



St. Gregory the Great Academy

A Ministry of the Church of St. Gregory the Great

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The Rev. Michael T. McClane, Administrator

Dr. Jason C. Briggs, Principal

Mrs. Michele L. Rivera, Assistant Principal

August 23, 2019

Dear St. Gregory the Great Academy Families,

Peace be with you! It is difficult to believe that the festive sounds of the Carnival have already been silent for two months now, and that summer has marched by at a swift pace. This has been one of the warmest summers that I remember. I hope that this summer season has brought you refreshment, joy, and a welcomed change of pace for several weeks. We have had a busy summer here at school, and I am grateful to everyone who worked this summer to prepare our school for a successful opening. I am eagerly anticipating the opening of school this year in a few short days, as I am anxious to begin the important work of education that God has called us to. As I have mentioned many times in the past, when I see our students walk through our doors each day, I often wonder what it is that they are dreaming about for the future. It is impossible for me to walk through the hallways these days and see the shiny floors, stacks of books, piles of new supplies, and desks set up for each student and not be filled with anticipation about the new school year. Still even more exciting than these physical things is the knowledge that in a week's time the rooms will be filled with students! The quiet and change of pace which come with summer are nice for a time; however, by the middle of August it starts to seem way too quiet around here! As the night music of the crickets and cicadas reaches its zenith during these late August evenings, I anxiously await the first day of school.

These days are challenging ones for our students, for you, and our society as a whole. During these past few months, we have lived in a world that has brought to the forefront the realities of violence, intolerance, and hurt. People have been victimized while conducting their ordinary everyday activities. Our Church continues to deal with the realities of unspeakable and criminal sinfulness, and woefully inadequate responses by some of those in authority. One does not need to be a direct victim of one of these evils to be affected by them. When our parents sent us off to elementary school each day, these were not considerations which were in their minds, and such things were certainly not in our minds. It is very easy to feel helpless in light of these issues, yet Pope St. John Paul II reminds us,

"Remember that you are never alone, Christ is with you on your journey every day of your lives! He has called you and chosen you to live in the freedom of the children of God. Turn to Him in prayer and in love. Ask Him to grant you the courage and strength to live in this freedom always. Walk with Him who is 'the Way, the Truth and the Life.'"

In light of a world that needs to increase the listening and decrease the noise making, this year's theme, "**St. Gregory the Great Academy Fits Together in God's Plan**" takes on even more significance when viewed through a global lens. It is not simply by random chance that we are all called to this place; God has put into motion His plan for us to work in partnership. Much like the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, we are each very different. Some of us are edge pieces, which help shape the picture. Others of us are middle pieces, which bring color and excitement to the picture. A couple of us are the corner pieces, which anchor the picture. Still,

some of us are one of those pieces that looks like it does not even belong in the puzzle – yet it does. We each have a part. Each of our students has a part. How will each of these parts fit together this year?

During the summer, we bid farewell to some staff members. Mrs. Cloe McGilberry has decided to move on to a new position in the Manville School District, and we wish her the best as she begins this new position. Mrs. Michelle Klama has made the decision to step away from the classroom for a while and will be focusing all of her attention on the vocation of motherhood. In terms of Assistants, Mrs. Carolyn Kokotajlo and Mrs. Maryann Crawford will not be returning for this school year. Also, quite recently Mrs. Kristin Bricker informed me that she will be unable to return as our school counselor. We send each of these individuals forth with our best wishes, and we are grateful for their time at St. Gregory the Great Academy.

