



St. Joseph Catholic School

August 1, 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. As this carefree time is coming to an end, I am excited to bring you up-to-date on what we have been doing to ready the school and our staff for the new school year. I am privileged, blessed and overjoyed to be your school Principal and excited to learn from and work with the amazing teachers, staff and family community at St. Joseph Catholic School.

The following is an update as to what has been going on during the summer at the school. The school gym is coming along. We anticipate the logo being painted in the center of the courts this week. After that, three coats of varnish will be applied. The walls will have a fresh coat of paint and finally the bleachers installed. We are saying extra prayers that this all will be done prior to when school begins. I promise to keep you updated.

We have made several repairs and upgrades to the facilities this summer. The gutters have been cleaned and repaired on both buildings. The bathrooms have been painted and the stairs on the Tiger's Den Extended Care building are being replaced. We have also chosen to declutter the gym by building a storage facility for the tables at the back of the main building. I hope it can be decorated with a mural painted by the students during the year.

We will be bringing an Art teacher back to St. Joseph School as part of our vow to educate the "Whole Child". Students will receive an art period taught by a teacher with a B.A. in Art with the help of professional art curriculum. The combination will teach our students about art history, techniques, use of materials promoting creativity and the skill in "How to See"!

In addition to welcoming an Art teacher, we have hired a Reading specialist/Academic Coach that will assist Grades Kindergarten thru 3rd Grades each day, and further assist students who are identified that need more help in reading comprehension and writing. She will be working with us 3 days a week. I will be working with her and students who are working below learning expectations and those students who need a Student Success Team (SST) implemented.

During the month of July, I have met with staff to listen and learn about the St. Joseph community. I use this information, as well as the survey I have asked parents to complete to inspire a plan we will create together in August. This year, I am holding a **State of the School Town Hall meeting scheduled for Friday, August 23rd at 6:30pm**. An Ice Cream Social will follow! The meeting will report and discuss the findings based on the parent survey. It is very important that you take a few moments to complete it. As of today only 36 parents have. I value your input, but I need your input.

Want to welcome 4 new teachers to our TK through 3rd Grades. They are exceptional to their craft. They have been working all summer to prepare their rooms and lessons for a stellar academic and enjoyable year. You will be able to check out their webpages for more information about them and their class philosophy.

This year, the teachers will be communicating via text with parents on an app named Class Dojo. Shortly after the beginning of school, each teacher will send you an invitation to use the application. The teachers will be able to send parents quick notes, photos and videos that day. Teachers will be able to send quick reminders and immediate personal contacts about your child if necessary. It is a great tool that I know you will grow to count on.

This year, **we are changing the Tiger's Den Extended Care billing options** with the hopes of it becoming easier, less complicated and more reasonable in cost for parents. We will not ask you to submit a calendar each month, but choose to enroll in the 3, 4, or 5-day option for a considerable reduction in the hourly rate. This rate will be charged every month (including August, November, December and June) for the entire school year. You will be able to add to the days per week your child(ren) will attend, but not decrease your commitment. If you do not register by the first Friday of the school year – a \$50 Registration fee, you will be charged \$6.50 for all hours used at Extended Care for the rest of the school year. The informational flier and Application/Registration form is included in this mailing and will be put up on the school's website.

The committee has been working hard on our Walk-a-thon – obstacle course event. It is the first fundraiser of the year. This year it is moved to Friday, September 13th. Please look for kick off and pledge information in the newsletter that will be sent out the week of August 12th.



Our Spring 2020 Musical is

We will hold auditions on September 3rd so that we can begin our rehearsals on September 9th. If your child is interested in joining the production as either a cast member or a stagehand (5th - 8th Grade), please read the [production information sheet first](#) and then complete the [online registration form linked here](#). Paper forms will also be available in the school office once school starts. Students with a completed registration will have a part in the show. Auditions are only required for those interested in named roles. Registration is due by August 30, 2019. Any questions? Find more information on our [website](#) or contact [Mrs. Salinas](#). You may access the online registration form here: <https://forms.gle/B4bH1TsMUruuiMkv7>.

Really Important Information:

- 1. Extended care streamlined – have the option of choosing extended care hours that will fit your family's need. The registration deadline for the year is August 23rd - the first Friday of the school year.**
2. Parents, you will receive the next email via Constant Contact on August 5th as a reminder of all you need to know for the first week of school. Please check your email.
3. I want to encourage the parent community to participate in the masses. Please come to the training session for Eucharistic Ministers on Thursday, August 1st at 7pm or Saturday, August 3 at 11am. This year, you will receive Parent Volunteer Hours for volunteering in several capacities during mass. Details will be explained soon.
4. In order to receive emergency messages via text - 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 some communication.*
5. 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 – 4:00pm on Mon. August 12th.
6. If you missed the Classic Design Uniform sale, you can still purchase uniforms and uniform pieces at [\(415\) 661-4700](tel:4156614700) or www.eclassicdesigns.com. Your purchases will be sent directly to the school at no cost to you.

7. Don't forget to take advantage of the incredible back to school supply sales. Locate and download your class supply list from your teacher's page.

2019-2020 Important Dates information:



- Tuesday, August 6th: National Night Out** at Fernandez Park from 6 to 8pm. Come find our booth at space 20. From 7 to 10pm., residents in Pinole and around the nation are asked to turn on outside lights, lock their doors, and spend the evening outside with neighbors and public safety representatives.
- **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 8:15am in the gym – all are encouraged to attend
Buddy Family.....Welcome for new families at meeting with support and light breakfast
 - **Tuesday, August 20th thru 23rd:** Noon dismissal - TK through Kindergarten only – Extended Care available. **Sign up for the Tiger's Den Extended Care. Registration is due in order to receive the monthly rate and least expensive hourly options.**
 - **Friday, August 23rd: State of the School Town Hall Meeting** (reporting on survey – all school discussion) 6:30pm in the quad – (Parents only)
 - **Sunday, August 25th:** New Family Breakfast from 9:00 to 11am
 - **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**

Lastly, your partnership is extremely important to me. Therefore, I would like your opinions, thoughts and ideas moving into the next school year. **So please take a few minutes to complete this survey by clicking on the survey link below.** If you have not already, please complete this survey by Friday, August 16th. If you are having trouble, just copy and paste the link into your browser:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScxjClc0hJI4a34h9XKBNV6POT40GOnZx6ZCC8b0A4AwNZ6dg/viewform>

This year I will communicate the happenings of the week and upcoming events for the month **with a weekly a newsletter that will be emailed to you via Constant Contact on Mondays.** They will be stored on the school website for your reference. Fliers will also be posted that way. The family envelope will be sent home on Monday's as well. Please empty, sign the cover sheet and return on Tuesday. You may send any correspondence to the office in this envelope. I will also be creating a parent education section where you will find parenting, social emotional development and schooling references. Stay tuned.

Don't forget to **merge the St. Joseph website calendar to your phone.** You will be able to instantly look up and check all events pertaining to the school including school activities, church, CYO and class field trips.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to phone the school or e-mail me at any time. My door is always open.

Peace and with Humble Gratitude,

Natalie Lenz-Acuña, Principal
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