

Saint Cecilia Parish School is a Christ-centered community committed to academic excellence. We empower our students to explore and develop their individual God-given talents. Our emphasis nurtures the development of the whole child preparing each student to be a productive and contributing member of our global society. Inspired by the spirit of the Sisters, servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we dedicate ourselves to preserving the Catholic identity of our school. Our administrators, faculty, staff, parents and students collaborate in an environment of shared values.

Saint Cecilia School Mission Statement

September 1, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The administration, faculty and staff join me in extending a heart-felt welcome to you and your family as we begin the 2019—2020 school year. We are delighted to partner with you in the education of your child and we pledge our support and untiring dedication in providing a learning environment that is rooted in Gospel values and dedicated to a program of academic excellence.

One of the traditions at Saint Cecilia School is that we pray the Prayer of Saint Francis each day as a school community. This is such a powerful prayer if we take the words to heart. We begin by praying, *Lord, make me an instrument of your peace*. One might ask how can I be an instrument of peace in our world today? The words of this prayer answer this question. We ask God to help us bring *love* where there is hate; *pardon* where there is injury; *faith* where there is doubt; *hope* where there is despair; *light* where there is darkness; and *joy* where there is sadness. In doing so, we will help to bring the gift of peace to a world that is suffering so much from hate and violence.

As we begin this school year, let us dedicate ourselves anew to teaching our children *how* to be instruments of peace. Let us bring what we pray in the Prayer of Saint Francis to the relationships and situations that we encounter each day. Let us teach our children the way of peace and non-violence. We can make a difference in our community, our city, and our world. Let us be intentional in this endeavor and ask the Holy Spirit to direct us as we walk through the events of this year in partnership with our faculty and staff.

At this time of year we warmly welcome several new faculty and staff members to Saint Cecilia School. Each brings much dedication and commitment to Catholic education and we are happy to have them come on board. **Sister Joan Felicia O'Reilly, IHM** is joining us as our Assistant Principal this year. Sister comes to us from Saint Agnes School in West Chester and brings to us a wealth of administrative experience. Sister has heard much about our school community and looks forward to meeting you and your children. **Ms. Rebecca Hyde** will share her passion for the English Language Arts with the seventh grade students. **Sister Elizabeth Anne Bartholomew, IHM** will be at the helm of one of our sixth grade homerooms teaching religion, math and science. **Mrs. Marianne Guest** will be a member of the fourth grade squad. And although not new to our school community, we are happy to welcome **Mrs. Jeanette Scally** who is jumping into the world of kindergarten and **Mrs. Kristin Sonlin** who will be assisting Mrs. Donna Moser in Pre-Kindergarten.

Activity at school has steadily continued throughout the summer months. I express tremendous gratitude to Father Bonner, Mr. Tom Wagner, and Mr. Brian McNichol for the many upgrades, repairs and renovations that have been accomplished. In addition to the thorough cleaning of our facility, you will find new flooring in the cafeteria and some of the classrooms, the continuation of the overhead lighting upgrades in the junior high building, several new ceilings and bathroom renovations, replacement of windows, window shades and floor tiles, the construction of new counters in the library and the installation of new cork strips in the hallways.

Since we deployed Google Classroom three years ago, we have continued to add to our technology and upgrade our infrastructure to support our devices. This summer we have acquired 30 new Dell Chromebooks and a cart for the fifth grade classrooms and ten new desktop computers for our technology teaching lab. This will complete the upgrade in our lab. In addition, several projectors were replaced for use with our classroom Smart Boards.

School will begin for grades 2 through 8 on Wednesday, September 4, at 8:00 AM with dismissal at 12:30 PM. Grade 1 will report on Thursday, September 5, at 9:00 AM with dismissal at 12:00 Noon. Our kindergarten and pre-kindergarten will follow the special schedule mailed over the summer. Full sessions begin on Monday, September 9, for students in grades 1 through 8. Our NDS Breakfast Program will begin the first day of school and the NDS Lunch Program will begin on Monday, September 9. This program enables all children to receive free breakfast and/or lunch each day. Breakfast is served from 7:20 AM to 8:00 AM in the school cafeteria. Children who wish to receive free lunch at their lunch period must make this request known to their teacher at the beginning of the school day. Look for the September menus on the website.

Communication envelopes will be sent home on Mondays with the youngest/only child beginning on September 16. Please remove the contents, place any needed information to be returned in the envelope, sign the envelope and have your child return it to his/her homeroom teacher the next day so that you are able to receive the following week's communication. This is extremely important so that we may continue good lines of communication from school to home. We will be placing our Monday Memos and Home and School Newsletters on our website so that you can access them from there. Also, you will find there a copy of our updated Saint Cecilia Handbook. We hope to limit the number of papers in the communication envelopes and will be posting more and more on our website as the year progresses. Parents who are unable to access information on the website will have the opportunity to request paper copies.

We look forward to seeing you at our scheduled Back-to-School nights. Please see our September calendar for dates and times. Be assured that you and your family are remembered in our prayer daily. May God's blessings be upon you and your family as we embrace this new school year together!

Sincerely,

Sister Jane Mary Carr, I.H.M.

Sister Jane Mary Carr, IHM
Principal

Sister Joan Felicia O'Reilly, I.H.M.

Sister Joan Felicia O'Reilly, IHM
Assistant Principal