While we will miss those staff members who will not be returning this year, I am grateful to welcome our newest "pieces of the puzzle." We welcome Mrs. Maria Lushbaugh as our new 6B Teacher. Mrs. Lushbaugh is certainly no stranger to our school, as her three children have been students here for many years and she has also been a frequent substitute teacher for us. She earned her BS from Virginia Tech, and previously taught at St. John Vianney High School in Holmdel. Mrs. Lushbaugh will be teaching 5th and 6th Grade Math as well as 7th Grade Religion. Mr. Robert Zagari is our new 7B teacher, and also comes to us after teaching experiences which include Social Studies teacher in the Linden School District and middle school Math teacher at Assumption Catholic School in Perth Amboy. He earned his BS at Rutgers University. Mr. Zagari will be teaching 5th and 7th Grade Math along with 7th Grade Social Studies. We offer a warm welcome to our new 1A Teacher, Miss Sloane Lobell. She earned her BA from Rowan University and comes to us after a few years teaching at Marlboro Preparatory Academy. Miss Lobell worked with primary grade students in her most recent position and has also worked with students in various grade levels in other support positions. We are also very happy to welcome the new assistants that will be working with our preschool students this year, namely Mrs. Maria Bevins, Mrs. Lorraine Haas, and Mrs. McKenna Hoover. Finally, we will welcome Mrs. Lisamarie Vannozzi as our Interim Academy Counselor in the near future. Mrs. Vannozzi will be spending the first few weeks getting to know our students, and will be sharing more about herself as September progresses.

Additionally, some returning faculty members have new assignments for this coming school year. Mrs. Kara DeBonis has moved down the hallway to 2A and Mrs. Tracey Mularadelis has moved into the hallway in 4A. Mrs. Kelly O'Keefe has moved north to 6A and Mrs. Katie Wilson has moved south to 8A. Mrs. Kara Valentino moved across the hall to assist in 2B, as well as the Bio Lab once per week. Mrs. Helena Sharpley has moved up to the second floor to assist in 2A, but will still work with Preschool 3 once per week. Mrs. Tracy O'Neill will now be with us full-time as an Administrative Assistant in the Main Office, while continuing her role as EDP Coordinator.

Our maintenance crew will also look a bit different this year. Mr. Jesse Burnett, who has been assisting us since Mr. Raynor retired, will conclude his time with us on August 30th and will be reporting for duty in the United States Marine Corps later in the fall. Joining the team is Mr. Nicholas Vitoritt, who begins his full-time position on September 3rd. Both of these gentlemen, along with Mr. Bonifazi, Mr. Archila, and Mr. Cavallaro, have been busy here all summer. The largest project of the summer, which is still ongoing and hopefully wrapping up soon, is the roof replacement on the school and parish center. I am happy to report that the days of indoor rain should be in the past. The parish solar panel project is underway, and will likely continue into the fall. This project will install a photovoltaic system on the school and parish center, which will be used to power the campus. Simultaneously, hard work was taking place on the inside as well. Classroom 4B was next in line for window replacement, which occurred over the summer. A new camera surveillance system was installed, which expands the quality and coverage of the system, both interior and exterior, of the school and parish center buildings. This upgrade was funded with New Jersey Nonpublic Security funds. Perhaps most noticeable for the students will be the new Sensory Walks which are installed in A Hall and B Hall. If you have not taken a

look at these yet, be sure to take a walk around the building on Back to School Night and take a look. The Sensory Walks were funded with IDEA funds. You will also notice that the men's room across from the cafeteria was NOT renovated this summer, as planned. The reason for this is that the cafeteria air conditioning system experienced a major failure at the end of June, and the cost of repair is approaching \$10,000.00. While the "Raise Your Hand" event at the Gala raised a good portion of the funds needed for this project, it did not fully cover the cost. As a result of the unexpected expense to repair the cafeteria system, the men's room renovation will need to be deferred until next summer. Finally, the exterior doors at the end of the hallway near the soccer field in the parish center have been replaced, as the old doors experienced a structural failure which caused them to not lock properly. They are now likely the strongest doors on the entire campus!

