



Sacred Heart Catholic School
26 Still Road
Monroe, NY 10950

August 12, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Summer is, for many, a quiet respite from the constant demands of work and school schedules. As the lazy, hazy days of summer draw to a close, I am hoping everyone has taken some time to relax and share quality time with family and friends. It is so important to rejuvenate one's spirit to be able to reset one's focus on the spiritual, academic and social challenges of a new school year.

Labor Day marks the official end of summer vacation, so following the established Archdiocesan Regional Calendar, Wednesday, Sept. 5th, will be the 1st Day of School for students in Pre-K 3 and K through 8. Pre-K 3 will be in session from 9:00am to 10:30am as they will have Orientation with Mrs. Cynthia Meddaugh. Pre-K 4 students will assemble on Thursday, Sept. 6th with a 1.5 hour Orientation session of their own beginning at 9:00am. Pre-K 3/4 will then have their first full day of class together on Friday, Sept. 7th. For everyone else, school will be in session full time these 1st few days of school. *A Back to School Mass* will be celebrated on Friday, Sept. 7th at 9:00am. Everyone is welcomed to join us in prayer and thanksgiving.

Our HSA Board is planning a Back to School Parent Social on Thursday, September 13th for parents and teachers.

On Monday, Sept. 24th, SHS will host the HSA Back to School Night. After a brief "Welcome Back" session in the auditorium, you will have an opportunity to visit your child's classroom. There the teachers will speak to you about curriculum and teacher expectations. This is also a golden opportunity to preview the fund raising events planned for this year and sign up for service hours, helping out whenever possible. Each family is expected to complete at least 20 service hours each year. There are many opportunities to fulfill this commitment throughout the year. Please do your best to help out whenever and where ever you can. Sign up sheets will be placed on tables in the rear of the gym for everyone's convenience. Our HSA Board members will be on hand to answer questions you may have. With regard to the 20 hour service commitment, a fee of \$200 will be charged through Smart Tuition in May if service hours are not fulfilled. This fee will be prorated based on the number of hours you have worked. This year the Home School Association fee of \$50 will be collected in November by Smart Tuition. This HSA Fee is seed money for all of the events planned in 2018-19.



There have been some major adjustments to our school budget this year which will impact our Lunch Program and place an added expectation on us all. We will be trying something new since our Lunch Program has been operating at a huge deficit for the past few years. We can no longer operate status quo. In order to offer the students a better variety of lunches over the course of the month, we will need to raise the cost of lunch to \$3.00. Lunch tickets (10 lunches) will cost \$30.

In the past, we had paid Lunch Monitors. This is no longer the case. In the past, Class Mothers were tasked with setting up 6 or more lunches to raise money for class trips. The money we cleared for lunches after paying the vendors or parents for the supplies went towards their class trip. However we had a huge budget deficit at the end of the school year on the class activity line. Since we are the only school in the Upper Regions with paid Lunch Monitors, we have been instructed to use parent volunteers instead. We will rearrange the lunch schedule and parent volunteers will be needed from 12:15 to 1:15 daily. We will need at least 4 parent volunteers daily to watch the children so our teachers can have a 30 minute lunch period. There will however, be a paid position in the Kitchen to order, cook and facilitate Hot Lunch. One additional Parent Volunteer in the kitchen is all that will be needed to help with serving the food. I am working out a new plan to schedule your volunteer service so teachers and students can have a safe and relaxing lunch time.

Additionally, the money raised by the lunch program will offset the cost of this salary. This is the way it is done in most schools across the Archdiocese. Bake Sale money raised is the only money that can be used for Class Trips (which was the original way we managed it). Also, teachers will no longer be collecting \$30 for Class Dues.

Our annually updated Parent/Student Handbook is available on the SHS website- www.sacredheartmonroe.net. The Parent/Student Handbook has several forms that need to be on file for the 2018-2019 school year. Please review the handbook with your child, and sign/return all the necessary forms found in the Appendix by Monday, Sept. 24th.

They include:

- ❖ I Have Read the Handbook-Parent Signature Page
- ❖ Photo/Video Release Form if not signed at registration
- ❖ Technology Use/Telecommunications Policy
- ❖ NYS Text Book Law

Additionally, please find the updated 2018-19 School Calendar, the Milk Order Form, the Allergy Form, Title 1 Income Survey and the Iris Alert Form available online at www.sacredheartmonroe.net. All of these additional forms must be returned to the SHS Office by the first week of school. Also available online is a copy of the annual asbestos letter. Please be assured that SHS is well within code and following established protocol. This letter is required to be sent home as a final step in the annual asbestos inspection process each year.

The Homework Agenda [\$5.00, required for all students Grades 1-8] as well as the 8 Pocket Folder [\$6.00 required by certain classes] will be available for purchase at school. Teachers will be responsible for collecting the money and will give your child his/her agenda and 8 pocket folder once they are paid for. All money being collected must be in an envelope marked with student's name, grade, list of items to be purchased along with the total \$ amount enclosed.

The **Summer Dress Uniform** will be in effect from September through October 12th. This uniform includes uniform navy shorts for boys, plaid skort or plaid shorts for girls. The white

polo shirt with SHS logo is for both boys and girls. Sneakers may not be worn as part of the Summer Uniform. Only dress shoes and socks may be worn. **Since Wednesday, Sept. 5th and Thursday, Sept. 6th are scheduled Gym Days, students may come to school in their summer gym uniform. Summer Dress Uniforms will be worn on Friday, Sept, 7th for Mass.**

In our continued efforts to go green, please check out our newly updated SHS website for news as it becomes available. Enjoy the last few days of summer vacation. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in September.

Sincerely,

Catherine E. Muenkel

