

SACRED HEART OF JESUS SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



FROM THE DESK OF DR. MAGINNIS



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 9/6 Hoagie Sale Began
- 9/13 SCRIP #1 Begins
- 9/14 Hoagie Orders Due
- 9/15 HSA meets @ 6pm
- 9/21 No School: Ed Conference
- 9/26 Hoagies Delivered
- 9/28 SCRIP Orders Due

We have had a wonderful start to school! Returning students arrived refreshed and kindergarten students came eager to learn. It took very little time to get back into the learning routine. The student camaraderie is great to witness. Our students are exceptionally well behaved and enjoy helping each other. They are good role models for their communities.

Thanks to a religious retreat that our staff participates in every year just before the start of school, we come back to SHS spiritually renewed and ready to work hard with the compassion and focus needed for our school. With the motto "every child is a gift from God," our school will continue to value and help every student to reach their full potential both academically and spiritually. Academically our students do excel. Upon leaving Sacred Heart the majority easily attain the honor roll status in their new schools. They are good citizens with good values that shape the future of our world.

Currently Sacred Heart is the only Middle States accredited school in the area. Last spring we hosted visitors for several days as they analyzed and researched our school. They interviewed students, parents, alumni, and staff. They reviewed our curriculum for every subject, and observed just about every aspect of the day-to-day operations of the school, including a fire drill. We compiled and submitted a lengthy plan on how we are going to make our school even better over the next several years. The visiting team left quite impressed with SHS. In October they will conduct the formal vote to extend our accreditation from December 1, 2016, to 2023. The extension means they like our school as well as the plans we have to make it even better. Over the course of the next several years, Middle States will be checking the progress of our plan implementation to ensure that we are on track with continuing our commitment to improvement.

Thank you for your continued support of Sacred Heart. We will work hard to make sure your children have a wonderful year. Mark your calendars for our November 3 Open House, when everyone is invited to visit and see our school. Also remember that there is no school on September 21. This is when 900 teachers and staff of the diocese meet in Harrisburg for our yearly educational conference. They have many presentations that help keep us on the cutting edge of education. Last year at the conference, our school received an award as the top elementary school in the diocese for per-student raising of mission funds for the poor and needy in developing countries. This year our own Mr. Webb has been asked to present a workshop for teachers on publishing books.

My first month here as principal I was talking to students who were proudly introducing the school to me. One comment from them I always remember: "We're small but we're mighty." I just thought it was a great way that these students viewed their school and themselves. They know they are special and important. We will continue to help them foster their pride in their school and themselves.

Please also support our Home and School, who do a great job raising funds for activities and events that make attending our school fun and enjoyable for our students.

Saint Teresa: Canonized on September 4, 2016



Pope Francis stated during the Mass "after due deliberation and frequent prayer for divine assistance, and having sought the counsel of many of our brother bishops, we declare and define Blessed Teresa of Calcutta to be a saint, and we enroll her among the saints, decreeing that she is to be venerated as such by the whole church." She was an example to volunteers around the world, he said. "May she be your model of holiness."



A Middle States Accredited School



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN KINDERGARTEN?

September is here! During this month Kindergarten will be involved in the following themes: School Rules, Ready for School, All about me, and Apples. All of this and more is the magic of September at school. We will read, draw, dance and sing. During the month your child will bring home papers and items to share with you. Please take the time to stop, look, listen and enjoy these things with your child.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 1ST GRADE?

It's hard to believe school is in session already! We have been very busy in first grade. We have had some time to settle into a routine and we are now getting into a pattern of how each day will go. Students have been enjoying their weekly jobs and getting to interact with our classroom Smart Board. In math, we have been enjoying the "My Math" series and all the Smart board activities that go along with each lesson. In religion, we have been discussing how God is our heavenly Father and loves us so much that he created the whole world for us to enjoy and take care of. In language arts we will be spending the next few weeks reviewing our letters and sounds, as we prepare to begin our new reading books! Students were introduced to the Big Universe literacy program this past Friday and login information was sent home. Please take some time to go explore Big Universe with your child!!! Daily reading practice at home is essential to your child's reading development. We are also working on writing skills and have been writing daily. In science, we will be learning that science teaches us about the world around us, exploring common tools used in science, and learning important safety rules for exploring science. In social studies we will discuss the Pledge of Allegiance, the American Flag, location and distance, and explore important rules and responsibilities. Looking ahead, we will be continuing to learn important reading and writing skills, introducing our spelling words and doing several fun, fall activities.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2ND GRADE?