2019-2020 CLERGY, ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY, AND STAFF

Rev. Michael T. McClane	Pastor		Started at SGGA 2014
<i>B.A., Princeton University; S.T.B., Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome; J.C.L., The Catholic University of America</i>			
Rev. Al Gamalo	Parochial Vicar		Started at SGGA 2016
<i>A.B., The Nativity of Our Lady College Seminary, Borongan, Philippines; S.T.B., St. Mary's Seminary and University; M.Div., St. Mary's Seminary and University</i>			
Rev. Marcin Kania	Parochial Vicar		Started at SGGA 2018
<i>B.A., St. Charles Seminary; M.Div, St. Charles Seminary; S.T.M., St. Charles Seminary;</i>			
Dr. Jason C. Briggs	Principal	Latin 7 & 8	Started at SGGA 2005
<i>B.A., Caldwell College; M.A., Caldwell College; M.A., Georgian Court University; Ed.D., Neumann University</i>			
Mrs. Michele Rivera	Assistant Principal	Social Studies 8	Started at SGGA 2005
<i>B.S., Elizabethtown College; M.Ed. The College of New Jersey</i>			
Mrs. Lisamarie Vannozzi	Interim Academy Counselor		Started at SGGA 2019
<i>B.Psy., College of Staten Island; M.S., Touro College</i>			
Mrs. Mary Lynn Adams	Academy Administrative Assistant		Started at SGGA 2000
Mrs. Tracy O'Neill	Academy Administrative Assistant/EDP Coordinator		Started at SGGA 2009
Ofc. James Vardanega	Security Officer		Started at SGGA 2018
Mrs. Johnna Stinemire	Academy Nurse		Started at SGGA 2018
<i>B.A., Monmouth University</i>			
Mrs. Regina Ratzlaff	Director of Services; ELA Lab B Teacher		Started at SGGA 1998
<i>B.S., Trenton State College; M.Ed., The College of New Jersey</i>			
Mrs. Cheryl Kobren	Pre3 Blue		Started at SGGA 1998
<i>C.D.A., National Credentialing Program</i>			
Ms. Maureen Smitley	Pre3 White		Started at SGGA 1983
<i>B.A., Trenton State College; M.A., Trenton State College</i>			
Mrs. Cathleen Sunshine	Pre4 Blue		Started at SGGA 2003
<i>A.A., Mercer County Community College</i>			
Mrs. Katherine Larason '03	Pre4 White		Started at SGGA 2015
<i>B.F.A., The College of New Jersey</i>			
Miss Kathleen Holub	KA	Essentially Self-Contained	Started at SGGA 2000
<i>B.S., Trenton State College</i>			
Mrs. Nancy Darrah	KB	Essentially Self-Contained	Started at SGGA 2007
<i>B.A., Rider University</i>			
Miss Sloane Lobell	1A	Essentially Self-Contained	Started at SGGA 2019
<i>B.A., Rowan University</i>			
Miss Alyssa Donahue	1B	Essentially Self-Contained	Started at SGGA 2016
<i>B.A., William Patterson University</i>			

