



St. Gregory the Great Academy

A Ministry of the Church of St. Gregory the Great

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The Rev. Michael T. McClane, Administrator

Dr. Jason C. Briggs, Principal

Mrs. Michele L. Rivera, Assistant Principal

August 24, 2018

Dear St. Gregory the Great Academy Families,

Peace be with you! When I was a child, I dreamt about being a teacher. In fact, I used to play school with my brother in the basement several days each week. On really exciting days, if I could find a third person to play with, I used to play principal! I am incredibly blessed to be able to do each day what I used to dream about when I was a child. When I am with a class of students, I often wonder what it is that they are dreaming about for the future. It is impossible for me to walk through the hallways these days and see the shiny floors, stacks of books, piles of new supplies, and desks set up for each student and not be filled with anticipation about the new school year. Still even more exciting than these physical things is the knowledge that in a week's time the rooms will be filled with students! The quiet and change of pace which come with summer are nice for a time; however, by the middle of August it starts to seem way too quiet around here. As the late summer days have grown noticeably shorter, I anxiously await the first day of school.

These past months have not been without challenges for us, both universally and locally. I ask that you continue to hold Michelé Clavelli, and his parents Angela and Vito, in your prayers. The pain of Michelé's passing continues to weigh heavily on his classmates from our Class of 2018 and their parents, as well as many of us on our staff. We can only rely on prayer at this time, for there are no logical answers to questions which defy logic. One never "graduates" out of the SGGA Family, and when some members deal with pain, we all do. May our Lord accompany all of us.

The universal Church is dealing with a crisis that is arguably unparalleled in our lifetime. Pope Francis began his recent message to the world with the following words: *"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it" (1 Cor 12:26). These words of Saint Paul forcefully echo in my heart as I acknowledge once more the suffering endured by many minors due to sexual abuse, the abuse of power and the abuse of conscience perpetrated by a significant number of clerics and consecrated persons. Crimes that inflict deep wounds of pain and powerlessness, primarily among the victims, but also in their family members and in the larger community of believers and nonbelievers alike.* There is much revulsion and disgust in the minds of our people these days, as there should be. In the coming weeks, much ink will be spilled as this crisis is analyzed and plans for moving forward are developed. As we prepare to open the school year in the shadow of a crisis that we neither caused nor can solve at our level, my suggestion is to keep focused on both the everlasting truths of the sacraments and the words of the Nicene Creed, which succinctly summarizes the immutable truths of our Roman Catholic faith.

In the face of these significant challenges, the importance of bringing the love and peace of our Lord to this holy place each and every day grows in importance. As parents and teachers, we have partnered to do the very best that we are capable of doing for our children, and while there is much in the world that we cannot control, we CAN control the experience that our children have each day at St. Gregory the Great Academy. This year's theme, **"St. Gregory the Great Academy Colors Each Day with God's Love"** has taken on an even more profound meaning than themes in past years. The ways in which we are called to color our days, with

respect, compassion, gratitude, reverence, honesty, goodness, kindness, forgiveness, empathy, and patience are the brushes with which we create the environment which our mission statement calls us to create. Our school exists to teach our students to know and love Jesus Christ and His Church. We do this by rooting all that we do in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and striving to live a life of discipleship. Our purpose, simply stated, is to partner with you to get these young people to heaven. It is why St. Gregory the Great Academy exists, and why we are all here. What could be more important?

