

ST. DAMIAN SCHOOL

5300 W. 155th Street
Oak Forest, IL 60452
(708)687-4230

August 11, 2017

Welcome back to school! We hope you had a restful and relaxing summer. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new families that have joined our school family. We are glad you are here with us! I would like to take a moment and welcome our new staff members. Ms. Julie Janiewiz will be in first grade, Ms. Anne Thuot will be our Jr. High Social Studies Teacher and 6th grade homeroom, Mr. Randall Postialioni will be our Junior High Math Teacher and 7th grade homeroom, Mr. Ed Mottier will be our Junior High Language Arts Teacher and 7th grade homeroom. Mrs. Maggie Bush will be our PreK-8th grade Resource and Gifted Teacher and Mrs. Michelle Velki will be our Long Term Maternity Substitute for Pre K 4 this fall.

The faculty, staff and I are excited about the new school year ahead. We have many great things planned for our school families and it is our hope you take advantage of the opportunities to meet other families and begin to forge lifetime friendships. St. Damian has a long rich history of generations of families who met at school and have become lifelong friends. We are truly a family who lives in the light and love of Jesus Christ.

We are looking at the integration of the Next Generation Science Standards and improving our focus on STEM which we will call our STREAM Program; this stands for Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. You will learn more about this program at Curriculum Night. Spanish will now begin in 1st through 5th grade for a trimester. Ipad carts are available for all grade levels as well as our updated computer lab. We are continuing to use Renaissance Learning for our local pre and post testing which will happen this school year in August and May. As well as ACT/Aspire which we will be our benchmark test in September, November, January and our Diocese wide assessment in April. This will be a data point for us to use when we are measuring student growth.

Our halls are freshly done with new tile, ceiling and lights! Please enjoy as you enter the work that was accomplished this summer. Security doors will be going in by the front entrance which will provide more safety for our school.

Some important dates for this month:

August 20: New Family Breakfast at 9:30 am, Blessing of the Backpacks at 11:00 am Mass {Bring Backpacks to be blessed and then later drop off supplies in your child's classroom} Open House to follow for PK 3-8 12:00-1:30 PM Remember to sign up for various events in our main cafeteria such as Family and School and volunteer opportunities.

The mission of Saint School is to ensure that individual students reach their potential through the development of their Catholic faith, character, citizenship and academics.

August 21: PreK 3 & 4, K and 1st grade dismissal at 11:30 am First Full Day of School, 2-8~ **No Bus Service**

August 22: First Full day of School for Everyone **No Bus Service**

August 23: No Bus Service

August 24: First Day for Preschool 3 & 4 **No Bus Service**

August 26: Parish Block Party 12:00-11:00 pm

August 28: First Day of Bus Service, you will receive a bus route

Please refer to the enclosed school calendar in your packet for other dates. We will always keep you aware of events through our website and emails.

Please be sure to read through all of the materials in your packet as there is a lot of information about the many things we do here at St. Damian. A couple of things I would like to call to your attention are as follows:

Damian Mania Tickets ~each school PK-8 family is responsible to sell a set amount of assigned raffle tickets which are in your packet. This is a mandatory sale. This along with the Gala are our two primary fundraisers. **All ticket stubs and money (no cash) need to be returned to the school office in an envelope marked Damian Mania.** In the event you do not sell them, the amount of unsold tickets will be added to your tuition account in November.

Family and School~ Please join your parent organization. There is information in your packet about this wonderful parent organization that all our families are encouraged to join.

Tombola~ this is an easy way to get one month's tuition paid for a \$10 chance each month. If you sign up for the entire year you will only pay \$75.00. Send in your Tombola money ASAP to be entered into our very first drawings.

Volunteer Hours~ each family is committed to doing 10 hours of service to the school. They will be tracked and reports will be sent home at the end of each trimester. We will provide monthly opportunities, please check the Family Gram each month. If you do not fulfill your hours a fee will be assessed on your tuition at the end of the year for the hours not fulfilled. 10 hours of service is equal to \$100.00.

This year's school theme will be **We are One Body**. As St. Paul indicates to the First Corinthians, we all represent many "parts," but ultimately form a single "body." We are together in representing Christ we are his hands to teach the world around us, from the Gospel of Mark. Please join the Staff as we work together to teach your children like Jesus did.

The faculty and staff are excited to begin our new school year. We are grateful for your commitment to Catholic Education and St. Damian School. We ask that God blesses us as we begin this school year together.

Peace be with you,

Dr. Marian M. Stockhausen

Here's your teacher and classroom! Have a great year!

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