



Archbishop Howard School

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Dear AHS Parents,

Happy summer! I hope you have had or will have time this summer to have a little fun in the sun. Welcome back to our returning families and a special welcome to new families. I encourage you to carefully read over the enclosed material. You will find some important information about school lunches, uniforms, supply lists and the school calendar for 2008-2009.

This fall our school will be re-accredited as we reach the end of our six year term. Our staff worked hard last year to gather your input from surveys and committee meetings to produce a self-study document that will be finalized this summer and presented to a team of educators on Friday, September 5th. The team will return for a three day visit, October 6th through 8th. The chair of our team is Priscilla Murphy from the San Jose diocese in California.

A very **important meeting for new parents** will be held on **Tuesday, August 26th at 6:30 p.m.** in the cafeteria. This is an opportunity for new parents to meet other parents, learn more about school procedures, and meet School Advisory Council and Parent Executive Board members. Teachers and time for classroom visitation will not be available at this time. Plan to attend and earn Share Hours at the same time.

Registration for Extended Care will take place in the staff lunchroom in the cafeteria on Tuesday, August 26th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Forms will also be available in the school office and on-line at www.archbishophoward.org beginning Wednesday, August 27th. **Students who are not registered by August 29th will not be able to use the Extended Care program the first week of school.** Thank you for following these newly established procedures. These changes will allow us to adequately staff our program.

An **Open House for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students and parents** will be held on **Thursday, August 28th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** This event is informal so drop by any time during the two hours to see the classrooms, meet the teachers and meet other classmates and parents before the first day of school.

The **first day of school** for all students is **Tuesday, September 2nd. Dismissal will be at 12:00 p.m. for all students.** Extended Care is available for those children who are registered by August 29th. Wednesday, September 3rd through Friday, September 5th will also be noon dismissal days for **Pre-Kindergarten through First grade students.** Students in grades two through eight will dismiss at 3:00 p.m. except Thursday, which again will be a 2:30 p.m. dismissal day. **Monday, September 8th through Friday, September 12th will be noon dismissal for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten.**

Please check the enclosed menu for breakfast and lunch choices. Cost for breakfast is \$1.00. Due to increased costs for delivery and products, we have had to increase the cost for lunches. In addition, we have established two different lunch scales. Student lunches for pre-kindergarten through third grade will

be \$2.25. Lunches for students in grades four through eight will be \$2.50. Adult lunches will cost \$3.50. Milk or juice will cost fifty cents. Applications for free and reduced lunches for qualifying families may be picked up in the school office. Families who qualify are required to re-apply each year. **Students pre-kindergarten through first grade should plan to bring sack lunches to school if they are registered and planning to use Extended Care services the first week of school and pre-kindergarten and kindergarten September 8th through September 12th because lunch will not be available to them in the cafeteria.**

Coffee and donuts will be served in the cafeteria beginning at 8:00 a.m. for parents, grandparents, and friends dropping off students **the first day of school**. Come spend a few minutes renewing old acquaintances and making new ones. I need someone to coordinate this event. Please call the school office if you are interested. Share Hours apply.

The first day of uniforms for all students is Wednesday, September 3rd. Normally on noon dismissal days students are allowed to wear free dress, but because of our upcoming accreditation pre-visit and visit, we are asking all students to be in uniform for the start of school. Students may either wear tennis shoes to school or keep a pair in their classroom to change into before P.E. class. **Students who do not wear tennis shoes to P.E. class will sit out for the day.** AHS sweatshirts, t-shirts, and school supplies will be available in the Student Store on the first day of school beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Students may be dropped off on the playground **between 7:40 a.m. and 7:55 a.m.** Please do not drop off students on the playground before 7:40 a.m., as there is no supervision. Please do not drop students off in the front of the building. We ask that all families use the playground drive through or walk children to the playground. Classes begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. **Students arriving at 8:00 a.m. or later are tardy** and need to sign in at the office and get an admittance slip to go to their classroom. Students who are late to class disrupt morning routines, miss important announcements and directions, as well as disrupt the office morning routines. Let's really work together this year to get students to school on time so that they can make every minute at school count, as well as help develop a lifelong skill, being on time.

I would like to thank all the parishioners, parents and students who sent cards or left messages of prayers and condolences during the recent loss of my mother. I felt comforted by your support and concern. I look forward to seeing you again soon. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at 503-281-1912, extension 11. If there are any changes in your family's enrollment at AHS in the fall, please let us know as we have wait lists in several classrooms and parents are anxious to hear about changes. I will be in the office full time beginning August 1st, but will check voicemail frequently during the remainder of the month of July.

God bless you and your family,

Karen Asbury
Principal