During the summer, final planning and preparation for implementation occurred for two major new programs in our school. As you know, for many years, the Academy has offered Resource Room English / Language Arts (ELA) instruction for students in Grades 1 through 4 whose learning style matched with the Wilson Reading program. When I arrived at St. Gregory in 2005, I was amazed at the quality of this program, and the fact that it was fully funded by the school over and above all state and federal entitlements. Over the years, the Resource Room program has remediated weaknesses, addressed a variety of learning styles, and helped students master ELA skills with remarkable success. Until now, the Resource Room program concluded for all students at the end of Grade 4, and all students returned to regular ELA instruction beginning in Grade 5. As originally designed, the students in Grades 5-8 benefitted from significant assistance from in-class support teachers funded by the annual federal IDEIA Grant. As the years have progressed, the dollar amount of the IDEIA Grant has diminished regularly, which has resulted in a gradual, but steady, decrease in the quantity of in-class support which we have been able to offer to our students in Grades 5-8. Concurrent to this trend, the number of students who present with specific reading and writing needs has increased remarkably. Indeed, the number of students who have been diagnosed with dyslexia and attend our school has increased dramatically over the past 14 years. While there can be debate as to if this increase is due to better diagnostic processes or an actual increase in occurrences, what cannot be debated is the need to further develop our strategies to effectively address students with specific reading and writing needs at our school, including, but not limited to, students diagnosed with dyslexia.

To this end, effective this year the Resource Room program has been redesigned to serve the needs of students in Grade 1 through Grade 8. In doing so, the former Resource Room program will now be designed as “English / Language Arts Lab.” The English / Language Arts Lab Blue (ELA Lab B) will serve students in Grade 1 through Grade 4, while English / Language Arts Lab White (ELA Lab W) will serve students in Grade 5 through Grade 8. The ELA Lab B program will function identically to the former Resource Room, while the ELA Lab W program will extend the strategies that students who may have been in the Resource Room program in the past have learned using methodology based on the Orton-Gillingham approach. The ELA Lab W program will be taught by Mrs. Amy Parrotta, who spent the last year earning her Orton-Gillingham Classroom Teacher Certification.

Also this summer, the STEM program continued its natural evolution. In early spring 2018, I empaneled a committee to examine the structure of the Science, STEM, and Lab instruction at St. Gregory the Great Academy. After several meetings and site visits to other schools, the committee made recommendations in response to the essential questions that were posed to them. In planning the instructional aspect of STEM Lab for next year, in speaking with both Mrs. Stives and Mrs. Trail, and after giving the prospect much thought, my evolving vision became that STEM and Technology classes would no longer be separate. The “T” in STEM stands for Technology, and the model of a separate technology lab in a school no longer makes sense given that students have one-to-one devices in Grades 5-8, and classroom devices in lower grades. Thus, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, STEM Lab will be a twice-weekly course for all grades. Kindergarten – Grade 5 will visit the STEM Lab (formerly the Technology Lab) twice per week, Grades 7 and 8 will meet for their Science/STEM classes every day in what is now the Bio Lab in the Parish Center and Grade 6 will visit each lab one time per week. This model enables Mrs. Stives and Mrs. Trail to co-teach STEM for Grades K-5, and for one of the Grade 6 weekly periods.

As we prepare for our new school year, we welcome our newest faculty members. The expansion of the ELA Lab program necessitated the hiring of an additional ELA Lab teacher. I am happy to introduce Mrs. Elizabeth Sunkel (a graduate of our school) as our new ELA Lab B teacher. Mrs. Sunkel comes to us after several years of teaching at the CYO Preschool. She possesses New Jersey Teacher of Students with Disabilities certification. We welcome Mrs. Jennifer Biele as our new 7th and 8th Grade Science / 6th Grade STEM teacher. Mrs. Biele comes to us after thirteen years of teaching at St. Aloysius School in Jackson, and earned her BA at Belmont Abbey College. Mrs. Biele's classes will take place in the Biology Lab. Mrs. Kara DeBonis is our new 4A teacher, and also comes to us after many years with the CYO. Mrs. DeBonis earned her BA at Holy Family University. Mrs. Annabelle Certo, who earned her BA from Rutgers University, is our new 3A Teacher. Mrs. Certo taught at Our Lady of Lourdes School in Milltown for several years, has served as a substitute teacher in various school districts, and is now excited to work with our third grade students. Finally, we offer a warm welcome to our new school nurse, Mrs. Johnna Stinemire. Mrs. Stinemire comes to us after a few years serving as the school nurse at Faith Christian School, and was the longtime school nurse at St. Thomas the Apostle School in Old Bridge. She is eager to begin her time as our school nurse. A warm welcome is extended to each of these individuals as they join our family here at St. Gregory the Great Academy.

