So Joseph's brothers hated him and plotted against him. Ultimately, I used that situation for good, but both father and son had to endure years of suffering and separation from one another. I detest idolatry, even in the form of parental love, so beware of making a beloved child your idol. When you release loved ones to Me, you are free to cling to My hand. As you entrust others into My care, I am free to shower blessings on them. My Presence will go with them wherever they go, and I will give them rest. This same Presence stays with you as you relax and place your trust in Me. Watch to see what I will do. Genesis 37:3-4; Ephesians 3:20; Exodus 33:14. ~ Jesus Calling by Sarah Young. We look forward to working with each of you and developing a wonderful partnership that will continue to make Saint Joseph Catholic School a great place to learn, worship, and grow.*

First Day of School: Monday, August 15th: First day of school for students at 8:00 a.m. The faculty is on duty beginning at 7:30 a.m. The first three days of school are half days with dismissal at noon.

Extended Care: The first three days of school are half days with dismissal at noon. There will be extended care on August 15th; 16th and 17th until 6:00 pm. If your child is attending extended care, please pack them a lunch and a water bottle. This year we will have co-directors of Extended Care: Mr. Chapman Brown cbrown@stjosdevine.com and Ms. Elizabeth Comer ecomer@stjosdevine.com

Friday, August 19th: There will be no morning recess due to the 6th-grade leadership breakfast and prayer service. Parking for this event will be on the blacktop. Additionally, this will be a regular daily uniform day as there will be no school Mass.

Carpool: The school has made a few changes to carpool this year. **All students** will be dropped off at the start of the school day using the front carpool. Students in grades **4K; K, and 1st and their siblings** will be picked up at the end of the day using the front carpool line. **Students in grades 2 –6** will be picked up using the back carpool line. We are hoping that family carpool signs will be delivered on Monday. Please, until then place your family name on a piece of

paper and rubber band it onto the driver's side sun visor. This can be displayed by flipping the visor down while in the carpool line. Please review the attached Carpool Maps.

COVID Update: We are all learning to live with COVID and expect that we will have cases within the classroom this year. Below are some basic procedures:

1. Isolation applies to a positive Covid test. A positive test or onset of symptoms is day zero. Students or staff must isolate themselves at home through day five and can return to school on day six. Students or staff must wear a mask on days 6-10.
2. Please notify the school office if your child tests positive.
3. The class/grade will be notified if there is a positive case in the classroom/grade so families can monitor symptoms within their children.
4. DHEC considers a situation an outbreak if 20% or more of the cohort is out with Covid within the past 72 hours. If this occurs, the school will consult with DHEC on the next steps.

Important Upcoming Dates: Below are some important events to be aware of in the coming days:

Thursday, August 18th: First **full day** of school. School hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Students must be in their classrooms when the 8:00 a.m. bell rings. Please respect our school hours and bring your child to school on time. Please also refrain from picking your child up early whenever possible. There will be Extended Care until 6:00 pm.

Back to School Night: The school will host Back to School Night **on Monday, August 22nd**. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. This evening is a wonderful chance to learn about your child's classroom and the many activities that will take place at Saint Joseph Catholic School. This is an adult-only event – there is no childcare provided.

CN Community Night: Join the Columbia Catholic school community at the 1st Cardinal Newman home football game on August 26th. Starting at 5:30 pm, there will be free fun and games and a hot dog dinner for all Columbia Catholic school students before the game. Additionally, all Columbia Catholic school students will get a free CN t-shirt and get into the game for free. Please see the attached flyer.

Cardinal Club: The Cardinal Club will be hosting a Back to School Tailgate on the practice football field before the CN football game on August 26th – see the attached flyer and use the link to purchase tickets to the BBQ
https://athletics.cnhs.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=2017712&type=d&pREC_ID=2101651

Fall Food Truck Friday: The PTO will host a Food Truck social event **on Friday, September 9th**. Please mark your calendars and make plans to join the school community on Friday, September 9th, 2022.

Handbook: The Parent/Student Handbook is attached and will be posted on the school webpage under Current Families as well as on FACTS Family Portal under Resources. A hard copy will not be sent home. Please take the time to read and review the handbook with your children. On the last page of the handbook is the handbook agreement form. This form must be signed and returned to your child's homeroom teacher by Monday, August 29th.

JR Cardinal Club: The CN Cardinal Club is excited to extend a JR membership to all Elementary Feeder School Students, Staff, and Families. For \$100.00 you will receive a family sports pass to all CN home sporting events and support CN athletics. Jr Membership is only available to elementary school families who do not have a child at CN. See the attached flyer for more information on how to become a member of the JR Cardinal Club.

Thank you for your support of Saint Joseph Catholic School, and we look forward to a wonderful year.

It is the little things we do that show how God is in us, with us, and working through us - *"Serve one another with the gifts you have received."*

Sincerely,

Donavan F. Yarnall, Ed. S

Principal

dyarnall@stjosdevine.com