



# ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

A Ministry of St. Joseph Parish

5411 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
SYLVANIA, OHIO 43560

August 18, 2016

Dear Parent:

Welcome to the 2016 – 2017 school year. Each year teachers, staff, students, and you – our partners in education – begin the year with energy and enthusiasm. Our opening days have been very busy and very positive. I especially want to welcome our new students and new staff. If you are a family new to St. Joseph School, please know that we want to make the transition to SJS as supported as possible. Please contact us if you have questions or concerns. New to our faculty are the following teachers: Mrs. Gina Schell in grade 6; and Mrs. Robin Lutz, Spanish for grades K – 3. New staff members and changes in staff assignments for current staff include Mrs. Casey Barbour, Teacher Assistant for KL; Mrs. Diane Ash, Middle School Health Clinic Nurse; Ms. Jennifer Betz, Director of Extended Day; Mrs. Gina Oswald, Teacher Assistant for 2B; Mrs. Nicole Emmenecker, Teacher Assistant for 3H; Mrs. Pat Mallory will assume technology integration in curriculum for sixth grade as well as her previous assignments in grades seven and eight; and Sra. Ariella Paula. Sra. Paula has been the Spanish teacher for grades 6, 7, and 8. This year she will add grades 4 and 5 to her schedule.

On Friday, we will gather for our first all school Mass. Our mission calls us to faith formation and academic excellence. We pray every day for each other and with each other. Prayer and faith formation are an integrated part of our school day. We begin each morning with school-wide prayer and finish each day with closing prayer. During the week, students attend Mass either as a section...primary, intermediate, middle school...or with the entire student body. Within the day, teachers form children in faith through direct instruction. However, of greater importance is the ability of teachers to witness the gospel message by their presence and interactions. As an educational institution we are committed to academic content standards of excellence and we take pride in being recognized as a school of academic excellence. However, as a Catholic school those academic content standards do not stand alone. They are integrated with our faith and beliefs. In all curricular areas, whether it is science or social studies, art or math, music or literature, reading, physical education or written expression, we are able to infuse this Catholic faith dimension so that formation in faith happens all day long. It is the essence of our difference.

Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Toledo expect that students will learn much more than the content of their curriculum. The goal is that six “formative outcomes” will also become evident in all of our students. The following is a summary of those outcomes:

### *Faith-Based Discipleship*

Students will...

- deepen their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- actively experience a community of faith in the school and parish.
- know and understand the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.
- be able to see the presence of God in the events and experiences of their lives.
- make choices based on the Catholic faith.
- appreciate and experience worship and prayer.



### ***Christian Living***

Through his/her Baptismal call to holiness, each student will strive to become...

- a person of integrity.
- a person of compassion and forgiveness.
- a person of courage and justice willing to confront wrongs.
- a person who respects self and others.
- a person of service.
- a person of collaboration.

### ***Intra-personal Skills***

Students will...

- recognize how they learn.
- know how to be reflective.
- have personal care and respect for their bodies.
- understand and appreciate their personal gifts.
- demonstrate personal responsibility, understanding that choices have consequences.
- be flexible.

### ***Global Perspective***

Students will...

- demonstrate an understanding of Catholic Social Principles.
- understand how political systems work and their responsibility to participate in them.
- recognize and challenge oppression and exploitation.
- learn to contribute time, talent, and treasure for the good of others.
- demonstrate an understanding of and respect for other cultures and languages.

### ***Critical Thinking***

Based on Christian values, students will...

- evaluate and interpret what is seen, read, and heard.
- make informed decisions.
- develop and apply problem-solving strategies.
- learn to question their world through higher-order thinking skills.
- listen actively with the intent to understand.
- clearly articulate thoughts and ideas.

### ***Creativity***

Students will...

- exhibit an appreciation of the arts.
- express ideas and talents in a variety of positive ways.
- function in a variety of situations and environments.
- recognize and respect others' expressions of creativity.
- be empowered to be creative.
- recognize their creative gifts and talents.

**Parent Orientations.** Please save these dates:

Middle School Parent Orientation, Wednesday, August 24. Parent Orientation for grades 6, 7, and 8 will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Family Center at the middle school.

Elementary School Parent Orientation, Thursday, August 25. Parent Orientation for elementary students (K – 5) will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the church.