We have some changes among our returning faculty members as well. Mrs. Regina Ratzlaff joins the Academy Administrative Team with the role of Director of Special Services. In addition to her teaching assignments in ELA Lab B, she will also be responsible for reviewing lesson planning and instruction as both relate to meeting the needs of students with special needs. As mentioned previously, Mrs. Karen Stives and Mrs. DiAnne Trail will be co-teaching in the STEM Lab, and Mrs. Elizabeth Sunkel will be joining Mrs. Ratzlaff in ELA Lab B. Mrs. Parrotta will be working with students in Grades 5-8 in ELA Lab W. Mrs. Michelle Klama will continue the fine work that she stated in the spring in 1A. Mrs. Tracey Mularadelis has moved next door to her old room as she takes over 7B, while Mrs. Katie Wilson has moved into 6B. Mrs. Jennifer Gallagher has exchanged the green hallway for the yellow hallway, and has settled into 5A. Mrs. Dana Hoover has moved from 6C up to 3B, while Mrs. Julie Boles has also completed a next door move, in this case to 2B. Miss Alyssa Donahue has moved from one end of the primary hallway to the other as she takes over 1B. Mrs. Katie Larason has moved from educational assistant to teacher in Preschool 4W. Finally, new preschool assistants for this year include Mrs. Sarah Zebrowski, Mrs. Helena Sharpley, Mrs. Donna O'Malley, and Mrs. Kate Hughes (who will be sharing her time in preschool and the Biology Lab).

During the summer, we unexpectedly bid farewell to two staff members. Mr. Thomas Raynor has retired from his position after serving St. Gregory the Great for 28 years. While Mr. Raynor will be succeeded, no one will ever be quite like him. Additionally, Mrs. Gena Bitonti has made the decision to move on to the Lawrence Township Public School system. I am grateful for her five years of service at our school. Finally, Mrs. Susan Furman has informed me that she will be retiring as of December 31, 2018 after serving at our school since 1982 (and with 4 principals, each with very different personalities!) Mrs. Furman will be succeeded by Mrs. Mary Lynn Adams, who has already moved from Preschool 3 to the Main Office to begin the transition.

Summer has been busy here at school this year in terms of the physical plant. All classrooms in the school building have been cleaned and are ready for students! The main hallway ladies room has been completely remodeled, and is no doubt the finest restroom in the school! I am grateful to Mr. Graham Parker, of Parker Associates, for completing this project with exceptional craft and care. The four classrooms in the Parish Center and the Counselor's Office have new secure windows. B Hall has been painted, as well as the classroom hallway in the Parish Center. Thanks are extended to Mr. Archila, Mr. Bonifazi, Mr. Cavallaro, Mrs. Trail, and our summer help for accomplishing all of this work. These projects, along with the floor cleaning and technology maintenance, would not just "happen" without the assistance of many hands.

2018-2019 CLERGY, ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY, AND STAFF

