



St. CATHARINE
SCHOOL

*Welcome Back to the 2017 - 2018
St. Catharine School Year!*

Welcome back to all our returning families and those families who are new to St. Catharine School. We look forward to seeing everyone on **Wednesday, August 23** for the first day of school. We have an exciting year ahead of us, including a new staff member! Mr. Tim Magree will be the next music teacher. Mr. Magree has been teaching at St. Patrick School in London for the past four years. We are looking forward to having him on our staff as he brings enthusiasm and experience to our excellent music program. As we did this year, Father Dury will be in on Fridays to teach the Religion in the 8th grade classroom. We welcome his continued involvement and support in the school! The remaining teachers and staff are returning to our classrooms. We will have a new teacher aide in Miss Stebelton's classroom.

Once again, we were notified by the Ohio Department of Education that our 8th grade students who participated in the required State of Ohio Algebra test excelled in this test. We are sending these 13 students on to high school with scores in the "Advanced" and Accelerated" level! Thanks to Mrs. Green for her excellent work with this students during this school year.

Our preschool continues to be involved with programs and awards for their excellence in programming and instruction. Mrs. Megan Williams will continue with her role as director. In addition, the majority of her staff (Mrs. Steinbauer, Mrs. Springer, Mrs. Abel) will be returning!

We have been busy this summer with some renovations to the school. The majority of the classrooms have been furnished with "Clevertouch" televisions that combines the qualities of the Smart Boards with extended programs for student instructional use. In addition, we have started on replacing classroom floors. Grades 3 and 5 have beautiful floors that are laminate. It should help Mr. Davis since these new floors do not require stripping and waxing! A special thanks to Mr. Davis and his two assistants who have spent much of the summer making sure that our school is ready for the students in August. As always, the facilities at the school are well maintained by Mr. Davis!

The Home and School will again sponsor an **"Ice Cream" Social on Monday, August 21** to kick off the new school year and provide time for families to be re-acquainted with other parents while welcoming new parents/families. A school **Open House will be on Monday, August 21 from 3:30 – 5:00** followed by the **Ice Cream Social** on the front steps of the gym doors from **5:00 – 7:00**....stop in any time between those hours!

In addition, the Home and School will offer the Uniform Swap for any families interested in obtaining additional uniforms. This will be held from 5:00 – 7:00 (during the Ice Cream Social). Entry to this area will be through the front gym doors and down the steps to the area under the stage.

Below is a list of information pieces that will prove helpful in starting back to school:

School Supply List is available on the school website (www.stcatharineschool.com). In addition, school supplies that were ordered in the spring of the year will be delivered to each of the classrooms by the beginning of the Open House.....August 21).

The updated Parent-Student Handbook (2017 - 2018) for the school will be available on our school website on Monday, August 7. Please take time to review this handbook before the beginning of school. Please also note these reminders that are included in the handbook:

- **Request for Homework/ Test Make-Up (Found under Academics/ Curriculum/ Classroom....Assignments during Illness):** Please note that requests for homework for absent students must be made when the parent calls into the school office in the morning. Requests made for homework in the afternoon cannot be accommodated. In addition, students who return to school after an illness will take tests on the same day that they return. Students are given advance notice on tests. They should be prepared to take the test when they return.
- **Study Tables (Found under Academics/ Curriculum/ Classroom....Homework Section):** Study Tables will again be provided for any interested students who might need extra help or intervention. This is for students in Grades 5 – 8 and is available on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Siblings who need to stay will be asked to use the Latchkey Program until 3:30.
- **School Uniforms (Found under Dress Code):** Please re-read the section of the uniform policy that addresses school shoes (both hard soled shoes and summer uniform/gym shoes) **before** shopping for school shoes. Please remember that the student shoes for summer uniform attire and gym classes is either all white, all black, or white and black gym shoes. Laces must match the shoes. Uniforms can be purchased at School Days Uniforms.
- **Custody Papers (Found under General Information....Child Custody):** Any court-ordered papers regarding custody and/or residence issues must be on file in the office, beginning the first day of school.
- **E-Mail (Found under General Information....E-Mail):** All staff members have email addresses. Teachers will return emails within 24 hours (Monday through Friday).
- **Student Tardy (Found under General Information):** Students who exceed four unexcused tardy slips per quarter will be required to serve a Friday morning detention at 7:30 a.m. Parents will receive the information regarding this detention on Thursday before the Friday detention.
- **Vacations During School Time (Found under General Information):** We continue to ask for your support in scheduling vacation time that coincides with our school calendar. Calendars are available on-line in June. It is very difficult for students to make up missed academic work when they are not in school.

