



June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Dear Parents of Incoming 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders,

Office of the Principal

Father Peter and I want to first thank you for registering your child(ren) for the upcoming school year and for placing your faith in our school as we work to improve the quality of education that Holy Family School can provide. I know that you make many sacrifices to send your child(ren) here and you wouldn't do so if you didn't believe that our school is the best place for your family.

As you know, we have seen a decline in enrollment over the last few years for a variety of reasons. This decline in student population directly affects the amount of resources that our school can provide your children. Although small class sizes are crucial to student development and success, a class has to be able to sustain itself financially.

It is only after much consideration, thought, and discussion that Father Peter and I have come to the difficult decision that in order to benefit the sustainability of the school for this upcoming year, we will not have separate 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes but instead a combined class for these two grade levels. This combined 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade class will be taught by Mrs. Diana Shenkel, who is very eager and willing to provide the best possible learning environment for your children. In our discussions together, her main priority is your child's learning experience. Mrs. Shenkel and I both agree that the curriculum will be primarily be 3<sup>rd</sup> grade based with adaptations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. With support, this will allow for the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders to be performing at a higher grade level. The use of a part-time teacher's assistant will also help Mrs. Shenkel with her differentiated instruction and management of the different small groups.

Please know that we did not come to this decision lightly. We are continuing to work diligently to recruit and register students for the upcoming year placing a special emphasis on registering students in the primary grades. If the number of students in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade continues to steadily increase, there is a possibility that we can revisit this decision before the end of the summer. However, Mrs. Shenkel and I are going to work closely together to develop her curriculum and lessons so that they maximize learning for all of her students. I am confident in Mrs. Shenkel's ability to still provide all of her students with interactive, meaningful, and challenging learning experiences.

We will continue to inform you of any developments or changes that take place over the next few weeks. In the meantime, as questions arise, please take the time to call, email or stop by the school office to speak with me. I am confident that your child will be provided with excellent learning opportunities stemming from Mrs. Shenkel's dedication and enthusiasm for her love of teaching.

Most Sincerely,  
Mrs. Erica Stevens