



St. Michael Elementary School

"This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad!"

June 2, 2009

Dear Families,

It is impossible to believe that we are close to the end of another school year. It was one filled with challenges as we experienced the joy of being certified by the Archdiocese of Chicago after a team of four administrators spent three days here. We also had the state visit in May that was an important visit to us as well. In between, we have been working hard to implement the Archdiocesan Curriculum based on state standards and the standards of the Terra Nova. We expanded the pre-algebra program as well as a new drumming course for Grades K-4 next year through Mr. Glover. Our new and completely updated social studies program made a difference in social studies growth on the Terra Nova. Our new religion program is very new and challenging. Our religion program is at the heart of who we are at St. Michael. We teach the values of the Gospel that so many of you have drawn from your own churches and religion. We will continue to spell those out and to work together to create a peaceful place for students to be challenged in their learning.

Title I Parental Approval Form: You will find this form in your packet. Please return it one way or the other—if you would like to have your child continue in Title I if they are in it already or have become eligible, please feel in that form. If you don't want Title I for your child, simply put your name at the top of the paper and return it to us as well. Certainly, Mrs. Lowers would be glad to let you know what type of support she gives to children in her classroom. She is a dedicated professional and works closely with teachers on a weekly basis.

Summer School Plans: Many of you have asked about summer school plans. Currently, the Catholic Schools in the area are not having summer schools; however, in the building next to the school—The St. Michael Pastoral Center—there is a tutoring program run by three School Sisters of Notre Dame. It is called "Corazon a Corazon" (Heart to Heart). I don't know their fees, but you can call them at 221-0620. Certainly it would be important for you to enroll your child in the summer reading program at the library in your neighborhood. Every child must read daily in order to keep up his or her skills. We are planning to purchase one of the best math programs in the field so it is likely that we will give the old books away to children who wish to have their book. That would offer opportunities for your child to get some solid math review. One of the documents we received for parents from the Terra Nova is a list of books that would be appropriate for children based on their reading scores. You can take that list to the library and see how many of those titles you can find.

With respect to Tuition Payments: Thank you so much for your efforts to meet your tuition responsibilities. We know that some of you may need to extend them over time. If that is the case, call me (Ms. Lee) to discuss that with me. We will do our best to accommodate your needs. Congratulations to everyone who finished making their last tuition payments. I know all the sacrifice involved in doing that. What I am hoping is that we can bring our tuition balance down to zero dollars. **Keep in mind that**

Academic Excellence in the Catholic Tradition

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Books and Supplies fee is due as is registration payment if you did not yet pay it. For children in K-8, the fee is \$200 per child. For Preschool it is \$100. If you want to drop off a check for supplies and the first payment of tuition in August and I am not in my office, you can go next door and give it to Mrs. Rosa Hale. I will certainly be here much of the summer; however, I will be taking some vacation.

No Extended Day Program: On the last day of our school year—June 11th—there will be a half day of school with dismissal at 12:30. **There will be no extended day program.** Report cards will be given out on that day to anyone who has tuition paid in full. We will hold it until we receive the final payment of tuition.

SCHOOL CLEAN-UP DAY—June 13th!

As has been the tradition here at St. Michael, families come out on the Saturday after school ends to do some maintenance work or gardening. If you have received any grants or scholarships this year, it is expected that you would take part in this important volunteer opportunity. We expect to see everyone at 8:00 and will end at noon. Mr. Martin Ortiz will be overseeing this effort since he is in charge of maintenance in this building and on the school grounds. Below is a list of jobs. Please check your #1 and #2 choice. Hopefully we will have enough people to get the work done in that time. You may want to bring your own bottled water for the morning. If you have a Big Shoulders grant or scholarship, you need to demonstrate service and this is the time to do it. If you do not show up and work, I will not be able to support you when you apply for a scholarship next year when they ask me what volunteer work was done.

Please check the area below that you would most enjoy and check a second as well (put #1 and #2 on the two different jobs below.

- Clean Cafeteria (windows, tables, kitchen, etc.)
- Paint (stalls in boys and girls bathrooms and there may be other painting needed)
- Scrubbing down the boys and girls bathrooms
- Gardening (If you want to bring some plants, that would be great)
- Window Cleaning
- Wash walls on the three floors used for classes
- Remove furniture in hall and take it to the Church basement
- Scrub stairs
- Pick up some bakery to start the day.

Please return this form to the office tomorrow so that schedules can be set up. Also, please indicate if you would like to oversee gardening. If you can't join us, perhaps you could send us a few flowers to plant on the school and parish grounds.

Blessings!

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