

SAINT MICHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Mrs. Linda L. Cherry, Principal
542 Cypress Avenue
Garden City, SC 29576

August 11, 2011

Dear Parents, Guardians, Teachers and Staff members,

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad. Five weeks ago the first day of school seemed so far away. Last night I reflected on the past month and how much has been accomplished to lead up to August 17th. I am so blessed to be able to lead Saint Michael School into this new, exciting 2011-2012 school year. It is more than one day to rejoice and be glad; it is a theme for the entire year ahead.

This Sunday, August 14th, we have our Open House from 2:00-4:00 p.m. With families and staff members who originated from many of our States, the words "Open House" have different meanings. For "our" Open House, we will gather in the Duffy Center at 2:00. I will introduce the school staff to everyone and then give them time to scoot to their classrooms/offices. I will give some general comments as we begin the new year and then allow all to wander through the school.

With the short time for this first before-school open house and because many families have more than one child, teachers will not be doing formal presentations on this day. This is a time for you to see where the classrooms are, perhaps introduce yourself and your child/ren to their teacher, see where they might be sitting, visit the other classrooms where your child might have subjects (Art, Music, etc.) and the opportunity for you as parents to meet each other.

At the first PTO meeting on August 26th, each teacher will give a short presentation on some of the key aspects of their work with your children this year. It is important that all parents have the opportunity to hear the wonderful things awaiting their child through all of their years at Saint Michael School.

One of my first goals was to review the Diocesan curriculum requirements and the expertise/experience of our teachers and staff. Meeting with the teachers one-on-one I was able to determine the strengths and gifts of each staff member. We are excited about some creative scheduling for some of the grades and are still tweaking the final schedules. On the first day of school, each of the children will receive their schedule of classes for the year, which they will bring home to you. By August 19th, you will be able to view the class schedule on the teacher's link of our web-page.

On the first day of school your child will also be bringing home the official student/parent handbook. The handbook had been sent to the printer in late spring for the new year and there are some changes that need to be made. Rather than spend additional money on new handbooks, you will receive the printed handbook with an "addendum". Each family is required to read the handbook and return the signed form indicating you have received and read it. We will make corrections on an electronic version of the handbook and will post that on our web-site so you will always be able to pull it up if you have a question.

I want to take the time to thank so many parents and volunteers who have stepped up and offered suggestions to make Saint Michael even better. One special task has been to prepare a "Welcome to Saint Michael" packet for all new families entering our school. Thanks to the PTO for taking on this project. Special thanks, also, to the PTO for providing some special touches to the first day of school drop-off.

On the first day, faculty and staff will be outside to greet you and your child as they get out of the cars. You can feel assured that your child will be escorted to a special location in the gym, where other staff members will greet and watch over them. For the first day, we welcome new families to come into the gym with your child so you can see where they are going to assemble with their classmates. Drop off will begin at 7:20 on the first day and all must be dropped off by 7:45. On Thursday, drop off will begin at 7:25 and on Friday, we will begin the official drop-off time of 7:30.

This year, we will begin our day with prayer, as the students and staff are all assembled in the gym at 7:45. What a wonderful way to start each day as a community of students and faculty praying for each other and giving thanks for the day God has given. After Morning Prayer and any short announcements, the teachers will escort their children to their classrooms to begin the day.

One of the qualities of a great school is communication. As stated in the school handbook for years, it is important that the communication begin at the appropriate level. At any time, if you as an individual parent have a question, concern or compliment about a class/teacher, please e-mail or send a note to the teacher. Each teacher wants to be the best they can be and help you in the process of a successful year for your child. The communication begins there-at the first level.

I shared with several people this past month that Saint Michael is heading upward on a positive, blessed train path. I welcome everyone to join me on this path. When all move in the same direction, the train reaches its destination faster. Saint Michael Catholic School, as a ministry of Saint Michael Parish, is here to serve those who see the good in everyone; remember each person is created by God for a specific purpose and see that same God in everyone they encounter. We treat each other with the respect that we expect for ourselves as a child of God. How nice it will be when God blesses each of us, our work and our school year because He is pleased with who we are.

As you spend the last weekend of summer break with your family and loved ones, may God and Our Blessed Mother bring you peace, happiness and all that is good.

Humbly working in His name,



Mrs. Cherry, Principal