

13 August 2018 ([Feast of Sts. Pontian and Hippolytus](#))

Greetings, St. Therese Family!

I hope this update finds everyone well as we turn the corner toward the start of our 91st school year at St. Therese Catholic Academy! The school year ahead is inching ever closer and the excitement is brewing among staff, students, and parents alike! We've been busy preparing for an excellent school year, but I was also blessed to be able to take three weeks to relax, refresh, and be with family in Minnesota and Chicago as well as a brief stop at the University of Notre Dame as well. While the slow pace of July was nice while it lasted, the percolating pace of August is now here so I wanted to ensure that everyone has a clear sense of what to expect in the weeks, months, and year ahead. Hence, this e-mail. There will be additional updates sent over the next few weeks regarding extended day registration, breakfast and lunch programs, and other new and exciting ventures, but for now, here is a rundown of the basics.

Included in this update are:

- **Summer Highlights**
- **18-19 Calendars and Upcoming Events**
- **Back to School Basics: Supply Lists, Uniforms, and Summer Homework**
- **Introducing the 18-19 Dream Team (STCA Faculty and Staff)**

Summer Highlights

It has been a busy and productive summer for us on campus. Here are a few points of celebration:

- **Enrollment currently stands at 151** with 11 students' families (returning and admitted) still discerning their status for the 18-19 school year. That is right where we ended last year and + 12 from where we were on this date last year!
- Our **construction project is nearing completion for our relocated and renovated office** reception area near the main entrance, AND, a **partnership with Real Networks** (Thank you, Ms. Jackson!) is underway **to increase and enhance campus security and efficiencies** utilizing facial recognition technology! More updates will come when the full scope is clarified!
- Our theme for this year will center around the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37), with two questions and a command: ***"What must I do to inherit eternal life?" ... "Who is my neighbor?" ... "Go and do likewise!"***

In this vivid Biblical encounter, Jesus is pushed by a "scholar" to describe what it takes to go to heaven. While Jesus starts with the law, he focuses on a powerful and dramatic story loaded with political, cultural, and social implications for his audience seeking to break down boundaries and stereotypes. Jesus then closes with the call to act – not in the comfortable way of the authorities, but in the humble, servant-leader way of the Samaritan. Our collective work as a community this year is similar to that of the Samaritan. We are all called to recognize the realities and needs of the world and people around us – not just those we know and are comfortable with, but *especially* the strangers in our midst – and to respond to them with compassion, openness, creativity, and love. I look forward to the journey ahead!

18-19 Calendars and Upcoming Events

The 18-19 Academic Calendar and Activity Calendar are attached to this e-mail. Our most current calendar and most school activities can be found in our online calendar available here: [STCA Calendar](#). We encourage you to sync this Google calendar to your mobile devices so you are in the loop about school events! As a general reminder, the first week of school has a heavy dose of variable days.

- **First Day: Tuesday, September 4, 2018 – Noon Dismissal**
 - We will begin with prayer on the blacktop at 8:25am (DAILY). Students are welcome to arrive with staff supervision at 8:15am, but parents are welcome and encouraged to stay for the first day (and everyday) prayer and assembly. Before Care services are available starting at 7am. We dismiss at Noon; After Care services are available until 6pm.
- **First Week**
 - Tuesday, 9/4 – **First Day, Noon Dismissal**
 - Wednesday, 9/5 – **2:30pm Dismissal – Faculty PLC Time** (we dismiss at 2:30pm every Wednesday for Faculty PLCs)
 - Thursday, 9/6 – **3:30pm Dismissal (Normal Day)**
 - Friday, 9/7 – **Noon Dismissal – Faculty PD**

Finally, here is a list of upcoming events:

- **8/16 – 5pm-Dusk** – Parish/School Grounds Beautification (2 options)
- **8/18 – 9am-Noon** – Parish/School Grounds Beautification (2 options)
- **8/22 – New Family Orientation – 5:30-6:30pm**
- **8/22 – Safe Environment Training – 6:30-9:30pm**
- **8/27-8/31 - Faculty/Staff In-Service**
- **8/29 – Back-to-School BBQ hosted by PTO – 5:30-7:30pm**
- **9/4 – 1st Day of School (Noon Dismissal); Parent Coffee Hour following Assembly**
- **9/7 – Soccer Registration DUE**
- **9/7 – Prayer Service (8th Grade) @ 8:45am AND Noon Dismissal (Faculty PD)**

Back to School Basics: Supply Lists, Uniforms, and Summer Homework

Some of the most asked about items prior to the start of a school year by students and parents are school supplies and uniforms. Summer homework is another popular one in our community!