Welcome back to school! I am very excited to start the school year! I have been planning a lot of fun activities for this year, and I know that we are going to have an awesome year! This month we will be learning that "Jesus is God's Best Gift!" We will be discussing how the Father reveals his love for the human family in the gift of his Son. The children will be learning how they can begin to live in union with God, who has come to dwell among us. In reading, our story this week is "David's New Friend." We will find out how to be a friend at school! Some other skills we will be reviewing this week are the short a, i vowels, types of sentences like statements and questions. In math second grade will be reviewing addition. During science this week we are exploring how animals need air, water, and food. We will also look at how animals grow and change. Don't forget social studies! We will be discussing that our community starts with us! We will be looking into our own family history, traditions, and heritage! Get ready for them to ask you questions from your families past! As you can see, second grade will be learning a lot this week. Please make sure to ask your student about some of these topics! Also, check your child's Take Home Folder every day.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 3RD GRADE?

The 3rd graders are settling in nicely to their upstairs classroom. They are adjusting to more responsibilities and their lockers. We have spent some time reviewing and are ready to begin "3rd Grade" work. In Language Arts, we have started our first unit, Let's Learn. In this unit, students will listen, read, and write about why learning is important. We will be increasing our spelling skills and our knowledge of new words. The students will also be discussing different literary skills such as predictions, main idea, cause and effect, and characters setting, and plot. They will strive to improve their writing skills through journaling and writing a personal narrative. In Math the students will be gaining a greater knowledge of place value and comparing numbers. They will also be working on improving their basic addition and subtraction skills through 5 minute timed tests. This skill can also be worked on at home. In Science, we will be studying living and non-living things. We will be investigating their characteristics and environments. The students will learn the names and locations of the continents and oceans in Social Studies. They will then begin working on map skills and identifying the many different types of maps. Finally, in Religion they will be gaining a greater knowledge of becoming one of God's holy people. We will discuss how God calls us and the gifts he has given us to do His will.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 4TH GRADE?

Fourth Grade is all ready to dive right into September. In Language Arts, students will be working on the unit Growing Up. In this unit, students will listen, read, and write about life-changing experiences. As they progress through the unit, they will also develop and apply key comprehension skills that good readers use as they read. Fourth Grade will also begin Writer's Workshop, which is a fun and meaningful writing experience. In Math, students will review place value and rounding skills. They will then learn how to apply addition and subtraction properties. Please continue to work with your child on multiplication facts! These are extremely important as we progress through Fourth Grade. In Science, students will explore weather. In Social Studies, Fourth Grade will learn all about the geography of Pennsylvania. In Religion, the students will be learning that God is revealed in creation, Sacred Scripture, the Church, and most perfectly through his Son. We will be discussing how through prayer, sacraments, and obedience we can nourish our faith.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 5TH GRADE?

The 5th grade is off to a great start! In math the students have been reviewing place value involving large numbers and decimals. They have begun Unit 1 in their religion books, which explains how we worship as Catholic Christians. In reading the students are analyzing story structure, summarizing, and making inferences. They are reminded to have their three book summaries completed by the end of the month. In social studies we have reviewed map skills and will be learning about early civilizations in Ancient Egypt and Greece. A rubric will be sent home soon with details about a project related to Ancient Egypt. Finally, the students are studying and comparing living things in science class.



TECHNOLOGY

Welcome back to school and another fun year in computer class! I have a classroom website where you can follow what the children are doing from week to week in class, www.mrsmeyercomputer.weebly.com. This website also has a page dedicated to safe kid sites where they can go for fun. Some of the things that all classes will work on are: typing skills, Internet Safety, and basic computer knowledge. Many kids in today's world use tablets more frequently than computers and lose touch with the basics. My goal by the time that they leave SHS is that they are well versed in technology and can go on to wow their middle school teachers with what they know!



LIBRARY

This school year begins my second year as the SHS Librarian, and I have some exciting news! At the end of last school year, the SHS-HSA approved the purchase of Library Concepts, an automated card catalog software system for our library! When I began helping Mrs. Niman in the Library three years ago, it was my goal to get the library digitized. Students have been using an old-school card catalog that has not been updated for years as their only way to look up books in the library. With no money in the school budget for this project, I did extensive research to find the most economical software that met the needs of our small school, and the SHS-HSA agreed to purchase the program. Having an automated card catalog is a more efficient way to process books, allows students and teachers to actually know what's in our library, and gives our students experience using an automated system to find materials. Rob and Cheri Zimmerman, parents of 4th grader, Nathan, generously donated a printer and ink to the library so I am able to print book labels from the system. I also received an anonymous donation of a desktop computer and electronic scanner. I cannot thank these donors enough! It takes many people working together for the betterment of our school to overcome obstacles and improve our children's experiences at SHS. And though the process will be daunting as I work on entering every book we have into the system, I am so excited to begin working on it! If you need to contact me, please email lilymaesmama@verizon.net. HAPPY READING!



