

ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL

355 Grafton Street, Worcester, MA 01604 - 508.755.3209
www.st-stephen.net



From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents

We are happy to welcome you and your children to St. Stephen School for the 2017 - 2018 school year. We had a great first week. I am grateful to the faculty and staff for their dedication and commitment to the mission of St. Stephen School. All have spent many hours at school in recent weeks preparing for the opening of the new school year.

In the August newsletter, we introduced our new Faculty and Staff members, now I would like to let you know of some more exciting news.....

Our new Pastor, **Father LaBaire**, has given our students the use of the beautiful Ducharme Center Gymnasium for Physical Education classes on Tuesday. You will find a permission slip for the students to walk with their teacher and an Aid (or another teacher) to and from Phys Ed classes. Students should carry their gym shoes to school with them on Tuesdays, and will change into them when they arrive at the gym. This will protect the floors in the gym from sand and salt, especially in the winter time. Students should wear their gym uniform to school every Tuesday for the rest of the school year

Mr. Caldwell (father of Aiden), owner of the technology company "MyOfficeCloud", has generously donated an immense amount of time (and talent) over the summer to update and combine our two computer labs into one lab, which will hold an entire class and is now located across the hall from the Library. Over time, Mr. Caldwell will assist us in updating the WiFi in the building, so that the connectivity throughout the classrooms will be improved. We can't thank him enough for ALL of the work he has done for all of the students and staff in the school, we are so grateful.

Our technology teacher, **Mrs. Dembowski**, will be combining her duties to include the Library this year. We are truly grateful to her for taking this on and for continuing to share her knowledge and expertise with the students!

We are immensely grateful to **Mrs. Debra Raymond** who has come out of retirement to help out in the school 1 or 2 days a week. Mrs. Raymond will resume her role as the Safe Environment Coordinator for the School, as Mrs. Lyons has resigned from this position. Mrs. Lyons will continue on as the Safe Environment Coordinator for St. Stephen Parish.

There will be a **Parent Meeting** on Monday, September 11th from 6:30-8:00 PM starting in the church hall. It is important that at least one Parent/Guardian from each family attend - students do not attend this meeting. Eileen Kneeland from the office of the District Attorney will explain the latest updates to the anti-bullying law. Information regarding the Safe Environment Curriculum will be presented to the Parents/Guardians who are new to Catholic Schools. After the general parent meeting, parents will be invited to visit their child's classroom and meet with the teacher. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Social Media: We would like parents to be aware of a policy that must be followed by all Faculty and Staff regarding Social Media Usage. It is possible that some parents and possibly students are "friends" on social media with some members of the St. Stephen Faculty and/or Staff. To be in compliance with Safe Environment Regulations, and to maintain professionalism, Faculty and Staff are prohibited from being "friends" on Social Media Sites with Parents and Students who are currently attending St. Stephen School. We wanted you to be aware of these rules, as we wouldn't want anyone's feelings to be hurt if you are suddenly "unfriended" by a faculty or staff member. We appreciate all of you and your understanding of the policies that we are required to follow.

Terra Nova testing has not returned as of this date. The Diocese is working diligently to resolve this matter.

Afternoon Pickup for Grades K-8 - We are trying to improve the dismissal process. With safety in mind, the classes will be leaving the school and crossing over Caroline Street. Students will remain with Teachers and line up along the inside of the playground fence. Parents, please go over to the Teacher to pick up your child. In this way, we are assured students are leaving safely.

Hurricane Harvey - As a school community, we are planning a collection of school supplies to aid the victims of Hurricane Harvey. We will be working closely with Reagan Wasgatt's Father, who is organizing the operation. More information to come!

Allergies - If your child has allergies that require an Epi-Pen or Inhaler, please be sure to come to the office to fill out the Allergy Forms ASAP.

Thank you so much for entrusting us with your children and for sending them to school ready to learn each day. We look forward to a wonderful year of learning and new experiences.

Joanne Mallozzi, Principal

Volunteers ~ As the mission of St. Stephen School clearly states, "St. Stephen School works closely with families." **We value you, we want you to be an active part of the life of the school and we need you.** As always, we depend on parents who generously volunteer their time and talent in numerous ways throughout the school year. We will be seeking parent volunteers to continue to provide the leadership that is essential for such eagerly anticipated events as the Father/Daughter Dance, the Gingerbread House, Family Night, Mother/Son Night, Spree Day and so many other activities. We are in immediate need of volunteers for Lunchroom and Yard Duty. Please be aware, that if we do not have volunteers to chair these events, we will sadly have to cancel them. *If you have any questions regarding volunteer opportunities, please contact us.*

Catholic Schools Appeal - The Annual Appeal for Catholic Schools takes place on September 23rd and 24th in all churches in the Diocese. You can do so much for our school by alerting family, friends and neighbors that if they write St. Stephen School on the check, it assures us of receiving their donation. All undesignated monies are combined and distributed among all schools. You and those you know can make such a difference by choosing St. Stephen School. Thank You!

