

## *Saint Helena-Incarnation Catholic School*

# Newsletter August 2016



Saint Helena-Incarnation Catholic School would like to welcome you to the 2016-2017 school year! SHI is proud to be grounded in the Catholic faith and traditions that make our mission unique.

SHI also prides itself on the diversity and cultural richness that make up our school community. Our students, families, and staff are here because of our commitment to the spiritual and academic success of every child.

Here are some of our exciting initiatives and programs!

**Welcome Back Night:** Please mark your calendars for the Welcome Back Night, Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at 5 pm. This is a great time to meet your child's teacher, see the classroom, and hear about the exciting plans for the school year ahead.

**New Start Time:** Our day at SHI will begin at 7:45 am – a change from last year's 8:00am start time. Dismissal remains at 2:45 pm for Pre-K and K and 3 pm for grades 1-8.

### **First Day of School Reminders:**

- Teachers will email you by Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup> to introduce themselves. This is how you will learn your child's classroom assignment. You may also call the main office during the week of August 29<sup>th</sup>. As a reminder, we do not accept parent requests for classroom changes.
- You will have a chance to meet your child's teacher at Welcome Back Night; you will not be able to walk your child to his/her classroom on the first day.
- Teachers will provide important documents for the first day of school at Welcome Back Night, so please be sure to attend. One important form that must be completed is your child's dismissal form – we need to know how they go home and who has permission to pick them up!
- Parents of Pre-K and K students will be required to attend a conference with their child's teacher on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>. Pre-K and K students have their first day of school Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Both Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> are half days. Please arrange to pick your child up by noon.
- If you have applied for your child to ride the school bus, please plan on an alternate method of transportation during the first week, as the school bus route is worked out. Please remember, the School District handles all route assignments, we have no influence!
- If you have signed your child up for an after school program, please confirm the start date with the program! Last year, many children were sent to the office because their program had not started on the first day or they were missing registration documents. If you need phone numbers for either program, call our main office at 215-549-2947.
- Your child's summer work is due on the first day of school!

**Introductions:** Please welcome our new teachers and staff members when you see them in the halls and at arrival and dismissal. We are proud to have a growing, talented staff at SHI!

**Catholic Identity:** We are committed to our work as a Catholic school and the faith-based mission it brings. We have been working with Monsignor Trinh, pastor of Saint Helena Church, to honor Catholic celebrations and feast days on our calendar. We are working closely with Sister Marie and Sister Sophie to support

teachers in their religious instruction. Deacon Frank Urmson will also be visiting our school to support religious instruction.

#### Schoolwide Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Program

- Saint Helena-Incarnation's main objective is to create a positive, structured, and loving atmosphere in which every student can learn. In order to provide a successful learning experience it is important to establish consistent classroom procedures, and clear guidelines around behavioral expectations.
- Each teacher will have consistent expectations for their classroom that will be explained, taught, and modeled during the first weeks of school. These behaviors will be reinforced and rewarded throughout the school year.
- In support of this, Saint Helena-Incarnation is implementing a schoolwide positive behavior intervention program, or PBIS. This program was developed around proven, researched-based strategies and is centered on the idea that children are able to behave appropriately in a classroom setting given a school is able to create an environment in which positive behaviors are acknowledged and reinforced.
- More information will be provided throughout the year. If you want to learn more about our PBIS program, speak to any staff member, teacher, or administrator, or go to these helpful websites: [pbisworld.org](http://pbisworld.org) and [pbis.org](http://pbis.org).

#### Website Additions

- Handbook: Please take a moment to read our newly published school handbook, which will be available on the school website within the next week.

#### Site Improvements

- SHI has created a new traffic pattern in the parking lot in order to create a safer and more clearly defined play space for students, and to improve drop off and pick up flow. New directional arrows and orange cones will be placed in the parking lot to allow for a safer parking lot. Please keep an eye out on the first days of school; thank you for your cooperation and patience with this new initiative.
- SHI has installed new water fountains for students, so all students will stay hydrated this fall when they return to school.
- SHI will be re-seeding the school lawns in the fall for a nicer curb appeal. Students will no longer play on the grass; instead, they will play in the newly redesigned school yard.

#### Dates to Remember

- Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup> – Date of notification of your child's classroom teacher via email
- Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup> – Welcome Back Night at 5 pm
- September 6<sup>th</sup> – First day of school
- September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> – Noon dismissals
- September 9<sup>th</sup> – First day of school for Pre-K and K students

