



# SAINT CECILIA CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

*"Higher education starts here"*

June 12, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians -

Congratulations! You have made it through another school year and summer is finally here. I pray you have already been enjoying the blessings of summer: less-structured schedules, longer days with more sunshine, and no morning drop off routine to follow.

All joking aside, I pray that you and your family find time this summer to relax and build memories together. Whether you have a big vacation planned, are staying at grandma's house, relaxing poolside, or are planning on knocking out all those books you didn't have time to read throughout the school year, I hope you are able to enjoy life just the way God intended you to.

Teachers sometimes get a bad rap when it comes to the summer months. Many times people think that teaching and educating is a part-time job. Have you heard the joke about the top three reasons people love teaching? (Answer: June, July, and August). I have been surrounded by educators for over a decade, both professionally and personally (both of my sisters are in education and my mother worked at a university her whole career before retiring). Truth be told, the summer months are when we get a lot of the work done. At the end of the year when the students are out of the building is when teachers get a chance to catch their breath, reflect on what went well throughout the year, discuss the challenges, and then begin looking forward to and planning for the next year.

Here are some things your teachers and I have been working on this summer:

- Securing grant money for the development of a STEAM Lab/Media Center to add to Comedy & Cuisine and OmahaGIVES donations.
- Working on the development of STEAM curriculum for all students, PreK-8.
- Ordering supplies/materials for continued implementation of our Balanced Literacy program.
- Scheduling over 15 hours of professional development for the Balanced Literacy program for PreK-8.
- Discussing the value of standards-based grading practices in our upper grade levels.
- Planning for an all-day PreK option for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Developing online registration and tuition options for our returning and new families.
- Creating an online-3D tour for incoming families.
- Attending EdCamp professional development sessions.
- Learning more about Number Talks and how to implement them in the classroom.

- Renovating the Child Care entrance and main hallways through the Child Care Center.
- Putting together a full flexible seating classroom for the middle school complete with standing desks, wobble chairs, and collaborative seating options.
- Installing one water bottle filler over the water fountain in the gym.
- Establishing a mentor/mentee program for new teachers.
- Working on math curriculum by analyzing standards and outcomes. Planning on mapping math standards for PreK-8 during the 2018-2019 school year.
- Planning for the construction of cubbies/shelving/organization for the closet space in the classrooms.

So as you can see, we've been busy and we love every minute of it! There are so many things to celebrate at the end of the school year and so many more things to look forward to for next year. Attached to this email are the school calendars for the 2018-2019 school year. One of them (the color-coded one) is more general and contains the important dates (Christmas Break, Confirmation, etc.) whereas the other one is more detailed with dates and times (SongFest, Operetta tryouts, etc.) Remember dates are always subject to change.

The school office will be open from 8-12 PM for the month of June and the office will be closed for all of July. Regular office hours (7:30-4 PM) will resume starting August 1. We ask that all registration items are turned in before July.

Alicia Gallant is looking for someone to be co-president of Home and School with her for this coming school year. Alicia will be stepping down at the end of the 2018-2019 school as her son will be graduating from St. Cecilia Cathedral Grade School. If you are interested in being a part of this great parent organization, she would be happy to hear from you and discuss how she can mentor you this coming year ([sis3405@gmail.com](mailto:sis3405@gmail.com)).

Some important dates to add to your summer calendar:

- July 14 - Home and School Used Uniform Sale
- August 11 - Campus Clean Up Day @ 9-11 AM (followed by a hot dog/burger cookout hosted by the Knights of Columbus)
- August 11 - New Family Cookout @ 6:30 PM (hosted by Home and School)
- August 21 - Meet the Teacher Night @ 6:30-8 PM
- August 22 - First Day of School
- August 29 - Curriculum Night @ 7:00 PM

I look forward to summer vacation as it will be good for me to unplug and reflect on my first year as your school leader. From the bottom of my heart, thank you. Thank you for being supportive and flexible with all of the changes that were implemented or piloted this year. Thank you for providing constructive feedback through surveys and the GOALS meetings. Thank you for welcoming my family into the amazing community that makes St. Cecilia Cathedral such a great place to learn, work, and play. And most importantly, thank you for choosing St. Cecilia Cathedral for your children to grow in their academics, faith, and friendships.

Have a Blessed Summer - Mrs. Pick