

St. John's Lutheran School

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July 2016

Summer Letter from St. John's Lutheran School Registration Information 2016-2017

Greetings in Christ! We pray that you are having an enjoyable and safe summer. However, please make sure that your family doesn't vacation from hearing God's Word at church with your fellow believers. The teachers at St. John's are planning for the 2016-2017 school year and would like to help you get started on preparing for the upcoming school year as well.

School Purpose: St. John's Lutheran School is an educational and mission arm of St. John's Lutheran Church. Its purpose is to assist parents in the obligation to bring up their children in the "training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4), and to heed the Lord's command of making disciples of all nations. At St. John's, our children are taught by a professional staff of Divinely Called teachers and pastor who have been trained to provide a thorough, well-rounded, and Christ-centered education.

Registration: School registration will be on Monday, Aug. 15 from 6-7:30 PM at St. John's. Please have all appropriate paperwork and finances ready such as recent immunization information, emergency contact forms, phone numbers, whether student(s) want choc./white milk, etc. Copies of forms you may need are attached to this mail. To save you time, forms that you fill out annually will only need to be initialed and dated. We will have those ready for you. If you have moved, or have other new information, you may have to fill out the complete form. Parents who have all the papers ready at registration will be able to complete the process more quickly.

Calendars/Supply Lists: Attached to this mailing is a copy of the 2016-2017 school calendar and the supply lists for the students. Please save the calendar for planning of future events around school time. Also please note that our closing service for the year, which includes graduation and receiving report cards, will take place on Sunday, June 4 during the regular worship service at 10:00 AM at St. John's. Children will be singing for that graduation service.

First Day: The first full day of school from 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM will begin on Monday, August 29. Parents should drop off the students between 7:40-8:00 AM, and students should be ready to begin the day at 8:00 AM. Special arrangements are possible for parents whose children need to be dropped off before 7:40 AM. Doors will be locked at 8:00 AM for security reasons.

Book Covers: In order for the school's text books to remain in good condition, St. John's requires that all hardcover school books be covered for the whole school year. Book Sox is a spandex book cover company that offers covers which stretch over and cover any size book needed. They can usually be purchased at various stores or online. With proper care and washing they can last for years; they come in many colors, sizes, and patterns. This saves time and the hassle of covering them and also does not damage the book like tape, glue, and contact paper do when they are removed.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO): Successful events are based primarily on parent volunteers. In order to plan productive and enjoyable events, the PTO is requesting that each family volunteer time at events during the school year. The first PTO meeting of the school year will be Monday, September 19

at 6:30 PM. We are asking that each family volunteer for *at least* two athletic events and two school functions. Our school is required by our league to be the host for various tournaments. Helping at a sporting event may consist of at-the-door ticket sales, concession stand sales, keeping the scorebooks, etc. Volunteering for a school function may consist of setting up, supplying, and/or serving meals or refreshments, cleanup, organizing and/or chaperoning a field trip, taking pictures, or other similar opportunities. This volunteer effort provides financial support to keep parents' costs down for athletics as well as various camps. Without the volunteer help, costs for activities like Wolverine Camp, Camp Timbers, and other activities will most certainly increase. Parents who are unable to volunteer for at least the two sporting events and two school functions (like a Chili Cook-off or serving after various functions i.e. graduation) will be asked to make a financial contribution in place of working .

Cougar Activity Fees: Activity fees to cover playground equipment for recess, athletic equipment, and officials for athletic events are not included in the school fees. Parents will be asked to pay a flat \$35 activity fee per student at the beginning of the school year which will cover them for these activities throughout the year. There will be a discount for families with more than two children enrolled in our school. Our athletic league (Bay Area Lutheran League) requires documentation that each student has passed a physical exam for the current school year before participating with any athletic/cheerleading squad. Please use your family physician or any area medical clinic to get a standard athletic physical. A physical form is attached to this mail.

Fees/Tuition Info: The school fee for students at St. John's this year is \$400/K-8 student. Please note that for families with more than one child attending, the fees are reduced by \$50 per additional child. This fee helps (but does not cover) the purchase of workbooks, textbooks, copy paper, art/school supplies, technology, software, licenses and equipment, etc. The fees should be paid in full at the time of registration. For another year there are no increases regarding tuition. Almost everything we order has increased in cost so the Board of Education has found it necessary to increase the registration fee by \$15.00. We hope that the small increase will not be a financial burden to anyone. St. John's Lutheran School is supported by the members of St. John's congregation through their regular freewill offerings. Parents who are members of St. John's are reminded that when they plan their regular worship offerings, the congregation is supporting each child's education in the amount of at least \$5,000 since St. John's members are not charged tuition. Their gifts just to help with tuition would be about \$125 per student, per week for the Lord's work should reflect their love for His work through Christian education. In addition, every student's education from our sister congregations is subsidized by St. John's in the amount of \$2500. The remaining amount of tuition will be \$2500. In the past, sister congregations have provided their members with financial assistance. You might check with your pastor to see what your congregation will do for next year. For 33 years our small school has been a real blessing, providing quality Christian education in a safe environment.

About Hepatitis B Vaccinations: The State of Michigan requires all new school entrants to be immunized against Hepatitis B. All children coming into kindergarten or transferring from another school must get the series of three Hepatitis B vaccinations. The series is given over a six-month period, but your child must have at least started it before they are allowed to attend school. The vaccination is available at the Saginaw County Health Dept. (1600 North Michigan) or your family physician's office. Please start this process before Registration Day.

For Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Students' Parents: Public Health Code Act 451 of 1976, section 380.1177 requires that parents of children entering kindergarten present a statement to school officials confirming that they have received the Michigan Department of Community Health Vision Screening OR a statement signed by a licensed eye care practitioner (optometrist or ophthalmologist) or medical/osteopathic physician, indicating that the child's eyes have been examined at least once after age three and before initial school entry. School officials are required to enter vision screening data into the MCIR system for all kindergarten new entrants.

Public Act 89 of 2014 mandates that an immunization assessment be done on each seventh grade student. This set of laws was passed so there would be a means of assuring that children are adequately immunized against preventable diseases before they reach adolescence, when some of these diseases become a greater threat to their health. All seventh graders must have documentation of:

- *Two doses of MMR
- *Three doses of Hep. B
- *Complete series of DTaP/Td with one dose in the last 10 years
- *Three doses of polio
- *One dose of varicella (or history of chicken pox)

Michigan law requires that each student upon entry into kindergarten possess a certificate of immunization at the time of registration, or not later than the first day of school.

School Handbooks: Upon enrolling your child(ren) at St. John's, you indicate that you subscribe to the policies that are stated in the handbook. The school handbook is available online.

Home Visits: Our teachers welcome the opportunity to visit with you this summer regarding your child's education and the new school year. Please call, text, or e-mail if you wish to schedule a visit.

Questions? Please call my cell 989.245.4364. Messages left on the school answering machine may not get picked up as promptly during summer.

Help Requested: There are a few things parents could do to help us prepare for the coming year. If you can volunteer an hour or two, please let Mr. Peterson know when you are available to volunteer and for how long. He will let you know what work needs to be done. That would be a big help.

In Christ's Service,

Principal Ken Peterson

Attachments:

Academic Calendar	Athletic Schedule
Consent to Treat Form	Parent Permission Form
School Handbook	Sports Physical Form
School Classroom Supply List	Soccer Practice Schedule