

August 6, 2007

Dear Parents,

“Here I am....”

At the end of the 2006-2007 school year, the teachers prayerfully discerned the theme for the 2007-2008 school year. As a faculty, the theme of **“Here I am”** was chosen. During this school year, we will explore with the students the many ways in which we present ourselves to the Lord and one another.

In just a little over a few days this building will be filled with the **future leaders of our Church and of our world**. I eagerly anticipate their return and my fourth year as the spiritual and educational leader of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic School. I hope that you have had a wonderful summer with special time to play, laugh, rest, and pray together. I have thought of you often and spoken your names lovingly to the Lord.

My summer took me across the United States teaching future principals and superintendents who were working toward a Masters degree or a Doctoral degree in educational leadership. I was affirmed by the commitment of so many individuals who are involved in this important educational ministry of our Church.

I ask you to join me in welcoming the following **new staff members** to the St. Michael School community and **veteran staff members** assuming new roles:

Grade 2 Teacher – Mrs. Carla Rosia
Grade 2 Teacher Assistant with Mrs. Rosia – Mrs. Laura Mortell
Grade 3 Teacher Assistant with Mrs. Deane – Mrs. Joan Bales
Grade 4 Teacher Assistant with Mrs. Adams – Mrs. Renee Hacker
Grade 5 – Mrs. Beth Reed
Grade 5 Teacher Assistant with Mrs. Reed – Mrs. Maria Ram
Grades 6, 7, and 8 Science and Grade 7 Homeroom – Mrs. Danielle Davey
Grade 7 & 8 Language Arts– Mrs. Cynthia Johanson
Art – Ms. Jane Bergman
Music/Drama/Band – Mrs. Judy Okamoto
Athletic Director/Pre-K – 2 P.E. – Travis Davey
Permanent Substitutes – Mrs. Dworznicki and Mrs. Ward

During the summer, I received the resignations of **Ms. Seaman and Ms. Foushee** who have accepted other teaching positions.

While you have been enjoying the summer vacation, there has been a great deal of **activity on this campus**. The **classrooms on the second floor have been painted** and a **quasi cafeteria has been created in the After School Care Room**.

The central location of a quasi cafeteria will eliminate the need for so many volunteers at lunchtime each day. Right now we anticipate needing only a few volunteers to assist serving lunch. As a result, there will be no sign ups for classroom lunch volunteers at the Orientation.

Please take a moment to review the uniform guidelines on pages 24 and 25 of the handbook. Note that Wallabee® shoes are not allowed. The school shoe is a dress shoe. I do not want you to purchase a shoe that your child may not be able to wear. If you have questions regarding the appropriateness of a shoe, please contact me. The banded polo **is** a part of the school uniform. I know that some parents have been informed to the contrary when shopping at Educational Outfitters. Many of the students like this shirt since it does not require the wearing of a belt.

Be sure to check the handbook regarding uniform components and hair length. It may be a good time to schedule the back-to-school haircut now.

If your child needs the use of a cell phone after school, please remember that all cell phones are to be brought to the office and parked in Dr. Wannemuehler's office during the school day. Cell phones may be picked up from the individual student's "parking garage" after afternoon announcements. No cell phones should remain with students during the school day. All cell phones taken away from students will be returned on May 30, 2008 – the last day of the school year.

The Back to School packets include information regarding the New Parent Wine Social, a letter from Marylynn Fitzgerald, the president of our Parent Organization, your Carpool Number, After School Care Registration, Milk/Juice/Water Order Forms, and Class Rosters. The calendar and menu will be posted on the school website.

