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August 15 – August 19

First Grade Parents,

Well, here we are, off on our first full week of school! We are not yet in our “normal” weekly schedule, but are headed in the right direction. The first grade curriculum is huge, but children are at this age are so open to learning. It will be an amazing year!

 Please know that I consider it such a privilege to be a part of your child’s life. I truly believe that we are a team in his or her education, and I look forward to working with you.

My newsletter is usually pretty short, but there are some items that I want to be sure you know about, so this newsletter will be on the lengthy side. Newsletters are also posted on my website, which can be accessed through the “Teacher Pages” button on the school website. If you haven’t yet visited my website, there is a ton of information to be found there.

Before I get into other things, tomorrow is the Solemnity of the Assumption. Because it falls on a Monday this year it is not a Holy Day of Obligation. Since this is a Catholic school, however, we are going to take advantage of being next to the church and attend Mass. Mass uniforms are not required, but may be worn.

Student Handbook

 Be sure to read through the school/student handbook in the front of your child’s agenda. Your child doesn’t need to know all the information there, but you do. ![MCj04338170000[1]]() The first page is a tear-out page that you need to sign and return to the school by August 29th acknowledging that you have read and understand the handbook. There are some new rules for this year. Be sure to review the Morning Offering, also.

Agendas

 Speaking of the agenda, it is our main source of communication. I require that a parent, or other responsible adult, sign or initial your child’s agenda each night, including Fridays. I check agendas daily. If you forget to sign it (it happens to the best of us), your child will owe me $1 from his/her prize box wallet, and will most likely be upset with you! (I will start this policy next week so that you have time to get in the habit.) I just want to be sure that I do not miss a note from you, or that you do not miss a note from me. You will be able to double-check what the homework assignment is for the night, and see how your child’s behavior was for the day. (If there is a sticker or stamp – all is good; otherwise there will be a note from me.)

Snack

 I sent an email on Saturday morning explaining our choices for snack procedures this year. If you have not responded, please do so by tomorrow afternoon. I really would like everyone to have a say in the matter.

Mass

 Mass is on Wednesdays at 8 AM. You are more than welcome to join us and sit with your child. I do ask that you support the Mass behavior that we are teaching. Students are graded on Mass behavior and participation. Some rules that we use are:

* No unnecessary talking during Mass (which begins as soon as the first person is in the church).
* Kneel properly (no leaning back on pew).
* When kneeling, keep elbows off of the back of the pew in front of you. (It’s too tempting to make them a pillow for the head!)
* The restroom is to be used for “emergencies” only. (We just used them before coming in the church. It’s distracting to those around us when we need to get up, and we miss part of the Mass.)
* Participate!

I will let you know what Masses we will be hosting as soon as I get the dates.

I am looking forward to a fabulous year! I will see you Tuesday evening at Curriculum Night.

May God Bless You,

Mrs. Stevason