



Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School

1053 Holland Road ~ Holland PA ~ 18966

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Principal's Newsletter

August 3, 2017

Dear Parents,

I am excited to **welcome you to the 2017-2018 school year!** Hopefully, the summer has provided you with memorable opportunities to spend quality time with family and friends. It continues to be an honor and privilege to serve as the principal of such a wonderful school and family!

Our summer has been busy. Carpets have been replaced with tile in several classrooms, and our **custodial staff and Mrs. Engle** have been working hard preparing the school building. As always, **our teachers** have been very busy continuing their education by attending professional development classes along with working hard in preparing their classrooms.

I am sad to announce that we had to say farewell to our music teacher, **Mrs. Lori Clark**. After much reflection, Mrs. Clark informed me that she has decided to retire. While we are very sad that she is leaving and so grateful for the spirit and dedication she has brought to Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School, we support her desire to enjoy this much deserved time with family and friends along with the many joys of retirement.

I am very happy to welcome **Melanie Rose Marasheski** to our SKD Family. Baby Melanie was born on July 5th weighing 9 pounds, 5 ounces. Mom, Dad, and baby are doing great!

Mrs. Kane is continuing with her treatments and the doctors are happy with the results. Please continue to pray for Mrs. Kane as we know our prayers are so powerful!

As we **welcome our new families** to our SKD community, please also join me in also welcoming our new members to our faculty- **Mrs. Diane Reese** who will join our 7th and 8th grade team in 7B, **Mrs. Tara Williams** who will join our 1st grade team in 1A while Mrs. Marasheski is on maternity leave, and **Ms. Erin Stengel** who will join our 5th and 6th grade team in 6B while Mrs. Kane is on leave. I am

still in the process of hiring our Music teacher. As soon as she/he is hired, you will be notified.

The 2017-2018 school year will be another **exciting and productive school year** with many memorable experiences and happenings:

- Our students have once again surpassed the cut off scores for the **National Blue Ribbon** standards. Our Blue Ribbon Application is complete and in the revising and editing stage. It will be ready to be sent as soon as the 2018 application date is posted by the United States Department of Education. **We are still waiting for the Home Reports with your child's Terra Nova results. As soon as they arrive, we will send them out to our families.**
- We are excited to implement the *HMH Science Dimensions* science **program** which is brand new and built specifically to address the Three Dimensions of Science Learning outlined in the *Framework for K-12 Science Education* and the Performance Expectations of NGSS. Built with a digital-first mentality, this program will help provide an authentic approach to increasing our student achievement in science and development in engineering design.
- I am excited for our school community to enter a **new partnership with Holy Family University**. We will welcome students and faculty members into our school who will offer us support along with mentoring our students to help make learning relevant to the real world and reflect the knowledge and skills our students need to succeed in life after high school, in both college and a globally competitive workforce.
- Our facility committee of our Board of Directors has met to begin the planning process of **our new playground** that we won through Terra Cycle along with the renovations to our current playground. **Thank you for all of your hard work in helping us win this contest!**
- We look forward to **working closely with the new members of our Parent Association** led by our president, Mr. Mark Perri.

As you may already know, **Saint Bede's is installing a bell tower**. This project will be taking place soon and continue into the school year. I have met with the project manager to discuss anything that may impact us on a daily basis. We may need to make some minor changes to morning drop off and afternoon dismissal. As soon as I know any major impacts, I will let you know.

SKD will open its doors for students in **Grades 5-8 on Wednesday, September 6th** and to **Grades 1-4 on Thursday, September 7th**. **School begins promptly at 8:15am each day**. Upon arrival, students will be greeted by their teachers and welcomed to their classrooms.

Please know that a great deal of time, effort, and thought has gone into the process of student placement for the 2017-2018 school year. Careful consideration was given to input from staff and families as well as student learning styles. Classrooms have been balanced academically and socially. Our class lists are structured to provide equitable class sizes at each grade level. All of our teachers work hard to make school a positive experience for all of our students. Please understand that it can take a few weeks for your child to acclimate to a new grade, peer group, and teacher.

Finally, please review all the important updates and reminders below. I certainly look forward to seeing all of you! Enjoy these remaining days of summer as we eagerly anticipate another fulfilling year! Please know that it remains an honor and privilege to serve as your principal. As always, I thank you for your commitment to Catholic education, Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School, and our mission!

