

SSJ School News

August 15, 2019 – Issue #2



— Saints Simon and Jude Mission Statement —

Through the Immaculate Heart of Mary we at Saints Simon and Jude School, commit ourselves to learning, proclaiming and living the Good News of Jesus Christ. We strive to educate and develop all for Catholic leadership in the church and community, enabling one another to serve with Compassion, Courage and Competence.

Letter from Sister Regina

Dear Parents and Guardians,

A new school year...a new beginning...a new opportunity to grow...is quickly approaching. I hope everyone had opportunities to rest, relax, and enjoy a change of pace. Whether you traveled afar or stayed close to home, I am sure you created some great memories.

In the name of our priests, faculty, and staff, I welcome back all the families whose children were enrolled in Saints Simon and Jude School last year and extend a sincere welcome to all whose children are just entering our school community for the first time. We join with you in providing a Christ-centered, value-oriented, academic learning environment for the children God has placed in our care.

At the beginning of each new calendar year, many people tend to set goals. As we begin a new school year, it is a great idea to set a goal for the school year. The goal could be academic, spiritual, behavioral, organizational, or social. Goals should be realistic and attainable. Periodically, throughout the year it is good to review the goal and note the progress attained. Goals are most easily achieved when the parent and child collaborate on the setting of the goal. When the goal becomes a habit then another goal can be added. Some goals are ongoing. One thing about our goal is that if we are sidetracked we can always renew our effort and get back on track.

Many of our teachers have had the opportunity to participate in workshops, graduate courses and professional reading throughout the summer months. They bring new ideas and much enthusiasm to our 2019-2020 school year. They also will set goals for the year.

The NCEA (National Catholic Education Association) Newsletter for Parents is available by clicking on this [link](#). Hope you will take the opportunity to read the brief article on "School, Supplies, Schedules and Sleep..." There are many good, practical ideas.

I look forward to a magnificent school year. I know our new families will feel very much "at home" in our wonderful Saints Simon and Jude School community.

I appreciate your continued support, cooperation, and all you do to make SSJ the outstanding, National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence that it is.

May God bless you and your family!

Sincerely,
Sister Regina

A Faculty Goodbye & CARES Retirement

- Since our July Newsletter, I have been notified by Miss Jessica Singley, 5th grade teacher that she is relocating and will not be returning for the 2019-2020 school year. We thank Miss Singley for all she has shared with our children. I know you join the faculty, staff and me in wishing her many blessings in her future endeavors.
- After 20 years of caring for our students in our CARES before and after school program, Mrs. Ellen McGuffin is retiring. Mrs. McGuffin wanted to let families know that she was honored to care for so many children and "my heart is full of wonderful memories that I will treasure always. Our SSJ family will forever be in my prayers." We wish Mrs. McGuffin many thanks and blessings.

Words of Welcome

Please join us in recognizing and welcoming our new faculty and staff members:

Grade 4, Room 4 – Miss Meghan Sullivan

Grade 5, Room 15 – Miss Meghan McCarthy

Art – Miss Kate Crowley

Technology – In process

Upcoming Events

- **Flocco's Shoes & SSJ Used Uniform Sale** – Sunday, August 18th from 9am-1pm in the Meehan Center. Please note, the uniform shoe list is as follows:
 - Preschool students wear sneakers of their choice
 - Grades K-5 wear tan or brown bucks
 - Grades 6-8 have the option to wear Sperry Billfish or Sperry Bluefish shoes
- **8th Grade Book Distribution** – Any member of the Class of 2020, who can help distribute books, is asked to come on Tuesday, August 27th, 9:30 am-12:30 pm. Helpers will enjoy a pizza lunch! Please e-mail Mrs. Dryfoos at jdryfoos@simonandjude.org if your eighth grader can come and note any food allergies. Thank you in advance!
- **Back to School Night** – Tuesday, September 3rd - Please note that Back to School Night is held on one night for grades K to 8. We try to be family friendly by having only one night out for parents. Please go directly to the classroom at the designated time:

6:30-7:00 pm – Grades K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

7:00-7:30 pm – Grades K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

The Teacher presentation for K, 1, 2,3,4,5 will be repeated. Therefore, you need to attend only one session.

7:30-8:30 pm – Middle School – Grades 6, 7, and 8

8:30 pm –8th Gr Parent Meeting – Monihan Hall

Middle School (grades 6, 7, 8) parents will report to Monihan Hall (cafeteria) at 7:30. There will be a brief overview. Each parent will receive a copy of your child's class roster. You will then follow your child's roster to visit each class and meet the teachers. Each period will last 7 minutes.

Mrs. Savarese will be in the St. Katharine Drexel Room from 6:30-8:30 to answer any questions about requirements for volunteers.

SAVE THE DATE!
Annual Home and School Association
Welcome Back Reception
Sunday, September 15th
Monihan Hall (school cafeteria) from 10-11:30 am



Join us for a pancake and waffle bar after the 9 am Mass or before the 11 am Mass while catching up with old friends and meeting new friends!

Back to School Paperwork to Be Returned

Please fill out these online forms on your computer, print, sign areas where a signature is required, and **return to school on your child's first day of school**. If you prefer to fill out the forms by hand, print and then do so. If you need a paper copy of all the forms, please email Maureen Conlon at mconlon@simonandjude.org and arrange for a pick up time at school.