Catholic Values ~ Our mission states that, "the dedicated faculty of St. Stephen School works closely with families to provide students with a solid spiritual foundation based on the values of the Catholic faith to last a lifetime." This year we will continue to build the spiritual foundation by focusing on a specific value each month and integrating it throughout the curriculum. The goal is to truly live the values of our faith, and to promote a positive school environment. During the month of September we will be focusing on Respect.

"The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life."

Richard David Bach

Continued...

This Week's Brown Envelope Inserts...

- 2017-2018 Computer Use Agreement – Pre-K-8
- Back to School Calendar
- October Lunch Order
- Permission Slip to walk to the Ducharme Ctr. for Phys. Ed.
- Letter from the Physical Education Teacher
- Price Chopper Tools for Schools
- Volunteer Forms

PLEASE NOTE: It is important that the monthly calendar be checked often for upcoming events, ½ days etc.

Forms: It is imperative that all Emergency, Health and Connect Ed forms that you received are filled out and sent in to the school immediately. Thank you for your attention and cooperation in this matter.

Medical Forms and Immunization Records for new students and those in grades K, 4 and 7 are required no later than September 15th. Students may not stay in school if these medical records are not in by the due date.

Payments - Please make out separate checks when you send payment for milk, lunches, extended day and agendas. It makes it easier for the office staff to keep track of payments. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Photo Permission/Denial: In an effort to reduce paperwork by at least one sheet, please refer to the Parent/Student Handbook regarding the use of a child's image. The policy asks that you notify the school in writing (no later than Friday, September 8) if you do not want your child's picture used for any reason. Because there were so few such requests in previous years, we chose to address the issue in this way.

Brown Envelopes: Please return your brown envelopes. If envelopes are not returned by Monday of the following week, a new envelope will not be issued and you will not receive important school information.

Our web-page is www.st-stephen.net. We hope you will take the time to check it out and refer to it often. We have our weekly newsletters, calendars, lunch order information, handbooks, tuition, sports forms and much more online at your fingertips. You can also access a teacher's email by clicking on his/her name. The faculty and staff listing is located under the "About Our School" tab on our webpage.

Our **lunch program** will begin on Monday, October 2nd. The lunch program will be offered 3 days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, for those families interested in ordering. Order forms will be sent home on a monthly basis and must be returned by the deadline in order for us to plan accordingly.

Please remember to send your child to school with a lunch and a drink. Children who come to school without a lunch will be given cereal with milk. A charge of \$1.50 will be billed for any lunches provided. If you have any questions or require additional information about the lunch program, please feel free to contact Mrs. Tami Parodeau-Fitch.

Uniform Reminder - Students in Kindergarten through grade 8 must wear black shoes or black sneakers with the school uniform.

Sacramental Preparation: St. Stephen School always adheres to the Diocesan policy, which requires children to receive sacramental preparation in their own parish. Contact your parish CCD coordinator for information about classes that your child may need. Here at St. Stephen's Parish and Holy Family Parish, we would like to welcome Mrs. Deborah Blicharz as the new Religious Education Director. There will be forms for registration at all Masses on Sunday, September 17, 2017. CCD classes will begin on Sunday, October 1, 2017. Please see the contact information for Mrs. Blicharz below:

E-mail: deborahblicharz01@gmail.com

Holy Family Parish: 508-754-6722

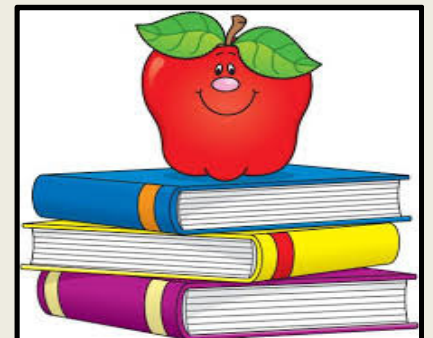
St. Stephen Parish: 508-755-3165

Compliance Notice: In compliance with Federal Asbestos Hazard Emergency Act (AHERA) regulations, we are required to inform all parents and employees associated with St. Stephen School of our school's Asbestos Inspections Report and Management Plan. These Inspections Reports and the Management Plan are on file in the school office and are available for review by any parent, teacher, etc., during normal business hours of the school.



SPORTS

We are in need of Coaches! We are hoping to have enough players for Basketball and possibly Spring Soccer this year. We will be unable to field a team for our students if we don't have volunteers to coach. Please contact Mrs. Mangaudis at the school if you are willing to coach or assist one of our teams. Thank you!



As a reminder, our parish follows the guidelines of the national Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People approved by the US Bishops and the policies of the Diocese of Worcester in screening those who work with children in our care and in helping victims of abuse find healing. If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a Church employee or volunteer in the past, please contact Judith Audette, Victim Services Coordinator for our diocese at 508-929-4363 (direct line and confidential voicemail). If you are concerned about a current case of abuse, please contact the local civil authorities immediately.