God's blessings,

Ms. Clark

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

9/6: Opening Day for Grades 5-8; Pre-K and Kindergarten BTSN 7pm

9/7: Opening Day for Grades 1-4; Pre-K and Kindergarten Orientation

9/8: Full Day Grades 1-8; Pre-K and Kindergarten Orientation/ Opening Mass 9am

9/11 Pre-K and Kindergarten Begins. CARES Open

9/13: Back to School Night Grades 1-4 at 7pm

9/14: Back to School Night Grades 5-8 at 7pm

9/21: Ice Cream Social 6:30-8pm

Lunch Monitors- HELP NEEDED

Lunch monitors are needed on a permanent basis. Each monitor will be assigned to a homeroom to supervise the students at lunch and recess. This duty is from 11:55AM to 1:00PM each full school day. If you are able to give your time, please see the Lunch Monitor Form posted on our website, complete it, and return it to school during the first week. Lunch monitors must be in compliance with the Archdiocesan Safe Environment requirements and have all background checks, and the documentations must be on file. Please check the school website for a list of these requirements.

School Supplies

Your children do not have to bring all of the required supplies to school on the first day. The teachers will be flexible in giving time the first week to bring in supplies a little at a time.

Student Safety First

Please enter the morning drop-off car line with caution. The morning drop off is an express line; parents may not stop and get out of their cars. Students must exit from the **PASSENGER SIDE** only. Students **MUST be ready** to exit the car once pulling into the car line drop-off in order to eliminate back-up traffic. **DO NOT DRIVE OUT OF THE CAR LINE. PLEASE WAIT FOR THE LINE TO MOVE SLOWLY TO EXIT.** If you need to bring your child into the school building, you **MUST** park your car and enter through the main school entrance. You must report to the office.

Bussing Information

Bussing Information has not been made available as of this time. When received, bussing pick-up information will be posted on our school website and on MSP.

Attendance

School Hours are from 8:15am to 2:45PM. Please call the school office and leave your child's name and room number on the attendance line if

your child is going to be absent for the day. If the absence is not reported to the office by 9am, a phone call will be made to confirm an absence.

Late Arrivals

After 8:15am, your child is considered late. Parent and child must report to the school office and sign a late arrival form. The child will then receive a late slip to give to his/her homeroom teacher. Please make every effort to get your child to school on time. This teaches our students respect and courtesy along with an understanding of the importance of being on time. When a child is late, it disrupts the morning routines of the classroom and often the child becomes overwhelmed.

Early Dismissal

If your child must leave school before the end of the school day, an early dismissal form must be completed and sent to the homeroom teacher in the morning. Parents are to come to the school office to pick up their child for dismissal.

Lunch

This can be located in the Student Life section of the website. Monthly lunch orders and any correspondence from Mrs. Berk, our cafeteria coordinator, can also be found in this section. If your child should forget his/her lunch, you can place his/her lunch in the Late Lunch Bin in the school lobby. Please instruct your child to check this bin if he/she should forget his/her lunch.

Back to School Nights

We request that at least **one parent of every child** be present for this important meeting. Children are not to be present for this meeting.

Band Parent Meeting

Parents who are interested in the band program are invited to attend a Parent Meeting on Thursday, September 14th at 6pm in the Cafeteria. The purpose of this meeting is to inform parents about our excellent Band Program and answer any questions about instruments, lessons, and band. This meeting is for the parents of all students in all grade levels.

Ice Cream Social

Our Parent Association will hold their annual "Welcome Back Ice Cream Social" on Thursday, September 21st from 6:30-8pm in the cafeteria. Please join us for a cold treat and reconnect with old and new friends!

Important Papers

Even though we are paperless, some documents are required to be sent home. Your child will be coming home with some important information during the first week of school. These documents must be completed and returned to school with your child. This will include: Student Emergency Information Form, Medical Forms, Handbook Agreement, Technology User Agreement and Pledge, and Milk and Pretzel orders. Please be sure to check your child's folder for this information.

Monthly Prayer List

Prayer requests will be mentioned and remembered each day by our students during community prayer. Please let the school office know of any special intentions that you may have.

Health and Wellness Policy

In accordance with the Archdiocese Wellness Policy, the Council Rock School District, and our school health committee, no food/candy treats will be allowed at school for birthday celebrations.

Like us on Facebook

Along with visiting our website, additional ways to stay informed about the many exciting happenings at SKD School is to like us on Facebook at St. Katharine Drexel Regional Catholic School. Tell your friends to like us too.

Box Tops and Campbell Soup Labels

Please remember that SKD School participates in the Box Tops for Education Program and the Campbell Soup Labels. Look for the Box Tops logo on various products. Clip off the Box Top and save them for our school. Each Box Top is worth .10 that begins to add up rather quickly. The school has the potential to raise \$5000.00.

Smile.Amazon.com

When shopping online, please use the above site. Select SKD and a portion of the sale will go to our school.

Giant's A+ Program

Please go online to www.giantfoodstores.com/aplus and register your Giant card designating SKD School ID #23572 as the recipient of your rewards. Please tell your family and friends to help us out too.

The Mission of St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School is to form Catholic leaders through academic excellence, personal discipline, and Christian service.