



"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong." 1 Corinthians 16:13

June 24, 2021

Dear St. Helena Families & Friends,

We all have enjoyed our three weeks of summer school! Teachers packed in a variety of fun activities, a bunch of extra learning, and individual attention for all. We were blessed to have six of our Literacy Kids! Tutors from the University of St. Thomas return to assist teachers and work individually with students. Our summer school program was made possible by the CARES Act funding.

The School Advisory Committee (SAC) will be reviewing the State of the School report next week at our last meeting of the year. With their approval, it will then be shared with all families via email. As I wrote this yearly report, I thought about all the blessings we experienced despite facing a global pandemic. For instance, I spent quality lunch time with our kindergarten class, our teachers, staff, and students stayed well (mostly), we implemented *two* new, innovative reading/language arts curricula, and we learned quite a bit about epidemiology. Oh, and Greta, the pandemic puppy! But mostly, I am so very proud of our excellent, dedicated teachers and staff. We leaned on each other like never before, sometimes smiling through our tears, and our faith carried us through the trials presented this year.

Thank you parents, guardians, and grandparents for your unwavering trust and support.

Important Dates to Remember

June 30 ⇨ **FINAL** Deadline - Registration for 2021-2022 school year

September 1 ⇨ Back to School Night

September 7 ⇨ First Day of School for Grades 1st - 8th

September 8 ⇨ First Day of School for Kindergarten

September 17, 18 & 19 ⇨ Autumn Daze Festival

Registration

As reported earlier, the continuous enrollment process did not go as smoothly as planned. It is essential for planning purposes that all families complete registration for next year no later than **June 30**. If your student(s) is not registered we will assume that he/she is not returning and open those seats to new or transfer students.

School Office Hours - July & August

Mrs. Stone and I will be taking some well-deserved time off during the months of July and August, but we are always available via email. It may just take a day or two to get back to any messages. If something *urgent* needs our attention, please contact the parish office at 612-729-7344 and they can get a message to us. For times when the school office will be closed, it will be noted on our email automatic reply. We appreciate your understanding.

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and Friday 8:00 a.m. - Noon

2021-2022 School Year Calendar

A draft of the calendar for next year is attached and on the school's website. Please note, dates are subject to change and events will be added after more planning this summer. A detailed, final calendar will be available late August.

Volunteer Network

We are looking forward to welcoming our volunteers back in the building next year! Kearney Burns has served faithfully as St. Helena's Volunteer Network Coordinator and will be passing the role to Jessie Carlson and Shannon Boynosky. We all owe Kearney a BIG thank you! She extended her term a couple of times to usher in a new principal (or two) and see us through the pandemic. I am so very grateful for her insight, advice, and steadfast support of our school community.

Have a blessed and safe summer!

Ellen Rian, Ed.S

Principal