The [school supply lists](#) for students in Preschool-8th Grade and a basic [uniform guide](#) to help simplify things and hopefully avoid any confusion are both available on our website. Our uniform vendor is Lands' End (online and offices in Sears). Our Preferred School Number is: **900169475** and [HERE](#) is a link to Lands' End website.

The purpose of our uniform is to *unify* our community, not to promote fashion trends and consumerism/materialism. Thus, we keep it simple when it comes to our uniform – we strive to stand out with our work and our character, not our attire. We have a fee system for students/ families that do not comply with our uniform this year to better enforce this expectation.

Summer homework should be well underway, if not completed by this date. If packets have been misplaced or damaged, all [summer homework](#) is available on our website by clicking the link. Remember, summer homework is due THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.

Introducing the 2018-19 Dream Team – STCA Faculty and Staff

We have assembled an amazing group of educators and role models to serve in our community once again this year, with several new additions bringing their talents and gifts to share with our children and community! In addition to our many returners, we are excited to welcome (back in some cases) to our St. Therese Family:

- Mrs. Claire Hughes (chughes@stcaseattle.org – Preschool Lead Teacher),
- Mr. Brendan Bewley (bbewley@stcaseattle.org – 4th Grade Teacher),
- Mrs. Michelle Maher (mmaher@stcaseattle.org – 5th Grade Teacher),

- Mrs. Shalini Miskelly (smiskelly@stcaseattle.org - 6th Grade Teacher, MS Social Studies),
- Mr. Lester Pearson (lpearson@stcaseattle.org – Art + PE Specialist; Enrichment Coordinator)
- Ms. Maya Abila (mabila@stcaseattle.org – Preschool Co-Teacher; ASC Coordinator)

In addition to these new recruits, we have some shifting in responsibilities as outlined below.

Our staffing assignments for this year are as follows (*indicates new/expanded role):

Administrative Staff (5)	
Mr. Matthew DeBoer	Principal
Mrs. Mary Gubelman	Admin. Assistant (.8 FTE)
Mrs. Bernetta Branch	Receptionist
Ms. Randi Bagley	Advancement Director
*Ms. Sarah Fiskness	School Counselor (.75 FTE)
Instructional Staff (14)	
*Mrs. Claire Hughes	Preschool Lead Teacher
*Ms. Maya Abila	Preschool Asst.; ASC Coordinator
TBD	Preschool Asst. (.8 FTE)
Ms. Vanessa Fuller	Kindergarten Lead Teacher; LT Rep
*Mr. Scott Penner	Kindergarten Co-Teacher; BSC Coordinator
Ms. Rachel Davis	1st Grade
*Ms. Casey Sommers	2nd Grade
Mr. Leo Lazo	3rd Grade; LT Rep
*Mr. Brendan Bewley	4th Grade
*Mrs. Michelle Maher	5th Grade
*Mrs. Shalini Miskelly	6th Grade/MS SS
Ms. Colleen Miller	7th Grade/MS ELA
Mr. Malcolm Nelson	8th Grade/MS Math; Athletics Director; LT Rep
Ms. Kim Sullivan	Blended Learning/Tech. Coordinator (.5 FTE) + MS Science (.5 FTE)
Support Roles (9)	
Mrs. Mary Brannan	Instructional Coach (.3 FTE)
Mrs. Nicole St. Hilaire	Service Learning Coordinator (.2 FTE)

*Mr. Lester Pearson	Art + PE (.75 FTE); Enrichment Coord. (.25 FTE)
Mrs. Jennifer Tawatao	Library Specialist (.3 FTE)
Mr. Kent Stevenson	Primary Music (.2 FTE)
TBD	Lit. Support/Title I (.2 FTE)
Ms. Melanie Wienecke	Math Support/Title I (.2 FTE)
TBD	Ext. Day Support (.6 FTE)
Mr. Clifford Jenkins	Custodian

Our team is very eager to begin this school year with all of you as our partners in this shared endeavor. As a Catholic school, we firmly believe that *parents are the primary educators of their children*, and we are all honored and excited that you have again – or for the first time – chosen St. Therese to help you in this sacred task. Have a blessed rest of summer, and we can't wait to see you at the Back-to-School BBQ on 8/29! God bless!

- *Mr. Matthew D. DeBoer, Principal*