Birthdays!

		9/14	Jayden Hagemeyer
9/03	George Grove	9/22	Nathan Zimmerman,
9/04	Arthur Hazard	9/29	Miguel Interiano &
9/11	Kohen Wert		Ashland Mazur



DEVELOPMENT

Welcome Back! The Development office is in full swing with a lot of activities! It was nice to see everyone at Back to School Night and I look forward to working with everyone on all of the wonderful activities and fundraisers we have planned this year. Our first being manning our booth at the Juniata County Fair! Thank you to the volunteers who worked many hours this week. Our next event will be Family Night at the Barnyard on Friday, September 30th. We will also be kicking off all three of our major fundraising events in the near future. Our Annual Fund drive, Annual Gala and our biggest fundraiser of the year, the SHS Benefit Auction. We are also looking to start a development committee for those who would like to see the school succeed for future generations. Please contact me if you are interested.



FINANCE

FACTS TUITION MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

By now, you should all be experts in paying your tuition through the FACTS Tuition Management website! We welcome any feedback you might have, positive or negative, so we can properly evaluate the program for future use at the end of this school year. There is a great deal of flexibility in this program, so if you want to make changes in your payment method, payment date or payment schedule, we can help you with that...a one-time change, or a permanent change. If you experience any problems, you can call Sue Parzanese in the Business Office (447-2002) or contact customer service at FACTS directly. We will do our best to resolve any issues as quickly as possible. Thanks for your cooperation!!

REMINDER: If you do pay at the office, please remember pay by check and to mark your envelope clearly with your name and "Tuition Payment." Please write a separate check for all payments so they can be placed in the proper account.

MMS LUNCHTIME PROGRAM

Although some of you may not opt to make payments through this system as it has a fee, you can still manage your account there and see, on a daily basis, what your child(ren) is doing for breakfast and lunch! We know from last year that some of your children eat breakfast and/or lunch even if they are not supposed to, so it is important to check this account regularly! If you pay at the school, these payments will not be posted until Friday, but the purchases are entered daily as the children pass through the lunch line. Online payments are posted quickly, so those will be updated daily. If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Miriello at the school or Sue Parzanese in the Business Office. The Lunch Time link is found on the Parents tab on the school's website. Did you know you can set up a reminder on your account to alert you when funds need to be replenished?? Check it out today!

REMINDER: If you do pay at the office, please remember to pay by check for payments over \$5.00, and mark your envelope clearly with your name and "Lunch Payment." Please write a separate check for all payments so they can be placed in the proper account.

UPDATE ON CLEARANCES

Thank you to all parents, grandparents, and friends of SHS who have already completed their clearances and are ready to jump in and volunteer!! There has never been a better time to get involved with volunteering at SHS! The state has waived the fees for PA State Criminal History and PA Child Abuse History Checks! If you or someone you know wants to help out in the cafeteria, library, as a classroom aide, etc., the process is only a few clicks (and a few hours) away! All volunteers must have training, as they are now considered Mandated Reporters for Child Abuse. The training is free and available online. Please contact the Sue Parzanese in the Business Office for information.

HSA NEWS

The Sacred Heart School's Home & School Association (SHS-HSA) would like to welcome all new and returning families to Sacred Heart School! The SHS-HSA works tirelessly throughout the school year raising funds for and organizing various school activities and events, such as Santa's Workshop, Catholic Schools Week, Field Day, and Family Fun Day. We already have our first fundraiser underway, Marianna's hoagies and pizzas! Meetings are held the third Thursday of every month at 6:00pm in the school's Faculty Room and everyone is invited! As an SHS family, you are automatically a member and attending meetings counts towards the school's required service hours. We are looking forward to a fun and active year! Our first meeting of the year is Thursday, September 15, at 6:00pm, at the school. Follow us on Facebook at Shs-Hsa.



SEPTEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 SCRIP #1 Begins	14 Hoagie Orders Due	15 HSA Meets @ 6pm	16	17
18	19	20	21 School Closed Education Conference	22	23	24
25	26 Hoagies Delivered	27	28 SCRIP orders Due	29	30	