

Welcome back,

We had a wonderful first day of school yesterday. Loved the energy and enthusiasm your children brought to the day – it is just amazing to feel their excitement and apprehension as they start their new year. So Fun!!!

As you read through today's letter, please keep in mind that there is a 'test' at the end of the letter.

☆ **FAMILY PERMISSION FORMS:** If you have not completed this form and returned it to one of our offices, please check your email, save it to your computer desktop, complete the form, save your work, and email it back to sfeusner@sjmms.org. Or stop by one of our offices to fill out a hard copy. It is imperative that we have this information for your family on record at school.

☆ **PARKING LOT SAFETY:** We all have the responsibility of making our parking lots safe for all of our children. To ensure everybody's safety, we have established routines that ALL students and parents are expected to follow. Please carefully review the enclosed morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up maps (back to back), so you fully understand the established parking and walking routines. Please use the pathways while walking in the parking lot and stay off your phones when driving in the parking lot. To keep traffic moving, please make a right turn when exiting the St. Joseph (3rd Street) and Marquette (4th Street) parking lots. Mother Joseph Center parking for drop off and pick up is pretty simple – we have a nice big parking lot next to MJC and if lucky there are spots on 4th Street in front of the building. Please use the entrances on the 4th Street side to enter the building.

A couple important points:

- When using the drop-off zone in the St. Joseph lot, please pull as far forward towards the church as possible before stopping to let your children exit your vehicle. This allows more space in the drop-off zone.
- The drop-off zone is for just that dropping off: park, kids grab their stuff and exit the vehicle on the right.
 - If you need to get out of your car to help your children unload and/or get stuff out of the back of your vehicle, please use the parking spaces.
- Afternoon pick-up: please note that the gates into the Marquette parking lot off of 4th street will not open until 2:50pm (11:20 on early release days). Please do not park in the street waiting for the gates to open - the City of Yakima has expressed their concern regarding this issue and have threatened tickets.
- Please use the marked crosswalks and walkways whenever possible. NO shortcuts across the parking lot.

☆ **PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK:** Enclosed is a copy of the Parent/Student Handbook for your family. Please read through the handbook taking care to fully inform yourself on the policies and procedures. There is a signature page for parents and students that must be signed and returned by September 15th. All students who turn in the signature page will receive a **FREE DRESS COUPON!**

NEW STAFF for the 2023/24 school year:

- Mrs. Sarah Feusner Office manager Marquette Building
- Ms. Quin Marek Kindergarten teacher
- Ms. Trista Capps 2nd grade teacher
- Mrs. Silvey Perrault School Nurse
- Ms. Elena Mesina PreK long term sub
- Mrs. Athena James MJC office
- Mrs. Brandy Spry Art long term sub

WEDNESDAY FOLDER: Families will receive a Wednesday Folder each week. A hard copy (Wednesday Folder) will be sent to all families on the first Wednesday of each month (statements enclosed). The letter and any enclosures (not statements) will be sent via Option C every week. The letter and enclosures will be sent to your email address(s) in Option C. A text message notification will also be sent.

NOTE: The Wednesday Folder come home with youngest enrolled child.

AFTER CARE: The After Care program provides supervision for students in grades Pre-K to 8th grade from dismissal to 6:15 p.m. Please note there is a registration form that must be completed and there are daily use fees that apply. Please contact Sarah Feusner or Paula Mattson at 575-5557 for further information and/or to register. Our PreK and Kinder students will meet in the activity room at the Mother Joseph Center for 15 minutes after dismissal and then will transition to the Mercy Building on the main campus with two After Care supervisors. Students in grades 1 to 8 will meet at the Marquette steps following dismissal and then will walk to the Mercy Building. After Care supervisors have established a schedule that will allow for free time, snacks, time for homework, and quiet play time. Please note that all school rules and expectations apply to children in After Care including the use of electronics and phones.

If using After Care on early release days, students need to bring their own lunch and drink. We are accepting donations of new and gently used board games, card games, drawing stencils, coloring books, etc. Donations of new/gently used items can be dropped off in any of the school offices.

