



## STS. SIMON & JUDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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July 21, 2008

Dear Parents:

On behalf of the Friars, faculty and staff, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Sts. Simon & Jude for the 2008-2009 school year! While this will be the first year at SSJ for some of our families, many others have experienced several years of being a vital part of this vibrant faith-based educational community. I am deeply honored to serve as principal of a school so steeped in the tradition of excellence!

We understand and appreciate that what happens in our classrooms every single day is the major determinate of the quality of each student's learning experience. We also realize that by directing all available human and material resources directly to the classrooms, our students are given the opportunity to learn at rates equal, if not superior to, all other students in the Diocese of Orange. Accordingly, our school mission is lived daily by every faculty and staff member—instilling in our students personal excellence, academic proficiency, and Gospel values within an active parish-centered community. With everyone focused on the same goal, success in all of our endeavors is inevitable.

We acknowledge parents as being the primary educators of their children, and as such, we look forward to joining with you in partnership to make your child's learning experience positive and rewarding in every way. The collective work of every member of this learning community has given us many reasons to be proud of all that we have accomplished. We remain committed to working arduously so that our students can reach their highest potentials!

As we anticipate another dynamic year at SSJ, I wish you health, happiness, and the peace of Christ as you continue to enjoy these wonderful days of summer!

### **AUGUST OFFICE HOURS**

Beginning Monday, August 11, the school office will be open from 9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. Our office personnel and accounting staff will be available to assist you in person or by phone with any concerns or questions that you might have.

### **CLASS LISTS**

The class lists indicating your child's room assignment will be posted outside the school office and on the school website at **NOON** on Friday, August 29. **Please note that it is not the policy of this administration to honor parent or student requests for a particular classroom assignment.**

### **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

The first day of school is **Tuesday, September 2**. Please bring your children to school no later than **7:45 A.M.** so that we may begin our year together in prayer. School will dismiss at 12:00 noon for all students on that Tuesday.

### **TUITION STATUS REMINDER/CLARIFICATION**

As has been noted many, many times, Fr. Michael Harvey, our Pastor, has been extremely generous in regards to giving financial support to our school. This support has never wavered, despite the fact that the previous \$250 *minimal* financial contribution to the parishes of Sts. Simon & Jude, Holy Spirit, and St. Vincent de Paul had not increased in 12 years. As costs for

insurance, utilities, and maintenance of the facilities and grounds continued to rise, there remained no choice but to increase the minimal parish contribution to **\$500** for families who wish to remain on the Tier I tuition status for the 2009-2010 school year.

*Please note that because the parishes of Holy Spirit and St. Vincent de Paul are no longer making financial contributions on behalf of their parishioners who attend our school, the minimum \$500 contribution MUST be made to Sts. Simon & Jude Parish by December 1, 2008.*

We strongly encourage our families to use their SSJ parish envelopes, the ParishPay link system, or checks so that proper credit can be given for all donations. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call Christine Nguyen in the school accounting office at 962-1642.

## **KINDERGARTEN NEWS**

A special welcome letter will be mailed in August to all of our kindergarten students from their teachers. If your child has not received a letter by the third week of August, please call the school office and let us know.

## **TARDY POLICY**

In order to maximize the number of instructional minutes needed to adequately cover our curriculum, **students who are not in the classroom by 7:50 A.M. will be marked tardy.** Students who are late need to obtain a “**School Tardy Slip**” from the health room before going to class.

## **FAMILY ENVELOPES**

Beginning September 2, and every Tuesday thereafter, all school communication will be sent home in the **family envelope** with the oldest child enrolled at SSJ. Each time the envelope is sent home, please remove and carefully read all the contents. We ask that you respond to any items that require your attention, sign the envelope, and return it to school with your child the next day.

## **ANNUAL SCHOOL SUPPLY SALE**

It's that time of year again! The school supply sale will be held on Friday, August 29, from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at Sts. Simon & Jude School. Please refer to the SSJ school website at [www.ssj.org](http://www.ssj.org) for a list of items to be sold, as well as a list of the 2008-2009 required items not included in your pre-ordered school supply kit. If you have any questions concerning this program, please contact Diane Miali at (714) 493-9109.

