

August 29, 2016
"With God all things are possible."

Back to School



WELCOME BACK TO ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

We welcome all our new and returning families! We are glad to have you with us this year. This year we welcome to our staff Mrs. Megan McWilliams in Kindergarten and Ms. Amy Joestgen in 4th grade. We also welcome back Mrs. Ann Hanson in Pre-K3 and Physical Education.

In addition, we welcome the following new families to our school:

Melissa and Nick Averkamp, Skyla, Pre-K3
Ryan and Krista Dolan, Gage, Pre-K3
Jason and Jennifer Hunn, Jaxon, Pre-K3
Wendy Knebel and Kevin Knebel, Zane, Pre-K3, Wyatt, Kindergarten
Elizabeth and Mikeal Pack, Hudson, Pre-K3, Ian, Kindergarten
Susan Cayla-Slusser and Charles Slusser, Olivia, Pre-K3, Mitchel, Kindergarten
Eric and Jenna Vondra- Lucy, Pre-K4
Sara and Steve Vosberg- Cooper, Pre-K4, Sawyer, Kindergarten
James and Emily Resch- Maggie, Pre-K4
Britany and Kenneth Alexander, Thaddeus, Kindergarten
Cheryl and Samuel Fuller, Nikoli, Kindergarten
Janean and Ryan Marr, Mason, Kindergarten
Nicole and Brian Vondra, Logan, Kindergarten, Isaac, 2nd
Hoang Phan and Tina Miller, Kora, 1st
Rachel Speth, Keira Erickson, 2nd
Kara Honerbaum, Libby, 6th

We begin the year with 142 students, K-8, and an additional 26 preschoolers.

Please review your children's book bags carefully. There will be a lot of information sent home the first few days of school. All family information is always sent home with the youngest in the family (IF you do not give us an email address.) We will be updating our email list from the student information cards.

Our school success is always a cooperative team effort among students, staff and parents. We want this year to be a positive and productive one for everyone. Please keep the lines of communication open by asking questions and allowing us to try to resolve any problems. Today's newsletter will be the longest of the year, so new parents, especially, need to ask questions if the information provided is not clear. With God's help, we can make this a wonderful year for all of us.

May God bless each of you!

SEPTEMBER HOT LUNCH FEES

The fees for the actual days of August & September hot lunch are \$61.20 per child. Daily lunch is \$2.55 a day and may be purchased in the morning in the office. We will try to keep the menu posted on the website, stjoedodge.org, and also near the kitchen and office. Breakfast is \$1.80 per day. Milk (for cold lunches) may be purchased for the month. The cost is \$.30 per milk. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR ACCOUNT IS PAID IN ADVANCE TO assure your child can eat.

We use a computer to run the lunch program. Virginia will send a reminder when the account becomes less than \$5.00/child. The computer does not allow any credits, so MONEY MUST BE IN THE ACCOUNT.

We continue to follow the Federal mandates in the school lunch program. Most significant for us are the calorie and sodium requirements that **MUST** be adhered to, per child. We will continue to offer two or three options this year. The students may choose the regular “hot” lunch, the alternate sandwich, chips and string cheese on designated days, **OR** they may choose the salad bar. If the salad bar is chosen, they cannot get any food from the “hot” line, but there will be plenty of fruits and vegetables in both lines, and they can always have seconds of these. The salad bar will have scoops with the amount allowed of each item indicated.

Free and Reduced Application

If there is any possibility you may qualify, **PLEASE** complete the application and help us, too. We are able to get more Federal money if parents qualify for this assistance. If you qualified last year, you will still have the same benefits until we have your application for this year. Please try to get it completed in the next two weeks. In accordance with Federal law and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of color, race, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

MASS ATTENDANCE/MASS ATTIRE

If a family wishes to be enrolled as a parishioner, Mass attendance at weekend Masses is required, in addition to one of the parents belonging to the Catholic religion. This expectation applies to all our student athletes and families, also.

Please see the attached information about Dress Code that includes the expectations for students who read or serve at Mass.

