

St. Joseph's School State of the School Report

June 2008

Dear Parents,

Enclosed in this envelope you will find information about this past year at St. Joseph's School and some projections about next year. I hope you find this information helpful. Please contact our office with any questions.

Enrollment

Enrollment, Kindergarten through Grade Six during the 2007-2008 school year, was 152. Preschool enrollment was 48, bringing the school total to 200 students. Fourteen sixth graders graduated from St. Joseph's School on May 28. We will continue to keep these students in our prayers and we wish them much success in their future. At the time of this report, 3 students from our 5th grade class and 4 students from our 4th grade class will be attending the middle school next year. We wish them success and blessings as well. There are 18 students registered for next year's 6th grade class. We have 4 new students enrolled in grades 5 and 6.

Kindergarten registrations for 2008-2009 are at 25 students (with a waiting list). We have 35 students registered for our 4-year old Preschool program as of this date, and 22 students for our 3-year old program (with a waiting list). Our First Grade, Second Grade are full for 08-09. Enrollment projection for 2008-2009 is 159 in grades K-6; adding preschool brings our total projected school enrollment to 216 students.

Staffing

Mrs. Angela Boyd, Preschool teacher at our school, resigned her position (just today). Angie has accepted a position in the Deer River district in the area of preschool/special education. We wish her well and thank her for her dedication to our families involved in our Preschool program. Applications for this position will be accepted beginning in July.

All K-6 teachers are returning to their positions.

We will have paraprofessionals working in the Preschool, Kindergarten, First Grade, Second Grade and Third Grade in 2008-2009.

Jerry Nurnberger is retiring after 25 years as our custodian at the end of June. We wish him many blessings and many successful fishing days. ☺ We welcome Mr. Andy Sorensen to our school as our new custodian. He, Jerry, and our two summer helpers, Eric Maturi and Andy Hiipakka, will be working this summer together.

Mrs. Tracy Kampa, school librarian for 14 years and SAC program creator and director for 7 years, will be leaving St. Joseph's School to work as the assistant children's librarian at the Grand Rapids Public Library. We thank her for her MANY hours of dedication to our school. Please stop in at the library this summer to see her-and check out books for summer reading. Mr. John Nalan will be our summer SAC director. We hope to fill the librarian position in August.

Nancy Anderson, assistant cook, will not be with us next year. We wish her well, and we are happy that we will keep seeing her at the school as a parent! Applications for this position will be accepted beginning in July.

Programming

Kindergarten students will attend school M-W-F (full days) for the first semester and will attend Kindergarten five full days a week for the second semester. Kindergarten program also offers the first semester Enrichment Days on Tuesdays and Thursdays (five-day program option). The Preschool program will offer programs for both 3 year olds and 4 year olds. Please contact our school office for more information.

Curriculum

Individual teachers worked within their own curriculum to improve instruction this year and to update our Educational Outcomes (the *content* of what we teach). We purchased new Music and Social Studies books and materials for 07-08. We are purchasing new religion instructional materials to use beginning in the Fall of 2008. These materials are in alignment with the Diocese of Duluth Catechesis Outcomes. St. Joseph's School works with District 318 to provide consistency in academics for our students as they transition from our 6th Grade to the Middle School.

Thanks to a surplus of fundraising money and a grant proposal put forward by parents this year, we purchased *Steps to Respect*, a curriculum (grades 3-6) that focuses on character education and creation of a safe and respectful school environment. One teacher and I will attend a *Steps to Respect* implementation training in the fall. Teachers in Preschool through Grade 2 worked with children this year using *The Social Skills Picture Book* and other materials focused on communication and social skills. We extend our appreciation to the parents and School Board for their involvement in this effort.

Budget

St. Joseph's School Board and the school principal are responsible for developing the annual school budget and recommending its approval to the Parish Finance Council and the Pastor. Budget decisions are carefully made with a focus on being both fiscally responsible and maintaining a quality education for our students. As we move into our next academic year, we face higher costs of maintaining the level of education we know you expect from St. Joseph's School.

- ❖ Tuition will increase next year (from \$1,815 to \$1,900 for parishioner first child rate). This cost increase is approximately \$10 per child per month.
- ❖ Partial tuition assistance will be available to families. We encourage you to ask for financial assistance if you need it for the upcoming year. Please call our office if you would like a (confidential) application or ask for an application at School Registration on August 19.

School Accreditation

Each year our *School Improvement Plan*, developed in 2006 in conjunction with MNSAA (Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association), guides our course of action. We have made significant progress toward meeting the challenge presented to our school to build a new educational facility on the same campus as our church. On June 4, a Town Hall Presentation was held to review information about our current facilities debt and to review the updated size, scope, and cost estimate to build a new school and education center for our parish community.

In addition, we are working to meet a second challenge posed by the MNSAA team-to establish an accurate alumni list. I extend my appreciation to the team working on this project.

ITBS Scores

Enclosed in your envelope are the test results for your child in Grades Two through Six. Our faculty has gone through an analysis of these scores for their classes as a whole, as well as for individual students. We use these results to improve our academic program for the following year. Please remember these tests are ONE measure of a child's academic progress. Please see the enclosed information sheet for more information.

Calendar

A draft of our 08-09 calendar is posted on our website www.stjosephscatholic.org (Please click on the school link). Some dates have not yet been finalized. **MARK YOUR SUMMER CALENDARS** and make time to help out at the St. Joseph's School Food Booth **July 25-26-27**. The organizers will call you soon to ask for your help.

Registration Day is Tuesday, August 19, from noon to 7 P M at St. Joseph's School. It is important for our planning purposes that you register your child(ren) on that day. We ask that you put this date on your calendar-thank you! We will hold a **New Family Orientation** (for parents of new students) the night before registration, **August 18**, from 6:30 to 7:30 at St. Joseph's School.

Final Note

I am available to talk with you about any of the information contained in this report. I will be in the school office the week of June 23 and in August. Please call if you have questions or concerns. Enjoy your children and the time you spend together this summer-I pray your blessings will be many!

Mrs. Teresa Matetich
Principal, St. Joseph's School

