



Dear Parents,

What an exciting time of the year! I know tv ads spoof about this “Going Back to School” time as the most wonderful time of the year but there are many who would dispute that. Nevertheless, I’m thrilled with the opportunity to spiffy up the school for the children’s return. Even though they may not admit it, I would suspect that the teachers feel the same way as I have seen all of them decorating and rearranging furniture to make everything just perfect... and this year we did all that in air-conditioning comfort! What a blessing!

Truly, and most happily I welcome back all teachers, staff, students and families and extend a very warm welcome to all those who are new to school community. Know that your presence will make our school family even more complete. Besides new students, you will see new faces on the staff this year. And so, I am delighted to introduce you to our new staff:

- Sister Maureen Donati: Assistant Principal
- Sister Patricia Scanlon: Early Childhood Director
- Mrs. Kathryn Delgado: Grade 6
- Sister Mary Elizabeth Robbins: Resource Room Teacher
- Mrs. Aishi Jiang: Chinese Interpreter and Classroom Assistant

Please read below for helpful information about the first days of school. I know that this letter is lengthy and I thank you in advance for taking the time to review all of the information.

Grades 2 to 8

These children report on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday - September 6, 7, and 8. On Wednesday, September 6, we will host a **mix and mingle welcome gathering** of students, staff and parents in the school yard from 7:35 to 8:00. Then I will indicate that the children should gather in a line near the balloon with their new grade number on it. When they are assembled, Father Welsh will lead the children in a prayer/blessing of the school and the children will take their places in the auditorium. Shortly thereafter, they will be promoted to their new class teacher. New students, too, should join us in the school yard. **On these first three days, students will be dismissed at 12:00 noon.** Please be sure that your child/ren know how they are getting home (the dismissal line). I’ve included an explanation of dismissal routes with this email as a separate attachment.

Grade 1

These children report on Thursday, September 7. I will send a letter to first grade parents separately; please look for it later today or tomorrow.

PreK-3, PreK-4 and Kindergarten

These precious little ones report for classes on Monday (girls only) or Tuesday (boys only), September 11 or 12. I will also send a separate letter to PreK and Kindergarten parents later today or tomorrow.

September Calendar

The September calendar was sent a few weeks ago and has been posted on the website. I am attaching an **updated calendar** with this email. Please note the dates, times and place of back to school parent teacher meetings for the various grades.

Stationery

A list of stationery needs for each grade has been published on the school website throughout the summer. Hopefully you have taken advantage of the many sales advertised these weeks. In lieu of a centralized in-school stationery sale, copybooks, theme tablets and hard to find items (such as soft-sided pencil cases) will be sold and distributed in the classroom. Small items such as pencils, crayons, folders, etc. are to be purchased ahead of time according to the list on the website. Classroom teachers will inform you at back-to-school meetings about any other needed classroom materials.

Uniforms

The spring/fall school uniform is worn beginning the first day of school. The school Dress Code is posted with a great visual on the school website - : <https://stmatthewmayfair.org/dress-code-policies>

Uniforms identify a person as a member of a particular community. St. Matthew uniforms should be worn in a manner befitting a young person who has chosen to attend a Catholic school that advocates modesty and takes precedence over 'fashion.' Skirt length is just above the knee. If your daughter has outgrown her skirt and there is no hem to be let down, please purchase a new one that will respect school regulations. Short, short skirts are not permitted.

A few other reminders:

- Students are asked not to return to school with bizarre, bleached, inappropriate hairdos that require cutting and/or other remedy. No man buns.
- Uniform trousers are to be worn properly. Oversized, baggy, drooping trousers and/or gym pants are not acceptable.
- Only the regulation school sweater or sweatshirt on gym day may be worn in the classroom.
- The regulation gym uniform is required. Sneakers are to be somewhat plain with minimal trim – no bells or whistles. White or black socks that show above the sneaker are to be worn. Non-uniform short tight red shorts are not acceptable in lieu of regulation attire.
- With the exception of one small pair of post earrings worn in the earlobes by girls only, no jewelry is permitted. This includes wrist bands and hair bands worn as bracelets.
- Make-up (including nail polish) is not permitted.
- No one wants to 'welcome' a child back to school with a reprimand for violations of dress code. Much unpleasantness is avoided when regulations are followed from the

outset. Please allow us to make your child's return to school a positive and peaceful one.

- New uniforms may be purchased at Flynn and O'Hara Uniforms located at 6801 Frankford Avenue or DiGuilio's at 6948 Frankford Avenue.

Tuition

Please remember that, according to school policy, you should have submitted two tuition payments by this time in order for your child to be placed in a classroom. This includes any associated late fee. If you are in need of tuition assistance, it is not too late to complete a FACTS Aid application. Due to a generous benefactor funds are still available: (<https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>). Children's Scholarship and FACTS tuition awards have been attributed to recipients' accounts and future payments reflect the new balance.

Immunizations

The PA immunization law mandates that every child in K-12 be immunized on the first day of school. Students cannot be admitted to any PA school without updated immunizations. If your child is in the process of obtaining a series of immunizations and is not medically eligible to get all of the vaccines prior to school, a medical certificate must be provided by the doctor with a schedule for the remaining doses. If you were notified last year that your child did not have all of the required immunizations, these must have been updated or your child will be excluded from school. This is state law and Diocesan policy. If you have any questions or need help obtaining medical insurance or free immunizations, please contact the nurse.

We hope your child has been enjoying his/her summer reading assignments. These titles were carefully chosen by teachers to supplement this year's themes or genres. A short test will be administered on two of the three required books during the first few weeks of school. Please check the list on the school website to be sure you are up to date with these requirements.

I am most grateful to Mrs. Kerr and Mrs. Lipscomb for all their hard work in the office. I also am very grateful to Mrs. Prendergast for being the welcoming voice and face for our new families. A heartfelt thank you also to our maintenance crew for all the cleaning, waxing, painting and repairing. They have us sanitized, shining and ready to go. All we need is your children in the chairs!

The other sisters join me in extending to you our prayers and well wishes. May these last few summer days provide a few opportunities for rest, relaxation and enjoyment. As other pertinent information becomes available regarding school protocols, you will hear from me again. For now, I look forward to seeing all of you and the children at the Welcome Back Gathering in the school yard on September 7.

God bless you!

Sister Joseph Marie

August, 2023