**In addition to the items listed on the school supply sheet (please see the school website), every student in grades 3 through 8 MUST have a Student Assignment Book, which will be supplied FREE of charge by our PFA.** The assignment book is designed to benefit both the students and their parents. By consistently implementing the assignment book system, students will develop organizational skills and learn responsibility. Parents can benefit by frequently referring to the book during the school year to help monitor student homework, progress and effort. This is also an excellent method for parent-teacher communication.

## **SCHOOL UNIFORMS**

ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN COMPLETE UNIFORM ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2. Our school uniform company is Vicki Marsha. The company is located at 5292 Production Drive in Huntington Beach. If you have any questions regarding school uniforms please call the school office.

## **PE UNIFORMS**

All students in grades 1 through 8 are required to wear PE uniforms for physical education classes. Uniforms will be available for sale on September 2, during the parent social in Colman Hall. *Please note the following updates to our School Handbook in regards to the types of shoes that may be worn to school this year.*

### Boys' Uniform

**Casual or athletic** shoes **must** be worn to school. These would include cross-trainers, running, basketball and skateboard shoes. Shoes must have laces (no slip-ons) and be tied in the traditional manner at all times. **Shoes and laces must be blue or white only. Any and all accent colors must be either blue or white.** Shoes with designs other than the manufacturer logo are not allowed. No bare feet, sandals, hiking boots, other boots or extreme styles/colors are allowed at any time. Students in Tyke, kindergarten and first grade are allowed to wear Velcro-closing shoes.

### Girls' Uniform

Casual shoes or tennis shoes may be worn to school. Shoes must have laces (no slip-ons) and be tied in the traditional manner at all times. **Shoes and laces must be blue or white only. All accent colors must be either blue or white.** Shoes with designs other than the manufacturer logo are not allowed. No bare feet, sandals, hiking boots, other boots or extreme styles/colors are allowed at any time. Girls in Tyke through 4<sup>th</sup> grade may wear "Mary Jane" style shoes. These must be solid black or navy blue in color. Students in Tyke, kindergarten and first grade are allowed to wear Velcro-closing shoes.

### **MEDICATION FORM**

If your child will need to take any type of medication during school hours, please have your doctor complete the enclosed "request for medication" form and return it to our health office. **OUR SCHOOL NURSE CANNOT AND WILL NOT DISPENSE MEDICATION OF ANY KIND WITHOUT A PHYSICIAN'S SIGNATURE.**

### **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

State law now requires three (3) doses of Hepatitis B (given over a period of six months) and two (2) doses of MMR for entry into the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. A tetanus booster is strongly recommended if more than five years have passed since the last DTP. All students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade **MUST HAVE COMPLETED** three (3) doses of Hepatitis B and a second measles or MMR shot before the first day of school. Please bring your child's immunization record to the health room when you have completed these requirements.

### **SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES**

A letter explaining our school's counseling services has been enclosed with this mailing. Please read the letter from Outreach Concern very carefully and complete the "consent for counseling" section. This consent form should be returned to us on the first day of school. *(Please note that there is "no charge" for counseling services that your children receive on campus.)*

### **PARENT COFFEE SOCIAL**

On Tuesday morning, September 2, the PFA Hospitality Committee will host a coffee social at 8:00 A.M. in Colman Hall. All of our parents are welcome to attend. Coffee, juice and pastry will be served. This is the perfect time for our new families to meet the "veteran" families of our school community, and for everyone to become reacquainted after the long summer months.

### **IMPORTANT ENCLOSURES...**

Please take the time to read all of the enclosures in this mailing. There is important information regarding the PFA annual auction, the parish festival, and the school's craft fair. We have also enclosed the school's annual calendar and the *Spirit* newsletter.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer, and know that you are in our prayers.

*With faith, pride and spirit,*

**Crystal A. Smith**  
Principal