Rev. Michael T. McClane	Pastor		Started at SGGA 2014
<i>B.A., Princeton University; S.T.B., Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome; J.C.L., The Catholic University of America</i>			
Rev. Al Gamalo	Parochial Vicar		Started at SGGA 2016
<i>A.B., The Nativity of Our Lady College Seminary, Borongan, Philippines; S.T.B., St. Mary's Seminary and University; M.Div. St. Mary's Seminary and University</i>			
Rev. Marcin Kania	Parochial Vicar		Started at SGGA 2018
<i>B.A., St. Charles Seminary; M.Div, St. Charles Seminary; S.T.M., St. Charles Seminary;</i>			
Dr. Jason C. Briggs	Principal	Latin 7 & 8	Started at SGGA 2005
<i>B.A., Caldwell College; M.A., Caldwell College; M.A., Georgian Court University; Ed.D., Neumann University</i>			
Mrs. Michele Rivera	Assistant Principal	Social Studies 8	Started at SGGA 2005
<i>B.S., Elizabethtown College; M.Ed. The College of New Jersey</i>			
Mrs. Kristin Bricker	Academy Counselor		Started at SGGA 2012
<i>B.A., Coastal Carolina University; M.A., Seton Hall University</i>			
Mrs. Susan Furman	Academy Administrative Assistant		Started at SGGA 1982
Mrs. Jane Mesday	Academy Administrative Assistant		Started at SGGA 1990
Mrs. Mary Lynn Adams	Academy Administrative Assistant		Started at SGGA 2000
Mrs. Johnna Stinemire	Academy Nurse		Started at SGGA 2018
<i>B.A., Monmouth University</i>			
Mrs. Regina Ratzlaff	Director of Services; ELA Lab B Teacher		Started at SGGA 1998
<i>B.S., Trenton State College; M.Ed., The College of New Jersey</i>			
Mrs. Cheryl Kobren	Pre3 Blue		Started at SGGA 1998
<i>C.D.A., National Credentialing Program</i>			
Ms. Maureen Smitley	Pre3 White		Started at SGGA 1983
<i>B.A., Trenton State College; M.A., Trenton State College</i>			
Mrs. Cathleen Sunshine	Pre4 Blue		Started at SGGA 2003
<i>A.A., Mercer County Community College</i>			
Mrs. Katherine Larason '03	Pre4 White		Started at SGGA 2015
<i>B.F.A., The College of New Jersey</i>			
Miss Kathleen Holub	KA	Essentially Self-Contained	Started at SGGA 2000
<i>B.S., Trenton State College</i>			
Mrs. Nancy Darrah	KB	Essentially Self-Contained	Started at SGGA 2007
<i>B.A., Rider University</i>			
Mrs. Michelle Klama	1A	Essentially Self-Contained	Started at SGGA 2012
<i>B.A., Rider University</i>			
Miss Alyssa Donahue	1B	Essentially Self-Contained	Started at SGGA 2016
<i>B.A., William Patterson University</i>			
Mrs. Cloe McGilberry	2A	Essentially Self-Contained	Started at SGGA 2017
<i>B.S., The College of New Jersey</i>			
Mrs. Julie Boles	2B	Essentially Self-Contained	Started at SGGA 2017
<i>B.A., Seton Hall University</i>			
Mrs. Annabelle Certo	3A	Religion 3; Math 3; Science 3; Social Studies 3	Started at SGGA 2018
<i>B.A., Rutgers University</i>			
Mrs. Dana Hoover	3B	Religion 3; Integrated Language Arts 3	Started at SGGA 2017
<i>B.A., Gwynedd-Mercy University</i>			
Mrs. Kara DeBonis	4A	Math 4; Science 4; Social Studies 4	Started at SGGA 2018
<i>B.A., Holy Family University</i>			
Sister Natalie Panas, OSF	4B	Religion 4; Integrated Language Arts 4	Started at SGGA 1983
<i>B.A., Neumann College; M.Ed., Boston University; M.A., Georgian Court University</i>			

