



St. Joseph Elementary School

July 9, 2019

Dear St. Joseph Families:

I hope your summer has allowed you to slow down and you and your family to reconnect with time for new discoveries and adventures. I am privileged, blessed and overjoyed to be your school principal. I am so excited to learn from and work with the amazing teachers, staff and family community at St. Joseph Catholic School.

I come to you from St. Paul School as an eight-year principal. I have enjoyed teaching high school for eight-years prior. I hold a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, a Teaching and Administrative credential in Equality and Social Justice, and extensive training in Professional learning communities, Explicit Direct Instruction, Blended Learning, Special Education and academy leadership. Teaching was my childhood dream, but before I acted on that dream, I worked in the corporate world as a salesperson and owned a dimensional graphic business with my husband for twelve years. I have attended Catholic School all of my life including St. Mary's College where I received my B.A in Philosophy and Art, my teaching credential and Master degree in Education.

I have been married 33 years to my high school sweetheart and have two wonderful boys. My oldest Alex just graduated with a Master degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and working in Crisis Management and Sustainable Environments. My youngest Julian will be transferring to Long Beach State in August. I am blessed for their love and support. I have two bad kitties who recently joined the family. I love to cook and I am an artist in my spare time.

My philosophy as a leader is to advocate for the equitable, faith-filled education of the "Whole Child" with a variety of educational opportunities. I am a hard worker, creative problem-solver and hands-on leader open to new and innovative ideas for the sake of the academic and educational excellence of each child. I am inclusive and supportive of the talents and involvement of all stakeholders in and outside of the school and parish communities. I invite you to work in partnership with me and the staff to continue building a school with transformative ideas and pedagogy that serves every child holistically and with love.

During the month of July, I hope to meet with each and every staff member to listen and learn about the St. Joseph community. I will be asking the teachers to participate in a survey that will inspire a plan we will create together in August.

Your partnership is also extremely important to me. Therefore, I would like your opinions, thoughts and ideas moving into the next school year. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey by clicking on the survey below. If you are having trouble, just copy and paste it into your browser. If at all possible, please complete this survey by Friday, July 26th.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScxjClc0hJI4a34h9XKBNV6P0T40GOnZx6ZCC8b0A4AwNZ6dg/viewform>

I will be in the office Monday through Thursday from 9am to 2pm during the summer. I will be gone Monday July 15th through 19th as my husband and I are bringing my youngest to orientation at Long Beach State. If you are in the area, please stop in to say hello and check out the gym! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to phone the school or e-mail me (nlenz-acuna@csdo.org) at any time. My door is always open.

Really Important Information:

1. Parents, you will receive the next email/text (SchoolMessenger) reminder the first week of August advising you to check our website for important information such as our updated Family handbook, classroom supply lists, community events and new opportunities that will begin our year.
2. In order to receive these messages parents and staff will need to opt-in to receiving automated calls and texts from SchoolMessenger by texting "Y" or "yes" to 68453. To opt-out, text STOP to 68453. *We will be using this Free system this year as our Emergency contact and main communication from me – the principal.*
3. As a reminder all paperwork including the signed handbook agreement, signed tuition agreements, documentation of current physicals/TB tests/TDAP, etc. must be in the office no later than close of business – 3:30pm on Mon. August 12th.
4. **2019-2020 Important Dates information:**
 - **Saturday, July 20th:** Classic Design Uniforms comes to St. Joseph School from 9am to Noon
 - **Saturday, August 10th:** Information and Welcome meeting for 1st grade families from Noon to 1:00pm
 - **Saturday, August 17th:** Information and Welcome meeting for TK families from 1:00 to 2pm and Kindergarten families from 2:00 to 3:00pm
 - **Monday, August 19th: 1st Day of School in full uniform** – 10:30am dismissal for everyone
 - **PTG Meeting at 8:30am**, Welcome coffee & treats
 - **Tuesday, August 20th:** Noon dismissal - TK through Kindergarten only – Extended Care available
 - **Tuesday, August 27th: Back to School Night at 6:30pm, Grades 6-8**
 - **Thursday, August 29th: Back to School Night at 6:30pm, Grades TK-5**

Peace and with Humble Gratitude,

Natalie Lenz-Acuña, Principal
nlenz-acuna@cndo.org