SCHOOL PICK-UPS and DROP-OFFS

We will be blocking off part of the parking lot during the school day. The west driveway (Dacotah Street) will be blocked off each morning throughout the school day. We ask parents to come in the east driveway next to the church, circle around, drop off students and then go out the driveway below the daycare. After the first week we encourage you to drop the students off as they become more independent. If you need to park, please leave an opening next to the orange cones so that a loop can be made as people are dropping off students. Please drive slowly and carefully as there are many children being dropped off. You may also drop students off on the north side (Walnut Street) of the school, just make sure you do not park in or block the teachers' parking areas or where the busses drop off students. After school please park on the east side of the parking lot if you are picking up a student. That leaves the area on the west side for children to go in and out of school without so much traffic. Thanks so much as we try to make it safer for children as they come in and out of school.

Please do not use the parking lot to pick up children for appointments during the day. We use the area for physical education and recess. Please pick-up all students, after 8:00 A.M., on the Walnut Street side of the school. The students need to check in and out of school in the office if they leave or return during the day.

SCHOOL SECURITY

St. Joseph School has magnetic locks installed on the north and south entrance doors. The doors will be locked during the school day; **however, there is a doorbell near each door. Please ring the doorbell, and if you are identified on the camera, we can admit you by flipping a switch in the office. There is no bell or sound, outside to let you know we have opened the door, so just give it another try.**

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school calendar is also attached. Most of the main events for the year are listed as well as the dates of the major fundraisers and days of vacation. Please note they are not all the same as the students in the Dodgeville School District.

SCHOOL HOURS

School starts at 8:00. There is a warning bell at 7:55, and students should be in the classroom ready to go by 8:00. Bus students are dismissed at 3:05, with all other students dismissed at 3:10, except on Wednesdays. Wednesdays are early release, with students dismissing at 1:55 for bus, and 2:00 for everyone else.

Students are expected to leave the school and grounds at the end of each school day. Please make sure you have made arrangements so that your children are picked up directly after school. The only exception will be if students wish to stay for after-school study hall, which will be run on Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays until 4:00. If a student stays after-school they **MUST** be in the after-school study hall and be picked up by 4:00. No students will be allowed to hang around the commons or play on the playground unless they are directly being supervised by a parent or guardian. On days that we do not have the after-school study hall all students must leave the school grounds as soon as school is over. For safety and liability reasons we plan to enforce this policy.

Students involved in sports still must make plans for after-school because they should only be in the building when their coaches are here to run the practice. We know that parents can work together to carpool and share rides so that students remain as safe as possible when going back and forth to school and school activities.

WEDNESDAY EARLY RELEASE

Wednesdays are early release days (2:00 P.M.) for the entire school district.

LABOR DAY

Remember we have no school on Monday, September 5th because of Labor Day.

AFTER-SCHOOL STUDY HALL

A different teacher each month will supervise an after-school study hall on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays until **4:00 P.M. No advance sign-up is required.** This information is posted next to the office. Mrs. Dunbar will cover the first two days of school in August, and Mrs. Heim has the September after-school study hall.

SCHOOL PICTURE INFORMATION

Each student will receive information, later this week, on school pictures that will be taken next Thursday, September 8th. We will accept payments, made to **Interstate Studios, Inc.**, in the sealed envelope provided later this week. Don't forget to mark the package # and background information.

REMEMBER there is a separate form for the yearbook if you wish to order one. You do not have to purchase a picture package to get the yearbook, but you **DO** need to pay for the yearbooks separately. The price of the picture packages has been reduced to reflect the change. The yearbooks will now include Pre-K students. Yearbooks will not be available until the last day of school.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

We are able to send the newsletters over the Internet. **E-mail lists are based on the student information card. Please complete the attached form so we know how you want to receive your newsletters.**

We try very hard to send a newsletter each Monday, so watch for it if you do not have email access. It will always be sent with the youngest child enrolled (K-8).

PLEASE SAVE

SAVE ALUMINUM CANS, CAMPBELL'S LABELS, GENERAL MILLS' BOXTOPS, KWIK TRIP "MILK MOOLA CAPS AND BAGTOPS, and USED PRINTER CARTRIDGES

We collect many things that benefit the school. Take your used aluminum cans to the bin on the west side of the school, off Dacotah St., for pick-up; and turn in your General Mills boxtops, labels, Kwik Trip caps and bagtops, and cartridges to the blue container outside the school office.

