



August 30, 2017

The Mission of Sacred Heart School is to promote life-long learning and Christ-centered values in a Catholic setting.

Dear Parents and Friends,

“Welcome Back”! I’m excited for the start of this new school year! I look forward to seeing all of you soon! I would like to remind you of a few key items so that we can have a spiritually rewarding and smooth school year.

Parent Handbooks are included in your Open House Parent Folder. Please take time to read/review prior to the start of the school year. The handbook and newsletters may also be accessed on our school website www.sacredheartschoolwaseca.com.

School starts at 8:00 A.M. and dismisses at 2:45 P.M. Student arrival time is 7:50 a.m. Upon arrival students enter the building and go directly to classrooms. Children should not arrive at school before this time unless enrolled in the **SHARP** program. **Students arriving in the classroom after 8:00 a.m. will be marked tardy.** Dismissal of Students will be at 2:45 p.m. daily.

Please do not allow your child/ren to bring baseball bats or hard leather footballs to play with during recess. With a large number of children on the playground at one time, someone may easily get hurt.

PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE ON THE PLAYGROUND FROM 7:00 A.M. – 5:30 P.M. This is for the safety of all children. Please drop off all students at the U-Drive location on the north side of the Parish Center. All students, kindergarten through fourth grade, must be picked up at this same location at dismissal time. Please refer to the parking letter and map included in your parent folder.

Lunch prices for the 2017-2018 school year will be: students \$2.80, adults \$3.80 and milk for cold lunches will be 50 cents. We encourage **all** families to read the information on free and reduced lunches found in the family folder. **Sacred Heart School receives federal funding for our school based on the number of free and reduced lunches served during the school year.** Families who qualify for free/reduced lunches are confidential information. We encourage you to deposit money into your child/ren’s lunch account the first week of school. We use the “offer vs. serve” plan in our school lunch program. As many as six items may be offered, but a student needs only to select three items. We highly encourage the students to eat the three items they select. Students will have two lunch choices each day. The choices consist of a hot lunch or a yogurt basket. You will find the specific food items offered for the two choices on the monthly lunch menus or on the school website www.sacredheartschoolwaseca.com. By providing a choice we hope students will eat school lunch. Our school earns federal dollars for the lunch program based on our student lunch count each month. With the implementation of our wellness policy, students will always have the choice of hot vegetables or fresh vegetables each day. We will also provide fresh fruit as often as possible. Parents are welcome to join their child/ren for hot lunch anytime. Simply contact the school office (835-2780) by 9:00a.m. so we can include you in the count. **Lunchables and lunches from area restaurants or fast food places will not be allowed during the school lunch program.** Remember that students need to start the day with a healthy breakfast. Research shows that students who eat something in the morning before coming to school perform better throughout the school day.

Sacred Heart School will continue to follow the wellness policy. This policy is required by the government as part of our federally funded lunch program. **Out of concern for students with life-threatening allergies and for the overall wellness of all students, we ask that parents refrain from bringing in snacks and birthday treats.** Sacred Heart School will provide a daily snack for all students at approximately 9:00 a.m. The snacks provided will follow the Wellness Policy and will meet the guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Food and Nutrition Department. Individual teachers will decide on age-appropriate ways to recognize and celebrate birthdays within the classroom. June, July, and August birthdays will be celebrated in the half-birthday month. This is not meant to inhibit the fellowship of joyful birthday celebrations, but to recognize the importance of the teacher’s instructional time and to respect our children with health issues.

If you are planning a birthday party, slumber party, etc. for your child/ren, we ask that you make these arrangements outside of school. When invitations are passed around school, or the group is picked up at 2:45 p.m. and you are one of the children not invited, there can be hurt feelings. Because of our small classes, we have approximately 8 to 10 girls or boys in each class so it is very obvious if you have been excluded.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE complete and sign all necessary forms enclosed in your packet and return them to Sacred Heart School by **Thursday, September 7, 2017**. The textbooks and health services forms need to be completed and returned so that we can receive reimbursements from the public school for these materials and services. We want you to check “I do...” because it indicates to the public school that we do want to receive the reimbursements. We need a textbooks and health services form from **each** child attending Sacred Heart School.

A reminder that as members of our parish community supporting the mission to provide a faith-based education to all children in our parish, you are asked to contribute \$1,500.00 envelope support to the parish. It is a privilege that the parish supports the school and only right that we all do our part. It does cost the parish approximately \$4,200.00 per pupil attending Sacred Heart.

All students riding the bus should do so starting the first day of school. This will get them use to their routine. All kindergarten and new students will be wearing name tags the first few days of school with busing information, should they get confused during bus transfers at Waseca Intermediate School. A faculty member from Sacred Heart School will be at Waseca Intermediate School the first few days of school to see that students have a smooth bus transfer. Bus companies and numbers that come to Sacred Heart School are Palmer #C5 and Lenz #T11. Please contact Palmer (833-4438) or Lenz (835-5104) Bus Company if you have questions or concerns about your child/ren’s busing.

Included in the parent folder of a kindergarten or new student is a booklet of prayers entitled **Prayers for Our Catholic Families**. Returning families received one last year. Praying as a family is important to your child/ren’s faith development and can easily happen in the morning, at meals, and in the evening before going to bed.

Sacred Heart School will designate Fridays as **Spirit Day** for this school year. Our goal is to build a stronger sense of school community and pride. On Fridays we would like the staff and students to wear Sacred Heart shirts, or the colors red and white. Shirts have been ordered for Kindergarten students and any other students who are new this year at no charge.

We will again log parent volunteer hours in the office. **Make sure you sign in your hours when volunteering**. We ask that each family volunteer twenty hours to the parish/school.

Minnesota legislature requires all schools, public and non-public; notify parents and guardians each year of the school’s criminal background check policy. **Mandatory criminal background checks** are required of all employees, as well as all school volunteers, who have regular or unsupervised contact with minors. A background check form is included in the folder for new families. Current families that have not completed a background check should contact the school office for the necessary form. Parents **must** complete in order to volunteer/work with children at Sacred Heart School. **All parents working with children in the classroom, on field trips, on the playground, etc. must complete the enclosed form and pay a small processing fee of \$5.00. Volunteers must also attend Virtus training (information included in your parent folder) and sign the Volunteer Code of Ethic. If you choose not to complete these three requirements, you will not be allowed to work with students and will need to complete your volunteer hours in other areas of service.** The completed form is due in the office by Thursday, September 7, 2017. Criminal background checks are valid for five years. Please contact LeAnn Dahle if you have questions or did not receive the form at 835-2780.

Email and the School Website have become vital in updating parents about school events. If you are not receiving school email updates or have changed your email address please contact LeAnn Dahle at dahle@sacredheartschoolwaseca.com. We will be happy to add you to our parent contact list. The school website is www.sacredheartschoolwaseca.com. Communicating via the website, Facebook, and email could be a potential timesaver for our school.

Sacred Heart School utilizes an instant phone parent contact program called **School Messenger**. Your home number and cell numbers will be used from the **Emergency Information** form found in your family folder as primary call numbers. **School Messenger** will be used to communicate school closings and upcoming events. To receive phone and text messages **please make sure you “opt in”** when you receive the first message.

The **Red School Calendar** included in your parent folder, is the official updated calendar for the school year.

We will participate in Mass every Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. with the parish community. We invite you to join us at Liturgy on Wednesday mornings. Please view the weekly parish bulletin, the school website, and monthly parent letters for information regarding our Liturgy celebrations throughout the school year.

Yours in Christ,

LeAnn M. Dahle
Principal