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August 29, 2014

Dear Parents,

The first week of school is in the books and the faculty and staff is thrilled to see your children each day. I hope that the transition back to the routine of a school schedule goes smoothly in your home.

This Family Folder has a multitude of items included in it; some are time sensitive as they involve sign-ups for activities such as Chess Club and CYO tennis. Please be sure to look through everything. There are a couple of items to which I would like draw particular attention.

First, both Back to School Nights are scheduled for next week. On Tuesday, September  $2^{nd}$  the night for grades 1-5 will be held. We will begin at 7:00 pm in the gym. The night for Middle School will be Wednesday, September  $3^{rd}$  beginning at 7:00 pm in the gym. On both of these evenings representatives from CYO will be available in the gym lobby from 6:30 – 7:00 pm for registrations for basketball and cheerleading. The time for registrations will end at 7:00 pm so that we may begin the main program for the evening. I encourage you to attend Back to School Night as it provides you the opportunity to meet teachers and hear about the curriculum programs for the year.

Second, the PTO is hosting the annual Volunteer Fair on Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. There is a flyer included in the packet with pertinent information. Holy Spirit School is the wonderful community it is due to the involvement of all of our parents. Please thoughtfully consider filling an open committee chair position or volunteer for one of the many available activities.

Third, on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> the first PTO meeting of the year will take place. At 7:00 pm that evening, Mr. Tom Opfer, the Academic Dean at Paul VI High School will be here to speak about "The Math Path". Many families, as their children advance in school, have questions regarding the topic of math acceleration. Mr. Opfer will provide some thoughts on how and when math should be accelerated for students and the impact that acceleration has on the high school experience. I urge you come and hear Mr. Opfer whether your child is in first grade, fifth grade, or middle school. His remarks will be brief and will be followed by the general PTO meeting.



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Acknowledging that we are all busy with work and family, I would ask that when dropping off and picking up your children, please refrain from talking on your cell phone. I ask this for the safety of all of the children.

On a personal note, thank you for the well wishes as I begin this new chapter in my career. I am thrilled to have been provided the opportunity to lead Holy Spirit School. I am humbled by the enormous nature of the position and blessed to be surrounded by a faculty, staff and school community who are similarly dedicated to Catholic education.

Have a restful Labor Day weekend.

Blessings always,

Maureen C. Ashby Principal