



# ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

*A Ministry of St. Joseph Parish*

5411 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
SYLVANIA, OHIO 43160

June 2, 2016

Dear St. Joseph School Families,

Thank you for all you have done to make this a successful school year. Your generous spirit and commitment to education have helped us create a school of excellence. We see your support in so many places. Your volunteer hours number in the thousands. But more than that, you value the mission of Catholic education – to call forth the unique potential of the whole child ... body, mind, and spirit.

This year we have continued to focus faith formation for all students on the Beatitudes. In addition to the grade level curriculum that exists for all classes in Religion, teachers, working together, have helped students understand the meaning and application of the Beatitudes, 2000 years after Jesus spoke them as the Sermon on the Mount.

For the poor in spirit teachers spoke of sacrifice, generosity, and kindness. For those who mourn, they modeled trust, prayer, and faith. For the meek, they spoke of humility and for those who seek righteousness, they taught about knowledge and holiness. When teachers explained Blessed are the Merciful and the Pure of Heart, they taught of forgiveness, prayer, and love. The last two beatitudes bless the peacemaker and the persecuted. With those, just as Jesus did, we teach of love, sacrifice, selflessness, and hope. In the 2016 – 2017 school year, our focus will narrow to a deeper understanding of the first Beatitude ... **Blessed are the Poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.** Sacrifice, generosity, and kindness is the message of this Beatitude. "Kindness Matters" and next year students will focus on spreading a message of inclusion and kindness.

**Changes in Faculty and Staff.** It is always with regret that we say goodbye to faculty and staff members as they retire or move on to other pursuits. Leaving St. Joseph School this year are the following staff members who are retiring:

Mrs. Janet Secrest- Grade 2 Teacher  
Mrs. Rebecca Puffenberger – Grade 2 Teacher Assistant  
Mrs. Mary Ann Wisniewski – Librarian

In addition, Mrs. Georganne McHugh and her family are moving to Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mrs. Therese Siebeneck is relocating to southern Ohio to be nearer her parents. Mrs. Siebeneck is our Extended Day Director and Health Clinic nurse in the middle school. Lastly, Mrs. Kelly Maaraba, our Title I Reading Teacher, has accepted a position at Emmanuel Christian School.

We wish them the very best and truly thank them for their dedicated service to the children of St. Joseph School.

**Student Council.** Student Council leaders were selected recently for the 2016– 2017 school year. We thank all those who offered their talents and look forward to working with these new leaders next year.

President – Reece DiSalle

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Representatives – Emma Hoyt, Evan Carroll, Kelsey Leamy

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Representatives – Owen Lonsway, Lauren O'Brien, Raphael Yazji

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Representative – Cooper Hoyt, Devyn Riley, Aiden Carroll



5<sup>th</sup> Grade Representatives – Michael Buerk, Adam (AJ) Britt, Anna Kelly

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Representatives – Owen Little, Gabriel Zbierajewski

### **Graduations.**

- Congratulations and our very best wishes to our graduating eighth grade students. Liturgy and awarding of diplomas will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 3.
- Kindergarten. As eighth grade students leave St. Joseph to go on to high school, kindergarten students will celebrate the completion of their first year with us on Friday, June 3, at 9:00 a.m. in the church.

**Report Cards** will be mailed for all students on Friday, June 10, 2016.

### **The New School Year.**

- The 2016 – 2017 school year begins on Wednesday, August 17, 2016. Faculty and staff orientation and meeting dates are August 15 and 16.
- Back-to-School information will be sent to each family in early August and will be posted on-line.
- The extended calendar for the 2016 – 2017 school year will be posted in a few days.

**Diabetic Alert Dog.** We are anticipating the arrival of a **Diabetic Alert Dog** at St. Joseph School for the 2016 – 2017 school year. His name is Maximus and he will assist one of our incoming fourth grade students to manage her Type 1 Diabetes. Addysen Tabb was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at the age of four. She wears an insulin pump 24 hours a day and sticks her finger eight to fifteen times a day to check her blood sugars. Addysen's physician and family have decided she would benefit greatly from a Diabetic Alert Dog (DAD). A DAD can smell the changes in blood sugars and are trained to alert if Addysen has low or high blood sugar levels. Addysen's DAD has been in training for several months now and we anticipate that he will be ready to assist Addysen at the beginning of the school year. As an Alert Dog, Addysen's DAD is not a pet. He has been trained with specific duties/jobs. The school children will be instructed to refrain from looking, touching, or talking to him because these actions could distract her DAD from doing his job. We welcome Maximus to St. Joseph School and his important role in assisting one of our students. There will be an assembly on the first day of school to introduce students to Maximus, his role in caring for Addysen, and their own responsibilities

**Summer Hours.** The school office is open all summer, though hours are adjusted. If you need to contact us after office hours, please leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

For the 2016-2017 school year, we will be implementing SchoolSpeak. SchoolSpeak will allow you to view Thursday envelope information, teacher messages, homework, it will allow you to order and pay for lunch, and eventually view student progress. As the summer moves along and we move into the month of August, you will receive an announcement from SchoolSpeak to check your email for log in credentials. SchoolSpeak will take the place of Thursday envelope emails and Moodle. Our back to school parent letter and important class information will be included via this system.

Please watch your email in early August for your log in credentials to our new student and school information system.

Until August, any updates or news items will be available through our Thursday envelope items on our website and email alert.

On behalf of the faculty and staff, we pray that your summer will be safe and happy.

Sincerely,

Sally A. Koppinger

Principal