Mrs. Kara DeBonis <i>B.A., Holy Family University</i>	2A	Essentially Self-Contained	Started at SGGA 2018
Mrs. Julie Boles <i>B.S., Seton Hall University</i>	2B	Essentially Self-Contained	Started at SGGA 2017
Mrs. Annabelle Certo <i>B.A., Rutgers University</i>	3A	Religion 3; Math 3; Science 3; Social Studies 3	Started at SGGA 2018
Mrs. Dana Hoover <i>B.A., Gwynedd-Mercy University</i>	3B	Religion 3; Integrated Language Arts 3	Started at SGGA 2017
Mrs. Tracey Mularadelis <i>B.S., Trenton State College; M.A.T., The College of New Jersey</i>	4A	Math 4; Science 4; Social Studies 4	Started at SGGA 2009
Sister Natalie Panas, OSF <i>B.A., Neumann College; M.Ed., Boston University; M.A., Georgian Court University</i>	4B	Religion 4; Integrated Language Arts 4	Started at SGGA 1983
Mrs. Jennifer Gallagher '02 <i>B.A., Neumann University, M.A. St. Joseph's University</i>	5A	Religion 5; Science 5 & 6	Started at SGGA 2010
Mrs. Elizabeth Mills <i>B.A., Providence College; M.S., University of London; M.P.A., Rutgers University</i>	5B	Religion 5 & 6; ILA 5 & 6; Math 6	Started at SGGA 2010
Mrs. Kelly O'Keefe <i>B.S., St. John's University; M.S., St. John's University</i>	6A	ILA 5 & 6	Started at SGGA 2012
Mrs. Maria Lushbaugh <i>B.S., Virginia Tech</i>	6B	Religion 7; Math 5 & 6	Started at SGGA 2019
Mrs. Christina Ely '00 <i>B.A., The College of New Jersey</i>	7A	Math 7 & 8	Started at SGGA 2013
Mr. Robert Zagari <i>B.S., Rutgers University</i>	7B	Math 5 & 7; Social Studies 7	Started at SGGA 2019
Mrs. Kathleen Wilson '93 <i>B.A., Rider University</i>	8A	ILA 7 & 8	Started at SGGA 2015
Mrs. Brittany DiGregorio <i>B.A., Richard Stockton College</i>	8B	Religion 8; ILA 7; Math 6 & 8	Started at SGGA 2014
Mrs. Jennifer Biele <i>B.A., Belmont Abbey College</i>	Science 7 & 8, STEM 6		Started at SGGA 2018
Mrs. Christine Fuccello <i>B.S., Trenton State College; M.Ed., Trenton State College</i>	Physical Education P3-8		Started at SGGA 2005
Mrs. Susann Leidemer <i>B.A., James Madison University</i>	Art P3-8		Started at SGGA 1994
Sister Barbara Furst, OSF <i>B.S. The College of New Jersey; M.E., The College of New Jersey; M.A., Georgian Court University</i>	Library K-4		Started at SGGA 2013
Mrs. Kristin Bergin <i>B.A., Trenton State College; M.A., Trenton State College</i>	Music P3-8		Started at SGGA 2013
Mrs. DiAnne Trail <i>B.A., Bethany College</i>	STEM K-6		Started at SGGA 1987
Mrs. Karen Stives '87 <i>B.S., Wesley College</i>	STEM K-6		Started at SGGA 1998
Mrs. Loretta Palmieri <i>B.A., State Univ. of Oneonta; M.S., C.W. Post College</i>	Spanish P3-8		Started at SGGA 2001
Mrs. Kari Huang <i>B.A., Adelphi University</i>	Mandarin Chinese 5 & 6		Started at SGGA 2017
Ms. Eileen Amato <i>B.S., Trenton State College; M.Ed., Trenton State College</i>	American Sign Language 3 & 4		Started at SGGA 2018
Mrs. Elizabeth Sunkel '03 <i>B.S., University of Scranton</i>	ELA Lab B		Started at SGGA 2018
Mrs. Amy Parrotta <i>B.S., The College of New Jersey</i>	ELA Lab W; Math 7		Started at SGGA 2009