Mrs. Jennifer Gallagher '02 <i>B.A., Neumann University, M.A. St. Joseph's University</i>	5A	Religion 5; Science 5 & 6	Started at SGGA 2010
Mrs. Elizabeth Mills <i>B.A., Providence College; M.S., University of London; M.P.A., Rutgers University</i>	5B	Religion 5 & 6; ILA 5 & 6; Math 6	Started at SGGA 2010
Mr. Paul Cutaneo <i>B.S., St. Joseph University</i>	6A	Math 6; Social Studies 6 & 7	Started at SGGA 2017
Mrs. Kathleen Wilson '93 <i>B.A., Rider University</i>	6B	Math 5; ILA 5 & 6	Started at SGGA 2015
Mrs. Christina Ely '00 <i>B.A., The College of New Jersey</i>	7A	Math 7 & 8	Started at SGGA 2013
Mrs. Tracey Mularadelis <i>B.S., Trenton State College; M.A.T., The College of New Jersey</i>	7B	Religion 6 & 7; Math 5; Social Studies 5	Started at SGGA 2009
Mrs. Kelly O'Keefe <i>B.S., St. John's University; M.S., St. John's University</i>	8A	ILA 7 & 8	Started at SGGA 2012
Mrs. Brittany DiGregorio <i>B.A., Richard Stockton College</i>	8B	Religion 8; ILA 7; Math 6 & 8	Started at SGGA 2014
Mrs. Jennifer Biele <i>B.A., Belmont Abbey College</i>		Science 7 & 8, STEM 6	Started at SGGA 2018
Mrs. Christine Fuccello <i>B.S., Trenton State College; M.Ed., Trenton State College</i>		Physical Education P3-8	Started at SGGA 2005
Mrs. Susann Leidemer <i>B.A., James Madison University</i>		Art P3-8	Started at SGGA 1994
Sister Barbara Furst, OSF <i>B.S. The College of New Jersey; M.E., The College of New Jersey; M.A., Georgian Court University</i>		Library K-4	Started at SGGA 2013
Mrs. Kristin Bergin <i>B.A., Trenton State College; M.A., Trenton State College</i>		Music P3-8	Started at SGGA 2013
Mrs. DiAnne Trail <i>B.A., Bethany College</i>		STEM K-6	Started at SGGA 1987
Mrs. Karen Stives '87 <i>B.S., Wesley College</i>		STEM K-6	Started at SGGA 1998
Mrs. Loretta Palmieri <i>B.A., State Univ. of Oneonta; M.S., C.W. Post College</i>		Spanish P3-8	Started at SGGA 2001
Mrs. Kari Huang <i>B.A., Adelphi University</i>		Mandarin Chinese 5 & 6	Started at SGGA 2017
Mrs. Elizabeth Sunkel '03 <i>B.S., University of Scranton</i>		ELA Lab B	Started at SGGA 2018
Mrs. Amy Parrotta <i>B.S., The College of New Jersey</i>		ELA Lab W; Math 7	Started at SGGA 2009
Mrs. Tracy Bailey '94 <i>B.A., The College of New Jersey</i>		Educational Assistant – Preschool 3	Started at SGGA 2015
Mrs. Katherine Hughes <i>A.A., Brookdale College</i>		Educational Assistant – Preschool 3 & Science Labs	Started at SGGA 2014
Mrs. Donna O'Malley <i>B.A., Trenton State College</i>		Educational Assistant – Preschool 3	Started at SGGA 2018
Mrs. Helena Sharpley		Educational Assistant – Preschool 3	Started at SGGA 2018
Mrs. Tanya Beckman <i>B.A., Siena College</i>		Educational Assistant – Preschool 4	Started at SGGA 2016
Mrs. Sarah Zebrowski <i>A.A.S., Delaware Technical Community College</i>		Educational Assistant – Preschool 4	Started at SGGA 2018
Mrs. Jeannine Furman <i>B.A., Trenton State College</i>		Educational Assistant – Preschool 4	Started at SGGA 2016