FROM OUR SCHOOL NURSE: Silvey Perrault, our new school nurse, would like to remind parents that they must have a signed **Physician's/Dentist's Orders for Medication at School** form on file, in the St. Joseph or MJC office, if a child needs to take or have precautionary medications at school. If you need a form, please contact Mrs. Feusner at 509-575-5557 or sfeusner@sjmms.org or visit the school website (scroll down to the tan area look for FORMS).

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM: Due to the risk to those who have severe allergic reactions to nuts, our lunch program is nut free (raw, oils, processed, etc.). We strongly encourage families without nut allergies to keep their child's lunches and classroom snacks nut free. Thank you.

OPTION C:

- This program manages all the school records and family information in addition to providing an avenue to communicate with families through parent alerts that go to your email and text. Every family who has an email account in Option C should have received today's Wednesday Letter and attachments in their inbox and a text notification that the Letter was in your inbox. If you did not get these and want them, please contact Mrs. Feusner at 509-575-5557 so she can check to ensure your e-mail and phone numbers are correct. If messages are being received at an email or phone that shouldn't get them, please contact Sarah and she can delete them.
- **NEW PARENTS:** if you have not received your Option USERNAME / PASSWORD, please contact Sarah at 575-5557 or sfeusner@sjmms.org for her support.



FAIR SCHEDULE SIGN-UP SHEET



If you are interested in selling raffle tickets at the Fair, fill out the information on the enclosed form, select up to 4 time slots that work well with your schedule. **The sign-up sheet must be returned to the St. Joseph or MJC office by 3:15pm on Tuesday, September 5th.**

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM: Students may order school lunch on a daily basis. Pre-K to 3rd grade lunches are \$3.50 each. Grades 4 to 8 are \$3.75. In addition to the hot lunch option, students may order a SWAK lunch (sandwich, cheese stick, vegetable, fruit, and milk). Students in grades 4 to 8 also have the option of a full salad bar instead of hot lunch. Single milk costs .40 cents and students in grades 4 to 8 can order an extra entrée for \$1.00. Lunches can be paid for on a daily basis, but we prefer that families prepay for lunches (contact Mrs. Mattson to do so). Lunch money can also be given to Mrs. Riel in the St. Joseph office or Mrs. James in the Mother Joseph Center office.

FREE & REDUCE LUNCH PROGRAM: Families have the opportunity to apply for the Free & Reduced program to cover or help cover the costs of lunch for their children. Forms are available in the Marquette office if you would like to apply. In addition to receiving services, the school's Title I funding is generated by the number of students who qualify for the program, therefore, **I would like to encourage families to apply for the program.**

SUBSTITUTES: If you or someone you know would like to be a substitute para-pro for Pre-K, Kinder and/or 1st grade, After Care and/or in the food service program, please contact me at gpleger@sjmms.org

New Parent Meeting - Wednesday, September 13th at 6:30pm

Our intention of this meeting is to provide an opportunity for new families to check-in, ask questions, and to meet other families including members of our Parent Board and School Commission.

Facebook Parent Group: The St. Joe's Parent Group is another way to stay informed and have your questions answered quickly by other parents at the school. This is a private Facebook group. If you are interested in joining, you can find the group here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SJMParents>

The HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN requirements have relaxed; however, the Washington State Health Department strongly recommends that schools follow guidelines for those who have COVID symptoms or have been exposed to COVID. Please see the enclosed flyer that has a flow chart with clear guidelines.

SCHOOL SWAG ORDER: We will place a new order for school SWAG items on September 1st.

Visit <https://sjmms.square.site> to order your school sweatshirts, hoodies, t-shirts, and other items.

NOTE: SWAG t-shirts can be worn in place of uniform polo on any day except Mass days.