Accreditation: We received approval from the Ohio Catholic Schools Accreditation Association for our school improvement plan. This plan is in operation for the next four years. There is an religious goal and an academic goal. The staff will be working with students on deepening their faith life through a variety of classroom opportunities. They will also be working with students on improving self-study in curriculum areas.

The School Advisory Board will continue plans to support the five year strategic plans for St. Catharine School. Monthly updates will be sent to parents regarding new programs/ activities/ policies. In addition, they will focus on marketing, finances, and public relations.

The **school website** (www.stcatharineschool.com) continues to be an excellent source of information. Important information, reminders, and daily updates on school events will always posted on the front page of the website.

School begins on Wednesday, August 23. For the first day of school, students and families gather on the back playground of the school. Parking is available for parents in the parking lot that sits by the rectory. Parents may either drop off their children (entering the parking lot from Bexley Park...circling around and dropping off students...and then exiting onto Bexley Park) **OR** parking your car and walking with your child to the class lines. Many parents stay with their child until the students enter the building on the first day of school.

- Students will move into the gym from their class lines (formed outside of the school doors) for the first day of class. Parents are welcome to join us for this first day of morning prayer in the gym. Students will then be dismissed to their classrooms, and parents are invited to join us in the cafeteria for doughnuts and coffee. This event is **sponsored by the SPICE organization (Special People in Catholic Education)**. If you can, it is a nice opportunity to meet other parents on that first day of school!

First Day: When students gather on the first day, they will line up at one of the three rear doors. Grades K-1-2 line up at the rear door closest to the convent. Grades 6-7-8 line up at the middle rear doors. Grades 3-4-5 line up at the rear door closest to the gym door. Once the bell has rung, the teacher will walk them into the gym for morning prayer.

- ✚ Please remember to bring a snack and drink for the first day of school (August 23). The cafeteria will begin on Thursday, August 24.
- ✚ **Dismissal is at 1:00 on August 23.** Please remember the dismissal procedures:
 - Student walkers are dismissed from the front door of school. Siblings may meet each other inside the front door of school so that they can walk home together.
 - Car riders are dismissed from the rear door of the school by the gym. Parents need to make a right turn into the rear parking lot from Bexley Park and then drive up to the designated “pick-up” lines. Please remain in your cars. Students will be assisted into your car. Once your children are in your car, please continue out the rear parking lot and turn right onto Bexley Park to exit. **Do not park your cars in the back parking lot to pick up students.**

Beginning the second day of school, students will walk immediately into the gym (7:55 the doors open). They gather in the gym each day for morning prayer and pledge.

Thanks.....for making a difference.....

- ✚ To the **SPICE Program** who continues to help St. Catharine families with financial support for summer tutoring. We had many families who were helped through this program. We continue to be thankful for their support of the summer tutoring program and also their help with classroom materials, tutoring, and teacher in-service opportunities that address learning issues.

- ✚ To **Partners in Education** for their time and effort in enriching the lives of all of our students. St. Catharine School students benefit from the varied enrichment opportunities, field trip admissions, speakers, authors, and classroom materials that support our various student programs.
- ✚ To **Home and School Association** for their continued support of school materials and providing opportunities for families to gather together for a variety of activities. They will continue to help with tuition scholarship assistance for families within the school, bus transportation for all field trips, renovation of the Art Room, and other student programs such as the 8th grade Ropes Course.
- ✚ For the **Creative Arts Program** that is held three times a year for a series of weeks. More information will be sent to parents regarding these exciting after school programs that are generously taught by parents and other parish volunteers.

Please note important dates on the calendar listed on the school website. We're looking forward to seeing everyone on August 21st from 5:00 – 7:00) for an Ice Cream Social and the August 23rd for the first day of school!

Sincerely,

Janet L. Weisner, Principal