Mr. David Murray	Educational Assistant – Preschool 4	Started at SGGA 2012
Mrs. Mary Ann Crawford <i>B.S., East Stroudsburg University</i>	Educational Assistant – Preschool 4	Started at SGGA 2007
Mrs. Mary Lou Chopan	Preschool Morning Assistant	Started at SGGA 1998
Mrs. Nadine Cleveland <i>B.B.A., Anna Maria College</i>	Educational Assistant – Grade KA	Started at SGGA 2017
Mrs. Jean Margadonna <i>A.A., Blue Hills Regional Technical Institute</i>	Educational Assistant – Grade KB	Started at SGGA 2012
Mrs. Kathleen Moynahan <i>B.A., St. Peter’s College</i>	Educational Assistant – Grade 1A	Started at SGGA 1997
Mrs. Allison Maffia <i>A.A., Mercer County Community College</i>	Educational Assistant – Grade 1B	Started at SGGA 2016
Mrs. Kara Valentino <i>Ocean County College</i>	Educational Assistant – Grade 2A	Started at SGGA 2014
Mrs. Carolyn Kokotajlo <i>B.A., Immaculata University</i>	Educational Assistant – Grade 2B	Started at SGGA 2015
Miss Nicole Seitz <i>B.A., Monmouth University</i>	Support Assistant	Started at SGGA 2017
Mrs. Robin Muccia <i>B.A., Farleigh Dickinson University</i>	Support Assistant	Started at SGGA 1981
Mrs. Tracy O’Neill	Extended Day Program Coordinator	
Dr. John Shaddy	Director of Sacred Music	
Mr. Sean Semple	Academy Director of Advancement	
Mrs. Susan Scibilia	Director of Communications	
Mrs. Maureen Cozzi	Parish Business Manager	
Sr. Carolyn Houck, MPF	Director of Religious Education	
Sr. Domenica Troina, MPF	Religious Education Assistant	
Mrs. Patricia Seladi	Bookkeeper	
Mrs. Donna Kalinoski	Parish Business Office Staff	
Mrs. Patricia Colamarino	Parish Scheduler/Secretary to the Pastor	
Mrs. Cathy Fisher	Rectory Secretary	
Mrs. Pat Carnevale	Rectory Secretary	
Mr. Jason Bonifazi	Maintenance Supervisor	
Mr. Rolando Archila	Maintenance	
Mr. Cosmo Cavallaro	Groundskeeper	

List current as of 8-23-2018

II. SCHOOL HOURS

All K-8 students are to be in their classroom no later than 8:00 a.m. Morning supervision is provided at 7:15 a.m. K-8 Dismissal is at 2:30 p.m. except for half day sessions when it will be at 12:30 p.m. Full day and morning-only preschool students may be dropped off beginning at 7:30 a.m., and should be in their classrooms no later than 8:30 a.m. Morning-only preschool students dismiss at 11:30 a.m. at the Preschool Entrance. Full day preschool students dismiss at 3:00 p.m. at the Preschool Entrance.

A. ARRIVAL - Car Arrival Procedure: If you will be dropping off your K-8 child in the morning, please use the Mario Drive entrance and follow the arrows around to the doors on the side of the Parish Center (this is the same area that car riders are picked up at dismissal). We ask that you pull up and have the children get out of the car as quickly as possible. Students will walk on the sidewalk to the

front doors of the Parish Center. For security reasons, the side doors to Ferrante Hall will no longer be open in the morning. If students need to get backpacks out of the trunk, please park the car. Some parents may wish to park in the area lot and walk the students into the building. This is fine, however, you are asked not to linger inside the building. You may drop off the children between 7:20am and 7:55am. There is adult supervision during this time. After 7:55am please drop children off at the main entrance to the school where they will be directed to their classrooms. Students who are not in their classrooms at 8:05 am are considered tardy and must go to the Main Office for a late pass. Preschool children should be brought to the Preschool Entrance behind the Academy building; please follow the signs and the directions of the staff to the Preschool Entrance. Preschool parents should exit the back parking lot via the same way they entered it and then follow the traffic signs in the front parking lot to exit. REMEMBER, you must make a RIGHT turn when exiting the back parking lot into the front parking lot.

