



## STS. SIMON & JUDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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July 20, 2009

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 2009-2010 school year! It is with great joy and enthusiasm that we begin another year together.

With the assurance of the faculty to foster a nurturing environment for our students, we are committed to providing a solid foundation in all curricular areas, and an education that is rooted in the Catholic faith. We recognize that children growing up in the world today need a quality education, as well as the opportunity to develop spiritually. Accordingly, we adhere to a philosophy of developing the whole child. At Sts. Simon & Jude School, our students are made aware of, and prepared for, the challenges of life in a global perspective. We are passionate about our dedication to providing the best learning environment for all of our students, and consistently challenge our students to reach their highest potential. We also strive to model Christ in our daily living while promoting the ever-present Franciscan spirit of peacemaking, recognizing God in all creation, and having love and respect for all of God's creatures and the earth.

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. We invite you to be an active part of this exceptional faith community, and carry the good news of Catholic education beyond the doors of our school.

I am deeply honored to serve as principal of a school so steeped in the tradition of excellence! As we anticipate another dynamic year at Sts. Simon & Jude School, 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 17, 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 ASSIGNMENTS**

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 28. **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 1**. 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.

### **PARENT COFFEE SOCIAL**

On Tuesday morning, September 1, 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.

### **NEW GRADING PROGRAM AT SSJ**

This year, the administration and faculty of Sts. Simon & Jude School will begin utilizing **Gradelink**, a centralized grading system that will allow parents and students easy access to student progress. Utilizing any computer with an Internet connection, parents will be able to access information pertaining to grades, performance, conduct, teacher comments and important assignment due dates online. One feature of the program, *Automatic Grade Monitoring*, will allow parents to receive emails automatically regarding their child’s current progress. **Gradelink** will be an invaluable tool to all of us as we partner with you in the education of your children!

### **NEW HOT LUNCH PROGRAM!**

As a result of the parent survey that you returned last spring, this year SSJ will be introducing a new hot lunch company, **Children’s Choice**. In the surveys, many of our parents expressed the need for a company that has all the components to make life easier for everyone involved—a company that is nutrition focused, has online convenience and most importantly, is “kid approved.” Children’s Choice empowers both kids and parents. With 12 lunch choices a day, the menu runs the gamut from healthy “kid favorites,” to sophisticated culinary creations. Every day, students are offered a broad menu in order to delight diverse palates, dietary restrictions and preferences.

At lunchtime, students are encouraged to make their own choices regarding snacks, fruits and vegetables. Children’s Choice strives to offer seasonally available local and organic produce. By allowing students to choose from a huge basket of fresh-cut fruits, vegetables and snacks, the importance of fresh, natural food is reinforced. And through providing students opportunities to see and taste new foods (such as yellow watermelon, edamame and tangelos), their food horizons are expanded. For a picky eater, there is nothing as inspiring as a friend relishing in a juicy kiwi. ☺ The company’s philosophy is in their name...Children’s Choice!

We will be needing *consistent* parent volunteers to assist with lunch distribution each day. The company has asked for a “team” of five (5) dependable volunteers—one for each day of the week. **Each time a parent volunteers on his/her assigned day, he/she will be given credit for FIVE (5) FREE lunches to be used for your child at your discretion.** If you are interested in helping, and know that you can consistently help one day each week throughout the school year, please call the school office at 714-962-4451.

### **FAMILY ENVELOPES**

Beginning September 1, 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**

School supply packs are scheduled to arrive at the end of August. If you ordered school supplies for your children, please note that they will be delivered directly to the classrooms for distribution on the first day of school. The school supply sale for any additional items not included in the packs will be held on Friday, August 28, from 10:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. in Colman Hall. 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 2009-2010 required items not included in your pre-ordered school supply kit.

### **SCHOOL UNIFORMS**

ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN COMPLETE UNIFORM ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1. Our school uniform company is Vicki Marsha. The company is located at 5292 Production Drive in Huntington Beach.

All students in grades 1 through 8 are required to wear PE uniforms for physical education classes. PE uniforms will be available for sale on September 1, during the parent social in Colman Hall.

### **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.

### **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, the school's annual calendar and the spring/summer edition of our *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**