



August 22, 2019

Dear Parents and Families:

“Clear and cool means back to school.” I hope you are still enjoying what is left of this beautiful summer, though I’m not sure that saying applies on this hot and steamy August afternoon. I am looking forward to those clear and cool autumn days and I look forward to meeting you and your children in the months ahead. Our enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year is very healthy and I believe that is due to the high quality instruction from our faculty, and the outstanding achievement of our students. We can all be thankful for that.

On the enrollment front, I wanted to let all of you know that we continue to offer a \$250.00 tuition credit to any enrolled family who refers a new student to our school. If that student successfully completes the school year in its entirety, a \$250.00 credit will be issued for the next school year. Let's hope more families will continue to look at **Catholic Education** in the future as the best alternative for their children's education and welfare. After all, students who attend Catholic Schools today reap the benefits of a Catholic education, from whatever background, culture or religion they come from. Our Catholic Schools today provide students with a sense of **Community**-a true spirit of belonging to a community life that is united in close bonds of friendship, faith and mutual respect for one another.

### CHANGES & MOVES

If you hadn't heard by now, **Mrs. Scaramuzzo** has decided to take a job at another school to be closer to her children. I ask that our entire community pray for her and wish her a very successful year. “**Thank You for all of your contributions Mrs. Scaramuzzo!**” Replacing Mrs. Scaramuzzo as the middle school social studies teacher is our very own **Ms. DeMarco**. Ms. DeMarco has extensive experience as a high school social studies teacher in Cumberland. I believe we are blessed to have Ms. DeMarco in this new position, and know that she will serve our students well.

Replacing Ms. DeMarco as our middle school creative writing/literature teacher will be **Mrs. Candace McCall**. Mrs. McCall is a fully certified educator and earned the highest praise from her most recent principal at Classical High School in Providence. Mrs. McCall enjoyed a 30 year career as an English Language Arts & Social Studies teacher at Classical High School and attended Tufts University as a Teaching Fellow from 2006 to 2009. I’m extremely confident that her extensive experience will be a great benefit to our students.

**Middle School Lockers:** Parents of students entering grade 6, 7, and 8: Please be sure to send your student to school with a combination lock on the first day of school. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **SCHOOL DAY BEGINS AT 8:15**

Our school day begins at 8:15AM. Students can arrive as early 8:00AM. Students arriving earlier than 8:00AM will be directed to Daycare and billed for a minimum of ½-hour=(\$3.00). For new families, as well as a reminder to everyone, please remember the school day ends at 2:30PM for all grades. **Please make sure to pick-up your child by 2:40PM. All students remaining in line after 2:40PM will be admitted to daycare. Thank you for your cooperation!**

## **Student Handbook**

Most of you should have reviewed the Blessed Sacrament Student Handbook last year on our website, [www.blessedschoolpvd.com](http://www.blessedschoolpvd.com). There have been some new additions/revisions to the Student Handbook so please be on the lookout for it on our website. Both parents and students must sign off on the Handbook highlights form, which was included in your registration paperwork. Please be aware that the Student Handbook is enforced throughout the year.

**Cell Phones:** We have all read, with great sadness, about the poor performance of public schools in Rhode Island. From the lack of discipline, to the extremely low test scores, the news could not be much worse in the public schools. In fact, on the latest standardized assessments taken by Providence students, only 20% scored proficient in math, and only 10% were proficient in the English Language Arts. Many teachers and administrators have cited cell phones as the single biggest factor in student distraction and poor performance. The fact of the matter is that many of today's data plans attached to the student's phones give them access to everything the internet has to offer; both good and bad. Elementary and middle school students are simply too young to process everything the internet has to offer, so please consider establishing clear and consistent rules concerning your students cell phone use, and please remember, cell phone use during the school day is prohibited.

**Students should be in summer gym uniforms for the first two weeks of school.** The uniform requirements are clearly stated in the Student Handbook; please do not make any substitutions. **Please be aware, our uniform policy will be strictly enforced this year.**

## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

### **Lunch Program**

**Sodexo** will continue to provide the National School Lunch Program in the year ahead. If you wish to utilize this service, please make sure to keep your account current. It will help us make the program run smoothly. Many families may qualify for free or reduced price lunch and breakfast. **Please be sure to return the completed application during the first week of school.** Students who have not returned their applications will be charged full price for breakfast and lunch. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Breakfast = \$2.00 (\$0.30 Reduced)**

**Lunch = \$3.50 (\$0.40 Reduced)**

**Ice cream** will be available for \$1.00

### **Emergency Care Cards-Most Important for All Students!**

New Emergency Care cards will be sent home on the first day of school. Please complete and **return them ASAP-especially if you plan to have your child in our daycare program, which will begin on Thursday, August 29th.** *Please make certain to supply us with a current e-mail address on this card.* This will be of great assistance to us in our efforts to “go green”, and to help us keep you informed in a more timely fashion.

### **School Bus Transportation**

First Student provides bus transportation for Providence residents. Mrs. Fioravanti will mail all bus students their bus passes by the first day of school. Please make sure your student has his or her bus pass with them on the first day. Bus drivers are required to collect that pass in order to transport your student. If you live outside of Providence, it is your responsibility to contact your local bus company to arrange transportation to Blessed Sacrament.

### **Daycare Program**

Our Daycare Program is offered every day from 7:00AM-8:00AM and 2:30-5:30PM. All students from Blessed Sacrament are eligible to attend. Please remember, **you will be billed weekly.** If payment is 30 days in arrears, your child will not be able to continue the program.

The cost of this program will be **\$6.00 per hour.** This program offers snacks, supervised homework/study, and play. **The After-School Program begins on Thursday, August 29th as long as you have provided the necessary paperwork.**

### **Morning Care Program**

We will offer once again the opportunity for parents to drop off their child before school begins at 8:00AM. From **7:00-8:00AM** parents can drop off their child to be escorted to our pre-k room where Mrs. Cole will be to greet and watch over them. **The price for this program is \$6.00 per hour** (*Mrs. Cole has volunteered once again to be here at school earlier than usual*).

### **The School Day**

Students who arrive before 8:15AM will wait in the school yard or classrooms (bad weather). We **do not have staff coverage before 8:00AM**, so for the safety of your child, please do not arrive before that time unless your child will be in the morning daycare program. Students will be escorted to their lockers and classrooms for Morning Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance at 8:15AM. Students who arrive after 8:25AM should report to the secretary's office to sign in so as not to be marked absent. Students are expected to be on time. **Habitual tardiness will be brought to the attention of the parents by the principal** (*Please see Student/Parent Handbook on this issue*). Poor attendance and tardiness directly affect a child's success in numerous ways; emotionally as well as scholastically. If your child will be absent, please call the school (401-831-3993) to let us know.

Enjoy what is left of summer! I hope you will join me in looking forward to a great year ahead. See you on either **Thursday August 29th (Middle School), or Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup> (Preschool through grade 5)** for the **1st day of school.** All students will report on Tuesday, September 3rd.

*Mr. Weber*

**PS: We will be looking for some parent volunteers throughout the year. Please see Mrs. Fioravanti if you can assist us.**