B. DISMISSAL – The K-8 Car Rider line will be called for dismissal after all bus lines have been dismissed. The Grade 5-8 car rider line will exit from the BACK of the Parish Center into the parking lot on the left side of the building. The Grade K-4 car rider line will enter Ferrante Hall and will be seated by grade at the tables. Once the students are seated, parents will need to enter Ferrante Hall to pick up their K-4 children. This process ensures the SAFEST method for picking up our young students. Please park your cars in the lot near the back of the Parish Center to wait for your child and then exit the lot by way of Mario Drive. Preschool students who have siblings in Grades K-8 may be signed into the Preschool Car Rider Line in the morning when they are dropped off. Preschoolers who are signed into the Preschool Car Rider Line will come over to Ferrante Hall in line after all the bus lines have been called so that parents with a preschooler and a K-8 student can pick up in one location. Only preschoolers with K-8 siblings in the Academy may be signed into the Preschool Car Rider Line; all other preschoolers must be picked up at the Preschool Entrance. Preschool EDP students will be brought to EDP at 3:00 p.m. The K-8 EDP Line will be called last, and will report to the Parish Center for EDP. **ALL DISMISSAL CHANGES WHICH MUST BE COMMUNICATED TO THE SCHOOL, AND THAT ARE FOR THE CURRENT DAY, MUST BE TELEPHONED TO THE MAIN OFFICE. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO EMAIL CHANGES OR TEXT CHANGES TO ANYONE, INCLUDING THE TEACHER OR THE OFFICE, AS THEY MAY NOT REACH THE CLASSROOM PRIOR TO DISMISSAL.** You must speak to an actual live person to request a “day-of” change.

C. Bus Transportation (K-8 only): Due to insurance policies, students are only permitted to ride the bus to which they are assigned. Students MAY NOT SWITCH BUSES for any reason without prior permission from your **PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**. The bus driver CANNOT give permission to switch buses, nor can the school.

D. Walkers: We have very few students who walk or ride bikes to school on a daily basis. Students who on occasion decide to walk home, to a friend's home, or to a nearby store **MUST HAVE A WRITTEN NOTE FROM THEIR PARENT (a phone call will not suffice, we must have a parent signature for our file)**. We simply want to be certain parents know of their child's plans.

III. OPENING MASS

We will have our traditional mass to open the school year on Friday, September 7, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. As always, all are welcome!

IV. STUDENT INSURANCE

All students in St. Gregory the Great Academy are covered during school hours and on school sponsored trips under the Diocesan plan. This is an “excess plan,” and pays above what the child’s primary insurance does not cover.

V. UNIFORMS

A. Shoe Policy: **All students in Grades 1-8 are required to wear black oxford type, Sperry or Mary Jane shoes.** The shoes are to be **BLACK** and **NON-SCUFF!** **Any shoe that is not entirely black or that is backless, healed, or clog-like is prohibited.** Sneakers are to be worn by students in Grades 1-8 on Physical Education Day. Kindergarten is to wear sneakers every day, since they are wearing the Physical Education uniform all five days each week. There is no uniform policy for Preschoolers; HOWEVER, please be sure that all preschoolers are wearing sturdy sneakers each day. Dress and decorative footwear is not safe to run around in each day.

B: Grades 5-8: **Remember that the knit/polo shirts are NOT an option in Grades 5-8 for summer or winter uniform.** For Grades 6-8 (NOT Grade 5), the blazer is an option for summer uniform (September, May, and June) and is mandatory **and must be worn EVERY DAY** (except for physical education day) when winter uniform begins on October 1, 2018. For Grade 5, the blazer is an OPTION at all times of the year.

C. **The summer uniform may be worn through Friday, September 28, 2018.** Please refer to your Family Handbook for the guidelines. Also, we will be strictly enforcing the uniform policy and will be depending on you to support us in our efforts to ensure that our students are well-groomed and in a uniform that is appropriate for a Catholic School setting. If you need to purchase uniforms, please call the school office for an order form. Remember that used uniforms are available through the school store at the price of \$3.00 per item. **Students who come to school out of uniform will be provided the appropriate attire to change into and the parents will be billed at the rate of \$5.00 per item, per occurrence.**

VI. NOTICES/CALENDARS

A 2018-2019 annual school calendar is posted on our website. Information and flyers that need to be distributed each week will be included in the weekly CHIRP which will be posted on the school website. The CHIRP will be posted under the “Publications” tab on the website each Friday in PDF format. Please be sure that your computer or device has the latest version of a PDF reader installed. If your email address has changed since you listed it on your PFP, please contact Mrs. Mesday to update your email address at jmesday@stgregorythegreat.org. This email address will be used to send you a reminder each week when the CHIRP is posted online, as well as for other school communication.