Mrs. Tracy Bailey '94 <i>B.A., The College of New Jersey</i>	Educational Assistant – Preschool 3	Started at SGGA 2015
Mrs. Donna O'Malley <i>B.A., Trenton State College</i>	Educational Assistant – Preschool 3	Started at SGGA 2018
Mrs. McKenna Hoover <i>B.A., Rutgers University</i>	Educational Assistant – Preschool 3 & 4	Started at SGGA 2019
Mrs. Tanya Beckman <i>B.A., Siena College</i>	Educational Assistant – Preschool 4	Started at SGGA 2016
Mrs. Jeannine Furman <i>B.A., Trenton State College</i>	Educational Assistant – Preschool 4	Started at SGGA 2016
Mrs. Lorraine Haas <i>B.A., Rider University</i>	Educational Assistant – Preschool 4	Started at SGGA 2019
Mrs. Tracy Morelli <i>B.S., Villanova University</i>	Educational Assistant – Preschool 4	Started at SGGA 2019
Mrs. Sarah Zebrowski <i>A.A.S., Delaware Technical Community College</i>	Educational Assistant – Preschool 4	Started at SGGA 2018
Mrs. Maria Bevins <i>Mercer County College</i>	Educational Assistant – Preschool 4	Started at SGGA 2019
Mrs. Mary Lou Chopan	Preschool Morning Assistant	Started at SGGA 1998
Mrs. Nadine Cleveland <i>B.B.A., Anna Maria College</i>	Educational Assistant – Grade KA	Started at SGGA 2017
Mrs. Jean Margadonna <i>A.A., Blue Hills Regional Technical Institute</i>	Educational Assistant – Grade KB	Started at SGGA 2012
Mrs. Katherine Hughes <i>A.A., Brookdale College</i>	Educational Assistant – Grade 1A	Started at SGGA 2014
Mrs. Allison Maffia <i>A.A., Mercer County Community College</i>	Educational Assistant – Grade 1B	Started at SGGA 2016
Mrs. Helena Sharpley	Educational Assistant – Grade 2A	Started at SGGA 2018
Mrs. Kara Valentino <i>Ocean County College</i>	Educational Assistant – Grade 2B	Started at SGGA 2014
Miss Nicole Seitz <i>B.A., Monmouth University</i>	Support Assistant	Started at SGGA 2017
Mrs. Robin Muccia <i>B.A., Farleigh Dickinson University</i>	Support Assistant	Started at SGGA 1981
Sr. Carolyn Houck, MPF	Director of Religious Education	
Sr. Domenica Troina, MPF	Religious Education Assistant	
Ms. Maureen Cozzi	Parish Business Manager	
Dr. John Shaddy	Director of Sacred Music	
Mrs. Susan Scibilia	Director of Communications	
Mrs. Patricia Seladi	Parish Business Office Staff	
Mrs. Donna Kalinoski	Parish Business Office Staff	
Mrs. Patricia Colamarino	Parish Scheduler/Secretary to the Pastor	
Mrs. Cathy Fisher	Parish Office Staff	
Mrs. Pat Carnevale	Parish Office Staff	
Mr. Jason Bonifazi	Maintenance Supervisor	
Mr. Rolando Archila	Maintenance	
Mr. Nicholas Vitoritt	Maintenance	
Mr. Cosmo Cavallaro	Groundskeeper	

List current as of 8-21-2019

II. SCHOOL HOURS

All K-8 students are to be in their classroom no later than 8:00 a.m. Morning supervision is provided at 7:15 a.m. K-8 Dismissal is at 2:30 p.m. except for half day sessions when it will be at 12:30 p.m. Full day and morning-only preschool students may be dropped off beginning at 7:30 a.m., and should be in their classrooms no later than 8:30 a.m. Morning-only preschool students dismiss at 11:30 a.m. at the Preschool Entrance. Full day preschool students dismiss at 3:00 p.m. at the Preschool Entrance.

A. **ARRIVAL - Car Arrival Procedure:** If you will be dropping off your K-8 child in the morning, please use the Mario Drive entrance and follow the arrows around to the doors on the side of the Parish Center (this is the same area that car riders are picked up at dismissal). We ask that you pull up and have the children get out of the car as quickly as possible. Students will walk on the sidewalk to the front doors of the Parish Center. For security reasons, the side doors to Ferrante Hall will not be open in the morning. If students need to get backpacks out of the trunk, please park the car. Some parents may wish to park in the area lot and walk the students into the building. This is fine, however, you are asked not to linger inside the building. You may drop off the children between 7:20am and 7:55am. There is adult supervision during this time. After 7:55am please drop children off at the main entrance to the school where they will be directed to their classrooms. Students who are not in their classrooms at 8:05 am are considered tardy and must go to the Main Office for a late pass. Preschool children should be brought to the Preschool Entrance behind the Academy building; please follow the signs and the directions of the staff to the Preschool Entrance. Preschool parents should exit the back parking lot via the same way they entered it and then follow the traffic signs in the front parking lot to exit.

REMEMBER, you must make a RIGHT turn when exiting the back parking lot into the front parking lot.

