



St. Rose School

CHELSEA, MA

July 18, 2011

Dear Families,

Happy Summer! I hope you are able to take some time this summer to rest, relax, and enjoy a little bit of a slower pace of life with your children. We have been keeping busy at school with our Summer Program. In the mornings, the students work on their reading and math skills; afternoons are reserved for fun activities and field trips. A big thanks to all the parents who registered their children and all the teachers who have made the program possible! There are several important pieces of information I would like to share with you about the coming year; you will find them outlined below. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office or email me (ckeeton@strosechelsea.com) at anytime!

Summer Office Hours: The office is open Monday-Thursday, 8 am - 12 pm during the summer. We will be closed the week of August 8-12, and will do our best to return emails and voicemails when we get back on the 15th.

Summer Reading: All St. Rose students are required to do summer reading. Each teacher determines what this should look like for each grade. Your child should have received this information in their final report card in June. If you need another copy, please stop by the office. Please do your best to make sure this is complete before the first day of school!

Uniforms: I spoke with Collegiate House, our uniform company, recently, and was told that not very many St. Rose families have bought their uniforms for next year. I strongly urge you to go as soon as possible, because they quickly run out. It is important that all students have their proper uniform starting on the first day of school. Remember, one day each week students will wear a gym uniform, so that also needs to be purchased. You can find the order forms on our website (www.strosechelsea.com). We do still have a few used uniforms for sale (\$1 each) in the office. Feel free to stop by and see if we have your child's size!

Book/Gym/Computer Fees: Just a reminder that this \$350 per family fee is due to the office (cash or money order) as soon as possible. It MUST be paid by the first day of school. Students will not be able to attend gym or computer classes until this fee is paid. If you have questions about what you owe, please contact the office. Thank you!

Immunizations/Physicals: We have recently been informed that in addition to an updated immunization record, each student also needs to submit evidence that they have received a physical in the last year. Please send this in as soon as possible so your child's health records will be up to date. If your child has not had a physical in the last year, please make an appointment immediately so that this can be taken care of before school starts!

First Day of School: All students will begin school on Thursday, September 1. Thursday and Friday will be half days for students, with dismissal at 11:30 am. There will be no

school on Monday, September 5, in honor of Labor Day. School will resume with full days beginning Tuesday, September 6.

Welcome: We have two new teachers joining us this year. A big St. Rose welcome to Ms. Emilie Pastore, who will be teaching K1 (Pre-K). Ms. Pastore comes to us from the Early Learning Center, where she has taught 4-year-olds for the past couple of years. We are very excited to have her at St. Rose! Ms. Liz Dyer will be teaching K2 (Kindergarten). Ms. Dyer previously taught at St. Pius in Lynn, and is very excited to teach in another Catholic school. We are so blessed to have you both! Additionally, we have had a few changes on our staff. Mrs. Andrea Blackshire retired after over 20 years at St. Rose; we are so grateful for her service! Ms. Caitrin O'Rourke will be moving up to be the new 6th grade homeroom teacher and will join Mr. Schell and Sr. Andre on the middle school team. Ms. Horne, our art teacher, will now be Director of Fine Arts, coordinating visual art, music, and drama at St. Rose. Additionally, Mrs. Sharon Rodriguez-Alvarez will be assisting in the office as well as coordinating our After School Program. She has been a dedicated volunteer and is also an alumna of St. Rose! We at St. Rose know that our greatest resource is the amazing individuals who make up our staff, and we know these changes will strengthen our professional team as we strive to provide an excellent education to all our students.

Arrival/Dismissal: On the first day of school, children in Grades 1, 2, and 3 gather on the right side of the school building, between the school and the church. Students in K2, Grade 4, and Grade 5 gather on the left side of the school building, next to the Verizon building and Senior Center. Students in Grades 6, 7, and 8 gather in the lot behind the school. All students in K1 may be dropped off in their classroom on the first day of school, but after the first day, they will also gather outside on the left side of the building, with K2, Grade 4, and Grade 5. Students should not be dropped off any earlier than 7:30, and no later than 7:45. At 7:45 all students go inside to their classrooms to begin the day. **They are tardy after 7:45. Please note, this is different from last year!** At 11:30, please pick up your child on the same side where you dropped him/her off that morning.

Important Papers: A handful of important papers will be coming home on the first day of school. Our newly revised student/parent handbook will be the first thing. There will be a piece of paper for you to sign stating that you have read and understand everything. Older students will go over the handbook with their teachers the first few days of school. Additionally, you will receive an office emergency form, which needs to be completed for each child, as well as a photo release form, internet acceptable use policy, permission slip for gym class, and information about after school and lunch. Please take time to read all of these carefully and return them as soon as possible.

We are so excited for the beginning of another wonderful year!

Blessings,

Caitlin Keeton, Principal