LIBRARY INFORMATION K-5

None of the K-5 students will need library cards to visit the library. The teachers will keep a list of books checked out for each student as they will all be listed on a class card. We will send all K-5 students on Wednesday afternoons beginning August 31st.

STUDENT PHONE CALLS

Students need to pay to use the office phone. The cost is \$.25 per call. If a student is sick, he/she needs to get permission, **from their teacher**, to go to the office and ask Virginia to help them. **There is no phone charge when someone is sick.**

If you need to call school, the number is 930-3392, ext 4 for the school.

SCRIP TUITION CREDIT

SCRIP is a gift card/certificate program that returns a profit to the school. The certificates or debit cards are used the same as cash.

ALL families have the option of purchasing \$1500 in SCRIP, through the last day of school, or paying an additional \$150, per family, in tuition. Many have already begun. We usually send out an update on how much has been purchased every other month. We earn money because we pay the net amount of the certificate. If A&W offers us 10% discount, we pay \$9.00 to A&W for a \$10.00 certificate, and then we sell it to you for the full \$10 amount. We offer our parents 19% OF THE REBATE, to accumulate throughout the year, until the end of the school year and that rebate is then applied to next year's tuition. Many of our parents have earned a good deal of money by adding friends and relatives to their buying list. **SCRIP is money you are spending, anyway, so it does not cost you anything to participate in this!**

It's easy to do, and certificates/debit cards can be purchased anytime in school and before and after all Masses on the week-end. We TRY to keep as much on hand as we think people will need. It's especially nice for those of you who work at Lands' End since we receive 16% return, and you only need to enter the number on the debit card when you place your order, AND YOU STILL GET THE EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT. Check out the website, www.shopwithscrip.com, and use the Enrollment Code, 84EC9C6C7679, if you want on on-line account (not required to make purchases).

Kohl's allows you to use the certificates or debit cards to pay your account. You have to pay at the store rather than through the mail, but it's easier than trying to guess in advance how much SCRIP you will need.

We carry **Piggly-Wiggly** in **\$25, \$50, and \$100** amounts. Since everyone has to buy groceries, we are hopeful this will REALLY boost our SCRIP sales. We also have SCRIP for **Walgreen's and WalMart as well as Woodman's in Madison.**

We will usually order on an "as needed" basis, so if you know of a big purchase, please let us know in advance. Our local favorites are **Bob's, Box Office Video, Country Kitchen, Cousin's, Culver's, Dodge Theatre, Kwik Trip, Lands' End, and Pizza Hut.** The order form is attached, also, if you would like to place an order.

This is the easiest way to fundraise without spending anything more than you had already planned to spend!

NOON DUTY SUPERVISION

Each family is asked to supervise the playground for five days from 11:30 A.M. to 12:10 P.M. or pay \$50. A family may choose one day a week, five days in a row, or another combination that accommodates your work schedule. If you did not pay the \$50, **stop in the office and sign up on the yearly schedule.** Many parents were able to sign up at the time the school fees were paid.

HOMEWORK FOR ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL

Please do not ask the teachers to have homework for your child before the end of the day. They do not have time in the schedule to pull that work and those books when they are teaching the rest of the class.

If you know in advance that your child will be absent, we will be happy to provide the work they will miss, no earlier than one week in advance.

HOMEWORK PHILOSOPHY

In addition, because we believe all homework is assigned for a reason, it has to be completed by the student; however, we also realize that late work is usually not a measure of intelligence but a result of mismanagement or lack of organization. The student will continue to receive a demerit for late work. 5 demerits, for any reason, results in a detention, served after school on Thursday nights.

Also, because we believe students need to learn to be prepared and organized, especially at the 6th-8th grades, they will utilize a "check" system. We expect them to come to class prepared. If they forget something such as a book, assignment, calculator, etc., in their locker, they will receive a "check"...5 "checks" will result in a demerit.