VII. LUNCH

CaféTerias, Inc. will continue to be our lunch service provider this year. Lunch will begin on Tuesday, September 4, 2018. A menu will be published each month. The lunch price will remain at \$3.75 for the full meal. Preschool and Kindergarten parents are asked to look for the weekly order form in each week’s CHIRP and to complete this form each week and send it into school if your son or daughter will be purchasing their lunch.

This year, we will be using an electronic portal for mandatory lunch duty sign up. This will ensure that lunch will operate smoothly. Please see the information in this packet under separate cover.

VIII. SERVICE REQUIREMENT:

The service requirement for the 2018-2019 school year is 30 points. Please refer to your Parish Family Partnership and other information in this packet for further details. **Remember that at least 8 of these points must be earned through Bingo, Parish GALA and/or Carnival.**

IX. FUNDRAISING COMMITMENT

The total of the school rebates for all Scrip purchases must equal \$300.00. All families are asked to seriously consider purchasing tickets for the 2018 St. Gregory the Great Gala to be held on November 16, 2018. Gala tickets will cost \$125.00 each, and each ticket purchased will accrue \$50.00 toward the total \$300.00 fundraising commitment. Families who do not meet the \$300.00 fundraising commitment will need to pay the balance by June 1, 2019; families who exceed the \$300.00 fundraising commitment will receive a tuition voucher (credit/refund) equal to the excess amount over \$300.00 by June 30, 2019. (see separate instructions)

X. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Because of the increasing number of food allergies and sensitivities among our student body, it has become necessary to develop and enforce clear guidelines as to the types of “treats” that will be acceptable for birthday celebrations. **The ONLY acceptable FOOD items that will be permitted for classroom birthday celebrations are: pretzel nubs, fruit or vegetable trays, snack packages of pretzels, or snack packages of goldfish crackers.** Any parent in any grade who wishes to send a treat for the class for a child’s birthday MUST contact the teacher at least 48 hours prior to make arrangements. The teachers have specific responsibilities they must carry out prior to distributing any food in the classroom. ANY OTHER TYPES OF TREATS (donut holes, cupcakes, candy, cakes, etc.) will NOT be distributed, and will be returned home.

XII. P.T.A.

First meeting date is Thursday, September 13, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria followed by Back-to-School Night for Preschool 3- Grade 4 at 7:30 p.m. A reception for all new school families will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 13, 2018, in the Music Room in the Academy – all new families are invited to come and be welcomed.

XIII. BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHTS

This year’s Back-to-School Nights are scheduled for Tuesday, September 11, at 7:00 p.m. for Grades 5-8 and Thursday, September 13, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. for Preschool-Grade 4.

XIV. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

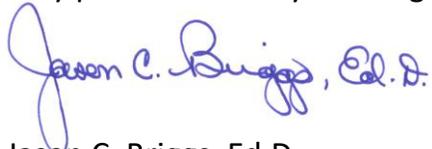
Please be advised that St. Gregory the Great Academy operates under procedures outlined in our Crisis Manual. Information will always be shared with parents on a timely basis; however, please remember that necessary steps to contact emergency personnel and to secure students always takes priority over distributing information. My primary method of communication is via email, and the emergency notification system is

reserved for true emergencies and weather closings/delays. We will be using the School Messenger emergency notification system this year; please see the information in this packet under separate cover.

Again, I welcome each of you to a new school year. This is truly a blessed place to be! I am excited to begin the journey of the 2018-2019 school year with our teachers, parents, and most of all, our students! I look forward to the Academy's 54th first day of school.

A new school year brings promise, hope, and excitement. Mrs. Rivera and I look forward to our journey together this year with each of you. On behalf of Fr. McClane, the parish clergy and staff, and all of us at St. Gregory the Great Academy, welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! We are so glad that you are here!

May peace and every blessing be yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason C. Briggs, Ed.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Jason C. Briggs, Ed.D.
Principal