

Titan News

Parent Newsletter for Holy Trinity Catholic School
Editor: Principal Michael Oslance
Date: Wednesday August 27



Parent Meeting: Invitation to attend on September 17/ 7 P.M.

I invite all parents to an evening in which we may increase understanding, become acquainted with others, and enlist your help for our school. On Wednesday Sept 17 at 7 p.m., I invite you to attend a Parent Information Meeting in the Cafeteria and Parish Meeting Center. This gathering will provide:

- Opportunity to meet the new Principal, Mr. Oslance
- Summary of 2007-2008 standardized test results
- Mission Statement and a new program/ "Mission Pledge"
- Further explanation and update about Art and Library programs (see side 2 of this newsletter for further details)
- Volunteer network: training and assignments for parents who would like to assist with cafeteria supervision, recess duty, tutoring, library assistant
- Refreshments and a chance to meet other parents

I also offer you the opportunity to send me your questions/ comments via e-mail (htschoolp@sbcglobal.net). Please know that I encourage your input about any/ all situations that will increase your understanding about our school.

Grading Scale:

Please put the correct grade scale in your Parent-Student Handbook (page 23). Unfortunately, a part of the grade scale was inaccurate in the original version.

100 – 99	A+	85 – 84	C+
98 – 95	A	83 – 80	C
94 – 93	A-	79 – 78	C-
92 – 91	B+	77 - 76	D+
90 – 88	B	75 - 72	D
87 – 86	B-	70 -71	D-

F is issued for 69 or below.

Thank You!

The Bednara family has graciously donated corner flags for our big athletic field. The flags have underground posts that will need to be dug in and the flags will be removable when the season has ended.

Reminders

#1: Lunch Prices . Please remember that lunch prices have increased: \$2.00 per lunch

#2: Tardiness. Please make every effort to be on time. We allowed a one week "grace period" to get everyone back on track. However, we now expect everyone to have worked out their travel/ drop off procedures. In the past, students were given a detention once they exceeded a certain number of tardy incidents. However, some have raised the issue that it is the parent---not the student---who needs to be held accountable. Now, I know that Jesus says, "The last shall be first"---but he was not talking about being late for school! Many procedures are done in the first 5 minutes of school. We REALLY need your 100% cooperation on this matter. Note: the School Board will discuss the policy for chronic tardy incidents.

#3: Information Forms. Please return the forms that were distributed at registration. Many of the forms contain vital information that is needed in the office.

#4: FREE & REDUCED LUNCH/ you must have money in your account in order to purchase ala carte items.

Unexpected Staff Change Is Required

As had been previously announced, the art teacher/ librarian under contract for 2008-2009 had notified me (Mr. Oslance) on August 12 that she would not be returning for the upcoming school year. Since this occurred just prior to the start of the school year. I immediately notified the faculty and made arrangements for substitutes to be in place to fill the position.

In the meantime, unexpected financial developments and limited enrollment increases have occurred that have a direct impact upon the school budget. In addition, the finance councils of both St. Stephen and Holy Trinity have stated that it is not feasible to further increase parish subsidy levels. These conditions have led to a unanimous decision by Fr. Ray and Fr. Joe: Holy Trinity Catholic School cannot hire a replacement for the art/ library position. However, the pastors and Mr. Oslance emphasize that a high quality art program will be maintained.

Revised Plan for Art-Library Programs

I have informed the faculty, School Board, and Finance Committees of both parishes in regards to the situation. In addition, I have outlined the details of how the art program and library services will be provided. The plans are outlined below:

1. Substitutes will continue to provide art/ library services through September 5. They will maintain our current services.
2. Elementary teachers all receive training to instruct students in art. Therefore, our own teachers will assume the art instructional duties beginning on September 8. In the meantime, they will establish curriculum for each grade (making use of the previous art program and their own expertise). Parents will receive a copy of the updated curriculum. I am proud to say that our teachers are offering their 100% cooperation in this venture!

Note: not all schools provide a "separate" art teacher for students.

3. Teachers are adjusting their schedules so as to provide library time for students. In addition, we will be contacting parents who have offered their services to volunteer at school to also provide library service.

Parent Meeting: Invitation

Our school leadership team (Pastors, Principal, and School Board) know that an unexpected change causes a need for increased dialogue. As a result, Holy Trinity Catholic School invites you to an evening in which you may receive further information about the situation. On Wednesday September 17 at 7 p.m., a Parent Information Night will be held. During the course of this meeting, the Art/ Library situation will be one of the focus points for discussion. (For full details of the meeting, see announcement on page 1.)

Special Choir is Forming

Mrs. Timko and Mrs. Bickel will be forming a special choir that will be involved in the following ways:

- School students only: special contests and competitions with other schools
- School Students only: participate in our school liturgies as choir and leader of song
- With PSR students: a liturgical choir that will occasionally sing at either a Saturday Mass or a Sunday Mass (St. Stephen and Holy Trinity parish)

Please see Mrs. Bickel to receive more information about being a part of this great program!

Volunteer Alert! Café, Recess and Library Aides Are Needed

We are processing the sign up sheets for parent volunteers. However, we are in immediate need of assistance with our lunch/ recess duties and to help in the school library. If you are ready to start work right away, please call Mr. O at 628-7395 or e-mail him at htschoolp@sbcglobal.net.

Playground Update

Plans have been submitted to the Belleville diocese for the installation of our playground equipment. They will review the safety codes and insurance requirements that are necessary for such a project. Once we receive final approval from the diocese, we will convene a special school/ parish task force to finalize/ approve all details of the project.

Submit Your News Item or Comment

Please feel free to submit your news item for publication. The best method: please e-mail Mr. O at htschoolp@sbcglobal.net ! You may also submit any questions or comments and (space permitting) we will try to address your views!