DEMERITS

Demerits will be erased at the following times:

3rd grade – weekly

4th grade – monthly

5th- 8th grades – at Progress Report time and Report Card time

REQUIRED VOLUNTEER HOURS

The 10 required volunteer hours must be served in school-related fundraising activities. **The hours must be school-related, not parish-related, and at least ten hours of time is required at school fundraisers, such as pasty sales, SCRIP, Walk/Run, or the fruit sale.** Fish fries are parish fundraisers, not school fundraisers, so they can't be used (except the May fish fry which is run by the school.)

Those of you who sell SCRIP on the week-ends will get credit. The sign-in list is used to give credit, and 30 minutes credit is given per Mass. We may have a need for more help selling before and after Mass.. **If you are currently selling and do not wish to continue, please let Amy know in the parish office. Or, if you are interested in**

helping sell before and after Mass, also contact Amy in the parish office. A list of the sellers is also posted in the bulletin each week.

OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We ALWAYS have a need for parents to volunteer at school. Unfortunately, we have such a need for fundraising volunteers that we do not count these volunteer hours towards the 10 required hours. We appreciate parents are willing to give of their time and help at school. We only ask that you let us know what time(s) and day(s) work with your schedule and that you are able to come on a **regular** basis. Our needs are varied, and they include: running off papers in the office, helping in the Kindergarten room with projects and Accelerated Reading, assisting with art and snack time in the preschool, listening to children read, helping a student who has been ill to catch up, reading tests to specific students, working one-on-one with individual students under a teacher's guidance, assisting in a study hall with homework, helping with K computers on Thursday morning, etc. We do have the following restrictions:

1. Children are **NOT** allowed to accompany volunteers.
2. Volunteers need to adhere to the dress code in the school handbook.
3. Hours need to be scheduled with the principal, on a regular basis, so we can accommodate your schedule and have something specific for you to do when you arrive. And the teachers need to be able to rely on the times you specify.
4. **Per Diocesan regulations, we are required to complete a background check on anyone who will be working with children without supervision. This will require your Social Security number and date of birth.**
5. **Any volunteer who works directly with children, including ALL parish staff, coaches, religious education teachers, and volunteers, MUST complete the "Protecting God's Children" training session, per Diocesan regulations.**

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN/VIRTUS TRAINING

In order to make sure we have the safest possible environment for children, the Diocese has mandated that all parishes provide the Virtus training sessions for anyone who works directly with children. Tom Joestgen will be facilitating a session, and it should take about 2 hrs. The training primarily consists of two videos and discussion. This is scheduled for Sunday, September 11, starting at 6:30pm in the commons of the church.

Also, anyone who volunteers to work here must complete a background check at a cost of \$9.00. **If you wish to drive for class trips, you must also have a driver's check completed at a cost of \$11.75. If you would like to volunteer or coach, a background check and attendance at this session is mandatory. You can register at www.virtus.org follow the links through the Madison Diocese to St. Joseph School in Dodgeville.** There are other classes available through the Diocese if you are not able to attend the session in Dodgeville on September 11. The other classes are listed on the website under Madison Diocese.

FORMS TO RETURN TO SCHOOL THIS WEEK

- Student Information Cards (one per child)
- Medication Form (If we are to give medication to your child at school – forms available in office. Information may also be printed from the doctor.)
- SCRIP order form (if you wish to purchase SCRIP)
- Newsletter and Email Form
- Volunteer Sign-up
- FREE/Reduced hot lunch forms
- Chromebook/Internet Acceptable Use Policy
- 6-8th grade contract

Newsletters and E-Mail Address

I would like the newsletters sent via email.

I would like the newsletter sent home with my youngest child.

FAMILY NAME _____

Send to father's e-mail from information card.

Send to mother's e-mail from information card.

We will use the student information cards to update emails.

OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

For volunteers who can come at a **regular** basis and work at school.

Regular Basis Volunteer

Name _____

Phone _____

I am willing to volunteer regularly on the following day/s:

At the following times: _____

PASTY SALE VOLUNTEERS

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I can volunteer at the following pasty sales:

_____ Friday, October 21, set-up

_____ Saturday, October 22

_____ Friday, January 27, set-up

_____ Saturday, January 28

_____ Friday, March 31, set-up

_____ Saturday, April 1