



October 5, 2017

Dear Parents,

The start of the school year was unusual, to say the least. We had major dismissal issues that seem to have subsided. I am still getting calls from residents on Manns and Moreland Avenues regarding those families who continue to park there during dismissal. Again, I ask you or whoever picks up your child follow the procedures in the handbook. This includes exiting the church lot via Putty Hill Avenue or Wilson Avenue. Be aware of the speed limits on these two roads, please.

We have asked the BC Police Department to oversee the arrival procedures. We understand that a few individuals are jumping into the right lane at the last minute to avoid waiting in the line on Harford Road. This is an accident waiting to happen and remember there are children in these cars. We also want to remind you to turn right on red at the light when it is safe to exit. That eliminates backups on Neifeld Ave. Most cars have only one family in them. Perhaps you know of a family in your neighborhood with whom you could carpool. This would help reduce the number of cars. Also parking on the church lot and walking down to school is actually becoming a time saver for some.

Since the arrivals continue to be an issue, we will continue not to mark students late who are in the building by 8:10 but not in their classrooms. Effective November 1st children not in their homeroom by the 8:10 bell will be marked tardy for the day.

This year, as written in the spring newsletter and on the Van Dyke & Bacon flier, Sperry shoes are not allowed in grades K through 2nd. They do not stay on the feet nor do they stay tied for our little ones. We have noticed some families bought Sperry shoes, however. If so, you may have your child wear them until they wear out or outgrow them. The expectation is that when this happens the required shoes will be purchased. We don't want you to experience an additional expense this time. Next year, however, no K through 2nd grade student will be able to wear them anytime.

Most of our parents are registered as parishioners, meaning they belong either to St. Ursula Parish or another parish without a Catholic school. This provides you with a discount on your tuition of over \$1000 per student. The expectation has been and continues to be that all

Catholic families attend Mass weekly and contribute weekly to your parish of registration. We will be asking St. Ursula Church to provide us with a print-out of St. Ursula parish families and their level of contributions since June 1, 2017, the start of the tuition payments for this school year. Families that have not been active, contributing members of St. Ursula Parish or their Catholic parish will be contacted by the beginning of November and converted to the non-parishioner tuition rates. If you use your weekly envelopes or are participating in Faith Direct, the parish will have an up-to-date contribution record. If you are attending a Catholic church without a school, we will be sending your church a letter asking them to verify your continuous donations. We are more interested in making missionary disciples who are active members of the Church, and not in the amount being donated. I encourage you to get involved, attend Mass, and volunteer at St. Ursula Parish or your church or place of worship.

Harvest Festival is looming. A great time is in store for all but its success relies on our wonderful volunteers. The committee desperately needs Shield-approved volunteers. Please reach out to the committee and volunteer either Thursday, Friday night, Saturday night, or clean-up on Sunday. Thank you for your help in making this a traditional success at St. Ursula School.

The School Board is sponsoring an adult only event honoring Sister Joan Kelly on November 4th. If you are interested please check the website or church bulletin.

Remember school is closed Monday, October 16th and there is an early dismissal (12:10) on Tuesday, October 31st. Club and grade pictures, as well as individual make-up pictures, will be held on Thursday, October 19th. Also Trunk or Treat will be held on October 27th. Please consult the flier which will go home after the Harvest Festival for details and how to register to attend.

The inter-Catholic school car good drive held last year among our neighboring schools will be held again beginning October 30th. More details will follow.

Also mark your calendars for November 16th. At that time, St. Joseph, IHM, and St. Ursula will be presenting the film *Screenagers* in our gym. This is an informative film about the use of technology by teens and how parents should continue to be vigilant.

Finally, I have contacted both the Archdiocese of Miami and Catholic Relief Services to see how best we can help our neighbors in need in Florida and/or Puerto Rico. Once I hear back more information will be forthcoming.

God is good,

Debbie Glinowiecki, Principal