Speaker Series - Presentation #1

Please look for the enclosed flyer for additional details on this presentation titled:

The Adolescent Brain: Understanding Your Teen/Preteen's Behavior, Decision Making & Problem-Solving Skills

Thursday, September 7th @ 6:00pm in the Marquette Auditorium

Childcare available at no cost to families

FUTURE LIGHTNING NIGHT on Friday, September 1st from 5:00 to 7:00pm at Christ the Teacher playground. Students in grades K to 8 are invited to this FREE event hosted by La Salle High School. Participants will enjoy free pizza, games and get a chance to meet football players and cheerleaders prior to the football game. While the kids are having their fun, parents are invited to the SUDS n SLIDERS for a 21+ tailgate event in the Christ the Teacher courtyard. Tickets for the Suds and Sliders are \$35. Lots of info at LASALLEYAKIMA.ORG!

FRESH CATCH DINNER & AUCTION

We would like to invite you to join the planning committee for this year's Fresh Catch Dinner & Auction.

The committee will meet Tuesday mornings at C&S Coffeehouse in Terrace Heights right after drop-off.

Can't make meetings, but still want to get involved? Contact Eileen: gamache.em@gmail.com; 509-941-0279

SAVE THE DATE FOR FRESH CATCH

Saturday, November 4th

5:00pm in the new St. Joseph Marquette Gym

HOMEWORK FOR PARENTS

- **Return your completed paperwork to Mrs. Feusner by noon on Friday, September 1st.**
 - Family Permission Form
- **If you plan to use the Aftercare Program, please fill out and return an After Care registration form**
 - If you need a form visit SJMMS.ORG (FORMS in the tan box) or contact Mrs. Feusner at 575-5557 or sfeusner@sjmms.org
- **Fill out a Free and Reduced lunch form to see if you qualify for the program.**
 - If your family qualifies, the school benefits by receiving Federal Funding for our two academic tutors.
- **Set-up your tuition automatic withdrawal account with Paula our bookkeeper.**
- **Return your Student/Parent Handbook signature page to the St. Joe's office by Friday, September 15th.**
- **Check out the Important Dates calendar on the next page to fill up your calendar**

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday the 1 st :	EARLY RELEASE at 11:30 Aftercare is available – please send a lunch and drink with your child DEADLINE for ordering school SWAG (T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, etc.) Future Lightning Night for K - 8 students – 5:00 - 7:00pm Christ the Teacher playground (FREE) Suds N Sliders tailgate event for parents – 5:00 - 7:00pm Christ the Teacher courtyard (\$35 per)
Monday the 4 th	NO SCHOOL – Labor Day
Tuesday the 5 th	DEADLINE for turning in your Fair Schedule Sign-up Sheet Fresh Catch planning committee meeting at C&S Coffeehouse in Terrace Heights after drop-off Middle School band and strings begin – 7:30 to 8:10
Wednesday the 6 th	Parent Board meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday the 7 th	SPEAKER SERIES The Adolescent Brain – Parent information night 6:00pm Marquette Auditorium
Friday the 8 th	SCHOOL MASS at 8:30 a.m. (Grades 1 to 8) Mass of the Holy Spirit
Monday the 11 th	Free Dress for all students and staff (1 st school Monday of the Month)
Wednesday the 13 th	NEW PARENT MEETING at 6:30pm
Friday the 15 th	SCHOOL MASS at 8:30 a.m. (Grades 1 to 8)

Blessings
Gregg



EARN A FREE DRESS COUPON & A TICKET FOR A FREE SCHOOL SHIRT!!!

DRAWING FOR FREE SCHOOL SHIRT WILL BE ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st.

Return this coupon to Mr. Pleger on Thursday morning with the correct answers to these questions to receive a Free Dress Coupon. This coupon will be your raffle ticket for a free school t-shirt drawing.

- 1) When is your Student Handbook signature page due? _____
- 2) What days can student wear their SWAG shirts? _____
- 3) Who is our new kindergarten teacher? _____
- 4) Name one assignment for parents: _____
- 5) When is the Fresh Catch Dinner & Auction? _____

Student's name(s): _____

Parent's signature: _____