**Safety.** A Few Reminders.

- **Cars and Buses.** Between 7:30 a.m. and 7:55 a.m., the parking lot adjacent to the school is closed to car traffic. It is open to buses only. For the safety of children, do not try to slip in between buses or ever expect your children to cross the bus path at any point other than the supervised crossing areas.

- **If you park in the Parish Center parking lot**, you must escort your children to the marked and supervised crossway of the school parking lot. Children may not be dropped off in the Parish Center parking lot to navigate the parking lot alone. This is a safety issue.
- **If you use the parking lot across the street** from the elementary building, you have two choices. The first: you may park and escort your children to the supervised crosswalk. The second: you may follow the signs that direct you to the drop-off location for elementary students. Stop your vehicle, allow your children to exit from the passenger side of the vehicle only, wait a moment for them to get to the supervised cross walk. You may then drive away.
- **At the end of the day**, if you pick your child up from school, please move away from the elementary school parking lot as soon as your child joins you. Once buses begin to exit, there should be no children (especially preschoolers) lingering in the parking lot.
- **No Right Turn.** If you use the parking lot across the street from the elementary building, please remember that vehicles may not turn right (north) when they exit this east parking lot. The exit is posted with a “No Right Turn”. A right turn places a moving vehicle in the crosswalk at the same time students are crossing.
- **Visitors.** All visitors to our school on either campus must register at the office. No visitor (parent or guest) is allowed to by-pass the office and go directly to any part of the school (Elementary or Middle School). All staff members have been instructed to send “unauthorized visitors” back to the office. I realize that this may feel harsh if you are a parent but as I am sure you understand, our purpose is to provide a safe environment for your children as well as one that is free from interruption. If your children arrive late, they need to check in at the clinic (elementary school) or middle school office to get a tardy slip before going to their classroom.

### **Change at the Middle School**

For the safety of students, the following procedures have been implemented with the beginning of the school year:

- Beginning immediately, the “bus loop doors” and the Ravine Rd. entrance doors do not unlock until 7:30 am. They relock at 8:00 am. Staff members monitor the doors between 7:30 and 8:00. During this time period, **the entrance from the bus loop to the middle school is for students only or for St. Joseph employees with key access.**
- Between 7:30 am and 8:00 am, all other adults – parents, grandparents, siblings, extended family, friends – must enter through the Ravine Road doors. ..just as they do at any other time of the day. These adults should park in the Ravine Rd. parking lot for the short time they will be in the building. **This a serious safety issue.**
- **If you drop your child off at the middle school before 7:30 am** please keep in mind that you will need to use the Ravine Rd. entrance drive. At 7:30, the Ravine Rd. entrance doors unlock until 8:00 am. However, the double doors into the Family Center and Academic Wing do not unlock during the school day. Students need to be buzzed-in. Adults who are accompanying students into the building in order to help them take supplies, books, cookies, etc. to their classroom, need to stop in the office before trying to go any farther.
- **If you drop your child off at the middle school between 7:30 am and 8:00 am and have no need to come in (this will be the majority of adults)** please use the Harroun parking lot and the drop-off point for middle school students at the north end of the bus loop. The students will then enter school through the bus loop doors.

- **End of the Day Procedures.** If you are changing the dismissal procedure for your child on any given day, you must send a note to the teacher. Children are not allowed to go home with a friend, well-meaning neighbor or relative without your **written permission**. If you have any questions, please contact the school office. Our policy: If there is confusion in the mind of a child about whether to take the bus home or not AND we do not have written confirmation from a parent regarding a change in dismissal procedures for that day, **we keep the child at school** and contact parents.

**Reminder: Don't Forget School Pictures. Friday, August 26.** This is a non-uniform day which means students do not need to be in uniform. However, it is not a jeans day. Non-uniform clothes need to be school appropriate. Order forms were sent home with every student today

**Last Reminder - Fog.** Though I would prefer to not have to mention this, the reality is that dense fog in the morning may delay or close schools. The time of the year is approaching quickly, when fog becomes a possibility.

**This is a reminder that St. Joseph School delays or closes whenever Sylvania Schools delay or close. When media stations say "Sylvania or Sylvania Public" schools are delayed or closed, St. Joseph School is delayed or closed.**

One more note: We had our first Fire Drill today. **It was perfect!**

I look forward to seeing you next week.

Sincerely,

Sally A. Koppinger  
Principal