



August 23, 2017

Dear Parents and Families:

I hope you are still enjoying what is left of this beautiful summer. It has been rather cool and wet, but the important thing is that we have had a chance to recharge our batteries and hopefully, spend some quality time with our families! Our enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year is healthy and continues to grow. I believe that our very favorable student-to-teacher ratios will enable our faculty to deliver the highest quality instruction to your child in the year ahead. We can all be thankful for that.

As many of you are aware, the summer of 2017 has been a summer of renewal and reorganization for Blessed Sacrament School. I decided toward the end of last year that the school would benefit by relocating classrooms, by grade levels, to make it easier for the teachers to plan and work together. As a result, you will notice on your next visit to school, that our youngest students, the preschool, kindergarten and first grades, are now all together on the main floor, closer to the Academy Ave. side of the building. The 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades are now on the main floor, at the opposite end of the hallway. Additionally, the 5th grade, and the middle school classrooms are now all on the second floor, including Mrs. Wiant's math classroom and Sr. Nancy's Religion and Spanish classroom. The Fine Arts, Phys. Ed. and Health classes will continue on the lower floor. My hope is the closer proximity by grade levels will enable teachers to work together even more efficiently, which should improve learning outcomes for all of our students.

Other significant changes will happen for our middle school students. For many years, Mrs. Wiant, our accomplished math teacher, has instructed on-level, and advanced math students, very successfully, in small group settings. Mrs. Wiant has agreed to continue her excellent instruction and will now be responsible for math instruction for all of our middle school students, in the same small group settings. In order to make this change, I have created a new position for our literature/creative writing teacher, which will create small group settings in our language arts classes as well. This new position means each middle school class will be divided into two groups. While one group attends math class, the other half of the class will attend literature/creative writing class. My hope is that the improved student-to-teacher ratio in the middle school language arts classes will improve outcomes in the all-important "core" academic areas: Reading, Writing and Arithmetic.

Some other important changes for our middle school include the elimination of the daily use of lockers. Over the summer, we reconfigured the upstairs homerooms, so the students will have plenty of room for all of their belongings on the 2nd floor. We will still assign the students a locker, but they will be used strictly for the materials needed for our Fine Arts program and any other non-essential items the students may wish to have at school, like coats, umbrellas, etc...

And finally, the middle school schedule now includes a 20 minute study period at 10:10 AM every day. This will be a much-needed break for students, so they can get caught up on homework, get a snack and use the restroom. It is well-documented that students in this age group benefit from having shorter classes and a short break every day to help develop their organizational skills. It is my belief that all of these changes will make your student's middle school experience productive and joyful.

CHANGES & MOVES

If you haven't heard, Mrs. Antone has decided to move to a new job. I was very sorry to see her go but I'm sure she will do very well and I wish her the best of luck in her new career. **"Thank You for all of your contributions Mrs. Antone!"** Replacing Mrs. Antone as the 8th grade homeroom, and middle school Science teacher is **Ms. Joan Frederick**. Many of you may already know Ms. Frederick from her years of serving our students as a Title I tutor, and her many tours of duty as a long-term substitute. Ms. Frederick is truly a team player and I know she will be a tremendous asset to our middle school.

In other news, Mr. Keenan and Mrs. Rico, will not be back for the 2017-2018 school year. I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to Mr. Keenan & Mrs. Rico for all of their service and wish them nothing but the best in their new career paths.

Replacing Mr. Keenan will be **Mrs. Toni Scaramuzzo**. Mrs. Scaramuzzo will handle 7th grade homeroom, and will be teaching middle school Social Studies and Skills. Mrs. Scaramuzzo has a Bachelor of Science in History, from Rhode Island College and has spent several years as a long-term substitute in Social Studies classes in the North Providence School District. The search for our new Language Arts teacher is continuing and I hope to have an announcement soon.

Please don't forget, Blessed Sacrament School can now begin accepting families into our preschool programs who qualify for the DHS Childcare Assistance Program. This program can help pay tuition expenses for our preschool students, and daycare expenses for all students up to age 13. If you think you may qualify, or know someone who may qualify, applications are available online at: <http://www.dhs.ri.gov/Programs/CCAPProgramInfo.php>.

SCHOOL DAY BEGINS AT 8:15AM

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!**

Back to School Duck Pin Bowling at Town Hall Lanes in Johnston

On Monday, August 28th, from 4:00 until 7:00PM, parents and students are invited to Town Hall Lanes, in Johnston for a game or two of duck pin bowling. Town Hall lanes will donate 20% of the fee to benefit our school. Five people can bowl for one hour for \$25.00 and many of our teachers and staff will be on hand at some point in the evening, so please come by and meet your friends and teachers for a good time to kick off the New Year!

Student Handbook

Most of you should have reviewed the Blessed Sacrament Student Handbook last year on our website, 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 this Handbook after reviewing it. Please be aware that the Student Handbook is enforced throughout the year.

Students should be in summer gym uniforms on the first day 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 our lunch program in the year ahead. **Free & Reduced Lunch Application Forms** will be sent home on the first day of school. It is important that we receive your completed application in the school office ASAP. This information is required by the State of Rhode Island to determine your eligibility for this program. Any student who has not returned a Free & Reduced Lunch Application Form by October 1, 2017 will automatically be billed the full price as required by law.

2017-2018 Price List for Blessed Sacrament School Lunch Program:

Full Price = \$2.75

Reduced Price= \$0.40

Free Lunch =\$0.00

2017-2018 Price List for Blessed Sacrament School Breakfast Program:

Full Price: \$1.75

Reduced Price: \$0.30

Free Breakfast: \$0.00

If you wish to utilize this service, please make sure to keep your account current. It will help us make the program run smoothly. Thank you for your cooperation.

The cost of milk will remain at **\$0.45 cents/pint.**

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 Tuesday, 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 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, and accounts aged 60 days or longer will have balances added to their FACTS tuition account.

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 Tuesday, 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 kindergarten room where Mrs. Cole will be there 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 cafeteria (bad weather). We **do not have staff coverage before 8:00AM**, so for the safety of your child, please try not to arrive before that time unless your child will be in the morning daycare program. Students will be escorted to their classrooms for Morning Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance at 8:25AM. 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 **Monday, August 28th at Town Hall Lanes**, or on the **1st day of school.**

Mr. Weber