B. **DISMISSAL** – Teacher will bring the K-8 Car Rider line to Ferrante Hall after the bus lines have been dismissed. Students in the Grades K-8 car rider line will enter Ferrante Hall and will be seated by grade at the tables. Once the students are seated, parents will need to enter Ferrante Hall to pick up their K-8 children. This process ensures the SAFEST method for picking up our students. Please park your cars in the lot near the back of the Parish Center to wait for your child and then exit the lot by way of Mario Drive. Preschool students who have siblings in Grades K-8 may be signed into the Preschool Car Rider Line in the morning when they are dropped off. Preschoolers who are signed into the Preschool Car Rider Line will come over to Ferrante Hall in line after all the bus lines have been called so that parents with a preschooler and a K-8 student can pick up in one location. Only preschoolers with K-8 siblings in the Academy may be signed into the Preschool Car Rider Line; all other preschoolers must be picked up at the Preschool Entrance. Preschool EDP students will be brought to EDP at 3:00 p.m. The K-8 EDP Line will be called last, and will report to the Parish Center for EDP. **ALL DISMISSAL CHANGES WHICH MUST BE COMMUNICATED TO THE SCHOOL, AND THAT ARE FOR THE CURRENT DAY, MUST BE TELEPHONED TO THE MAIN OFFICE. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO EMAIL CHANGES OR TEXT CHANGES TO ANYONE, INCLUDING THE TEACHER OR THE OFFICE, AS THEY MAY NOT REACH THE CLASSROOM PRIOR TO DISMISSAL.** You must speak to an actual live person to request a "same day" change.

C. **Bus Transportation (K-8 only):** Due to public school regulations, students are only permitted to ride the bus to which they are assigned. Students **MAY NOT SWITCH BUSES** for any reason without prior permission from your **PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**, which is the contracting authority. The bus driver **CANNOT** give permission to switch buses, nor can the school.

D. **Walkers:** We have very few students who walk or ride bikes to school on a daily basis. Students who on occasion decide to walk home, to a friend's home, or to a nearby store **MUST HAVE A WRITTEN**

NOTE FROM THEIR PARENT (a phone call will not suffice, we must have a parent signature for our file). We simply want to be certain parents know of their child's plans.

III. OPENING MASS

We will have our traditional mass to open the school year on Friday, September 6, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. As always, all are welcome!

IV. STUDENT INSURANCE

All students in St. Gregory the Great Academy are covered during school hours and on school sponsored trips under the Diocesan plan. This is an "excess plan," and pays above what the child's primary insurance does not cover.

V. UNIFORMS

A. Shoe Policy: **All students in Grades 1-8 are required to wear black oxford type, Sperry or Mary Jane shoes.** The shoes are to be **BLACK** and **NON-SCUFF!** **Any shoe that is not entirely black or that is backless, healed, or clog-like is prohibited.** Sneakers are to be worn by students in Grades 1-8 on Physical Education Day. Kindergarten is to wear sneakers every day, since they are wearing the Physical Education uniform all five days each week. There is no uniform policy for Preschoolers; HOWEVER, please be sure that all preschoolers are wearing sturdy sneakers each day. Dress and decorative footwear is not safe to run around in each day.

B: Grades 5-8: **Remember that the knit/polo shirts are NOT an option in Grades 5-8 for summer or winter uniform.** For Grades 6-8 (NOT Grade 5), the blazer is an option for summer uniform (September, May, and June) and is mandatory **and must be worn EVERY DAY** (except for physical education day) when winter uniform begins on October 1, 2019. For Grade 5, the blazer is an OPTION at all times of the year.

C. **The summer uniform may be worn through Monday, September 30, 2019.** Please refer to the Family Handbook for the guidelines. Also, we will be strictly enforcing the uniform policy and will be depending on you to support us in our efforts to ensure that our students are well-groomed and in a uniform that is appropriate for a Catholic school setting. If you need to purchase uniforms, please visit our website for the link to Flynn and O'Hara uniform company. Remember that used uniforms are available through the school store at the price of \$3.00 per item. **Students who come to school out of uniform will be provided the appropriate attire to change into and the parents will be billed at the rate of \$5.00 per item, per occurrence.**

VI. NOTICES/CALENDARS

A 2019-2020 annual school calendar is posted on our website. Information and flyers that need to be distributed each week will be included in the weekly CHIRP which will be posted on the school website. The CHIRP will be posted under the "Publications" tab on the website each Friday in PDF format. Please be sure that your computer or device has the latest version of a PDF reader installed. If your email address has changed since you listed it on your PFP, please contact Mrs. O'Neill to update your email address at [3](#). This email address will be used to send you a reminder each week when the CHIRP is posted online, as well as for other school communication.