(One per STUDENT) Forms

- **WCASD Emergency Medical Information Form** – [Click here to download PDF document](#)
This form is used for reference in the nurse's office.
- **Lunch Menu** – [Click here to download PDF document](#)
The hot lunch program (grades K-8) will begin on Monday, September 9 so **you MUST return your order form no later than Thursday, September 5. No exceptions can be made.** You will need to pack your child a lunch on September 4, 5, and 6. Milk will be sold for 50¢ and water for 25¢ beginning on September 4.

(One per FAMILY) Forms – [Click here to download PDF document](#)

- **Family/Parent Information Form** – This form is used for quick reference in the main office and also to create the School Directory. (School Directories will be sent home in October.) If you do not want your name, address, or phone number listed in the directory, contact Maureen Conlon at mconlon@simonandjude.org with the information you would like listed.
- **Photo/Media Release Form**
- **Responsible Use Policy for Technology Form** – Please read fully as you and your child in grades 3-8 sign. Preschool-grade 2 children do not need to sign. Parent signature will suffice.
- **Student/Parent Handbook Signature Form** – [Click here](#) to access the Saints Simon and Jude Student/Parent Handbook on the school website.
- **Memorandum of Understanding**
- **Homeroom Parent Volunteer Form**
- **Parent Volunteer General Assistance Form**
- **Pretzel Order Form** – If you wish your child (grades PreK-8) to receive a pretzel during morning snack for September and October please fill out the form and send in payment. Pretzels will begin on Monday, September 9 so **order forms MUST be returned no later than Thursday, September 5 (K-8) and Friday, September 6 (PreK). No exceptions can be made.**

Additional Important Back to School Information & Reminders

- This information can be found on the school website under “Summer Resources” by [clicking here](#).
 - **Yearly Calendar** – This two-sided calendar lists the school holidays, early dismissals, and events.
 - **September Calendar** – Please note items that involve your children. There are always changes as the year progresses, so be sure to refer to the updated monthly calendars that will be sent home with your child.
 - **Summer Reading List**
 - **School Supply List**
 - **CARES Before and After School Program** – CARES will be available starting the first full day, Wednesday, September 4. You can register for CARES on the school website by [clicking here](#). Please note, we cannot keep a child in CARES without a registration form.
 - **Information on Securing Volunteer Clearances** – Please be sure you have all the necessary clearances to volunteer at SSJ. Mrs. Candy Savarese oversees these clearances and will be available on Back to School Night to answer any questions. She can also be reached at csavarese@simonandjude.org.
- **Absence Excuse Forms (return when child is absent)** – Available on the school website under [Forms](#) in the Parents section.
- **SCRIP** is an easy way for SSJ families to save on their tuition bills. SCRIP gift cards or certificates can be purchased and used in participating stores. A percentage of the purchase price will be credited toward your tuition bill and a smaller percentage goes back to the school. To open an account, email SCRIP Co-coordinators, Tara Foret and Alanna Barry-McCloskey at ssj.scrip@gmail.com to receive the SSJ enrollment code, and then you can set up your account at www.shopwithscrip.com.
- If you haven't submitted your online bus request for WCASD, please do so as soon as possible. [Click here](#) to access the link on the Summer Resources page.

- Registration for CYO fall sports is open now! Please note the new flag football option for boys and girls in 1st and 2nd grades! JV includes grades 5 and 6. Varsity includes grades 7 and 8. [Click here](#) to register and pay online by August 31. Fall sports being offered include:

Field Hockey - JV Girls - \$110.00; Varsity Girls - \$110.00
 Soccer - JV (Co-ed) - \$110.00; Varsity Girls - \$110.00; Varsity Boys - \$110.00
 Volleyball - JV Girls - \$100.00; Varsity Girls - \$100.00
 Football - JV Football - Boys - \$150.00; Varsity Football - Boys - \$150.00
 Flag Football 1st and 2nd Grade- Coed - \$60.00 NEW
 Flag Football 3rd and 4th Grade- Boys - \$60.00

If anyone has a need for financial assistance email or call Ed Deal (610) 405-0652 or ssicyosports@gmail.com

- Summer Office Hours:
 Week of August 12th – Monday to Thursday from 9am-1pm Week of August 19th – Monday to Friday from 9am-3pm
 Week of August 26th – Monday to Wednesday from 9am-3pm
 (Thursday CLOSED for Faculty/Staff Retreat and Friday CLOSED for Labor Day Weekend)

Prayer Requests

- For the repose of the soul of Mrs. Carol Hoyt, mother of Mrs. Julia King (Spanish teacher), who died. May she be resting in God's loving embrace.
- For the repose of the soul of Mr. Rich Rentz, grandfather of Miss Samantha Rentz (room 3), who died. May he be enjoying eternal peace and happiness.

A Student's Prayer for a New School Year



Lord Jesus, help me as I begin this new school year.

Help me to use the gifts you have given me to the best of my ability.

Open my eyes to the new challenges and opportunities that this new school year may bring.

Help me to face these challenges and opportunities with excitement and enthusiasm, knowing that with your help I will succeed.

Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.

Jesus, Help me to pay attention to stay focused, do my best, to be kind to my friends and to have a great year.