



September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Dear Parents:

There is so much excitement in the air for the beginning of school! Our teachers and staff have worked tirelessly to provide a safe, clean, and bright classroom environment for our students. Volunteer parents and community members have been in our building cleaning, painting classrooms, and weeding the garden. The academic program has been meticulously discussed among the staff to ensure we provide a coherent and cohesive program for all grades. Donations from community members have come this summer at just the right time to purchase textbooks and other materials, alleviating our tight budget to attend to other needs of the school. When we have a community that supports our children and our program in such a tangible way, **you can feel God's loving care within our midst.**

Just a couple of important announcements before the first day of school, Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.

- The state of Michigan requires that we notify you when pesticides will be used within the school premises. Before the first day of school, we will be using pesticides in and around the school for ants. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call the school.
- We found out that our answering machine picks up only after it rings 15 times! We have contacted a technician to help us repair this issue, in the meantime, please keep that in mind. We will make sure to call you back after you waited that long to leave a message 😊 Tina and myself also check our emails very often.
- Please remember our drop-off and dismissal procedure; last name **A-M south of the building Armory Place**, last name **N-Z North of the building Maple Street**. (See attached diagram)
- Please remind your children that cell phones **will not** be used in school.
- Our specials this year will be, **Art** provided by Theresa Miller, **Physical Education** provided by Delbert Craven, **Library** provided by Margaret Swedene, and **All School Song and Prayer** provided by Theresa Miller and Nancy Sawruk.
- Please join us for the first Mass of the year this **Thursday at 8:15 AM at St. Mary's Church**.
- Finally, I want to provide some clarification about the Free Lunch program for Michigan students. While the state legislature has not included private school students in this bill, Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools is actively advocating for our children at the State level to be treated equitably regarding this supplemental budget. They have asked that all interested families contact the State Representative and Senator from our area to express your concern.

I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for making me feel at home once again. With God's help and Mary's blessing, we will have a wonderful year together!

God bless!

Maria