Enclosed please find two copies your **new carpool number** for the upcoming school year. This card and number replaces the one you were given last year. Please place this card in the **driver's side windshield** of your vehicle or **attach it to the back of the visor on the driver's side**. **Two** cards are provided for multiple family vehicles. We will continue to have two pick-up and drop-off locations: the circle drive on the **Weatherstone side** of the building, and the driveway on the **Office side** of the building. Numbers **1-180** will use the OFFICE side. Numbers **180 and higher** will use the WEATHERSTONE side. Please display your card and use your assigned area throughout the year unless approval for switching has been obtained by the principal. Replacement cards will be provided if necessary for a \$1.00 fee. **Displaying the card daily is required and extremely important for the safe and efficient flow of traffic during the dismissal process.** Families that generally **carpool** should use only the number card of the family driving the vehicle; one number will be called for the entire carpool. If a carpool consists of families that are assigned to different sides of the building, please **choose your primary pick-up location** (Office or Weatherstone) and **notify the office** which side your carpool will be utilizing for the entire school year.

You are invited to come to school on **Monday, August 20th for Orientation and an Ice Cream Social from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM.** Please come and meet your child's teacher, check out the lockers, desks, shop for used uniforms and enjoy a cool treat.

The **first day of school for Grades 1 – 8 is Tuesday, August 21st.** This first school day is from **8:00 AM to 11:30 AM.** Your child will not be allowed to attend the first day of school if the Parent Signature page of the Parent/Student Handbook is not on file in the office. New families can find the handbook and signature page on the school website. The **first full day of school for Grades 1 – 8 is Wednesday, August 22nd.** The school day is from **8:00 AM to 3:00 PM.**

Pre-K and Kindergarten students will attend a full day of school according to the schedule outlined below. Pre-K and K students will come to school dressed in their **uniform**. They should also bring a **sack lunch**.

Pre-K:
August 23rd – A- K
August 24th – L- Z
August 27th – All Students

Kindergarten: August 23rd – A - M
August 24th – N - Z
August 27th – All Students

Be sure to mark your calendars for the **Third Annual Grandparents Day**. Grandparents will be invited to join us the morning of **September 14th** (students whose last name begins with **A-M**) or **September 17th** (students whose last name begins with **N-Z**). An agenda will follow. If Grandparents cannot attend on the date designated, they should feel free to come on the other date.

The **school calendar** and the **supply list** for each grade are posted on the school **website**.

The **school lunch program** will begin on **Wednesday, August 22nd**. This year's menu will attempt to include more variety. The cost of the hot lunch will remain **\$3.00** until **January, 2008** when the price will increase to **\$3.50**. This change is necessary due to the increased cost of food, shipping, etc. Fortunately, the cost of the school lunch has remained **\$3.00** during my tenure. St. Michael does not receive any government subsidy for school lunches. Please note that **chocolate and white milk (2%), apple juice, and bottled water** will be available on **Wednesday, August 22nd**.

This year **Band** will be offered in the **afternoon** by **Mrs. Judy Okamoto**. **Beginning Band** will meet on **Monday**, **Advanced Band** will meet on **Wednesday** and **both groups** will meet on **Thursday**. The times for Band will be **3:00 PM to 4:00 PM**. There is **no charge to participate in Band this year**. The only **fee** will be for **instrument rental**. A **brief information session** regarding Band will occur on **Monday, August 20th at 6:00 PM** in the **Music Room**. A more detailed session will be held on **Wednesday, August 29th at 6:15 PM**. A representative from the instrumental rental company will also be in attendance on the 29th. **Students in Grades 3 through 8** are invited to participate in the Band. Band will begin on **Wednesday, September 5th**.

The **second annual St. Michael School Grounds Clean-Up morning** will be held on **Saturday, August 18th** from **8:30 AM to 11:30 AM**. Please come ready to spruce up the exterior of our school. **Gloves, shovels, rakes, yard waste bags, and a positive attitude** are all that is needed. **Water** will be provided.

The **try-outs for Girls Volleyball** will be **Wednesday, August 15th and Thursday, August 16th** in the **Parish Center** from **5:00 PM to 6:30 PM**. **Boys Soccer** tryouts will take place on **Wednesday, August 22nd** after school on the **Soccer Field**.

Peace,

Dr. Sarah Wannemuehler