



July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Dear Holy Family School Community,

Office of the Principal

I hope that this letter finds all of you spending time with your families and enjoying the summer! I am happy to share some updates with you regarding many of the topics that we have discussed at our parent meetings.

First, we have hired a new 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Miss Sarah Tarrant. Miss Tarrant is a product of Catholic education herself and is eager and excited to continue her journey in Catholic schools as a teacher. The hiring process for a 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher and an office secretary continues – these are important positions to fill so Father Peter and I are carefully interviewing each candidate. We are also looking for an Extended Care Director as Ms. Josephine Codina has recently taken a job with more hours available to her while she continues going to school.

Second, I am proud to let you know that the staff and I recently completed 2 full days of professional development specific to our school's needs. We met offsite on the campus of the University of San Diego and were able to focus on several goals. We spent the first day developing a schoolwide positive behavior plan that includes clear, fair behavior expectations, a 3 tier system of consequences, and some new and fun ways to recognize positive behavior in our students. The second day we spent analyzing our current math programs and how we plan to adopt Common Core math curriculum across the grade levels, how we can utilize small groups to improve our students' reading and writing, and how we can better plan across the subjects. Using several resources including Diocesan recommendations, this past year's STAR Testing results, and parent/student feedback we have decided that students in Grades K-5 will be using the Engage New York (Eureka Math) program and students in Grades 6-8 will be using Saxon (Common Core Aligned). With this, we have established several ways that we are going to provide additional support to students and parents to help better understand Common Core Math. The teachers are also focusing on their yearlong curriculum plans and working together to ensure that there is vertical alignment across the grade levels. We are happy and excited to share all of the details of these plans with you as the summer goes on and especially at the end of August.

We are having a Fall Festival Planning Meeting on Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm in the school library. Please make every effort to attend. We are in need of parents who are willing to help with the planning, coordinating parent volunteers, and finding donations. Contact me with any questions or ideas.

Finally, please join us at the 9:00 am Mass on Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate our parish's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our school. This Mass is the kick-off celebration of a yearlong series of events highlighting the theme of the anniversary: A Journey of Faith and Transformation.

Feel free to email, call or stop by the front office to let me know how you and your family are doing – I would love to hear from you and answer any questions or concerns you might have.

Most Sincerely,  
Mrs. Erica Stevens

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# HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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