VII. LUNCH

CaféTerias, Inc. will continue to be our lunch service provider this year. Lunch will begin on Tuesday, September 4, 2019. A menu will be published each month. The lunch price will \$4.00 for the full meal. Preschool and Kindergarten parents are asked to look for the weekly order form in each week's CHIRP and to complete this form each week and send it into school if your son or daughter will be purchasing their lunch. **This year, we will be using an electronic portal for mandatory lunch duty sign up. This will ensure that lunch will operate smoothly. Please see the information in this packet under separate cover.**

VIII. SERVICE REQUIREMENT:

The service requirement for the 2019-2020 school year is 30 points. Please refer to your Parish Family Partnership and other information in this packet for further details. **Remember that at least 8 of these points must be earned through Bingo, Parish Gala and/or Carnival.**

IX. FUNDRAISING COMMITMENT

The total of the school rebates for all Scrip purchases must equal \$300.00. All families are asked to seriously consider purchasing tickets for the 2019 St. Gregory the Great Gala to be held on November 2, 2019. Gala tickets will cost \$125.00 each, and each ticket purchased will accrue \$50.00 toward the total \$300.00 fundraising commitment. Families who do not meet the \$300.00 fundraising commitment will need to pay the balance by June 1, 2020; families who exceed the \$300.00 fundraising commitment will receive a tuition voucher (credit/refund) equal to the excess amount over \$300.00 by June 30, 2020. (see separate instructions).

X. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Because of the increasing number of food allergies and sensitivities among our student body, it has become necessary to develop and enforce clear guidelines as to the types of "treats" that will be acceptable for birthday celebrations. **The ONLY acceptable FOOD items that will be permitted for classroom birthday celebrations are: pretzel nubs, fruit or vegetable trays, snack packages of pretzels, or snack packages of goldfish crackers.** Any parent in any grade who wishes to send a treat for the class for a child's birthday MUST contact the teacher at least 48 hours prior to make arrangements. The teachers have specific responsibilities they must carry out prior to distributing any food in the classroom. ANY OTHER TYPES OF TREATS (donut holes, cupcakes, candy, cakes, etc.) will NOT be distributed, and will be returned home.

XII. P.T.A.

First meeting date is Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria followed by Back-to-School Night for Preschool 3- Grade 4 at 7:30 p.m. A reception for all new school families will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, in the Music Room in the Academy – all new families are invited to come and be welcomed.

XIII. BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHTS

This year's Back-to-School Nights are scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, at 7:00 p.m. for Grades 5-8 and Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. for Preschool-Grade 4.

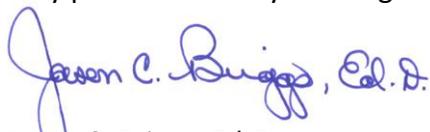
XIV. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Please be advised that St. Gregory the Great Academy operates under procedures outlined in our Crisis Manual. Information will always be shared with parents on a timely basis; however, please remember that necessary steps to contact emergency personnel and to secure students always takes priority over distributing information. Our crisis procedures are NOT public information, and are shared with the appropriate authorities. This includes plans for both securing the student body on campus and off campus. My primary method of communication is via email, and the emergency notification system is reserved for true emergencies and weather closings/delays. We will be using the School Messenger emergency notification system this year; please see the information in this packet under separate cover.

Again, I welcome each of you to a new school year. This is truly a blessed place to be! I am excited to begin the journey of the 2019-2020 school year with our teachers, parents, and most of all, our students! I look forward to the Academy's 55th first day of school.

A new school year brings promise, hope, and excitement. Mrs. Rivera and I look forward to our journey together this year with each of you. On behalf of Fr. McClane, the parish clergy and staff, and all of us at St. Gregory the Great Academy, welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! We are so glad that you are here!

May peace and every blessing be yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason C. Briggs, Ed.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Jason C. Briggs, Ed.D.
Principal