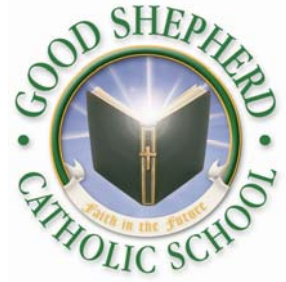


Ram Review

Good Shepherd Catholic School



Principal's Message

Welcome Back!

Thank you to all the staff and families who have made the start of this school year such a success. It began with New Family Orientation on Sunday, the 16th. Thank you to Rebecca Liljenstolpe and Jennifer DePedro for all their hard work putting this together. It was a great afternoon with a very positive energy.

Thank you also to Fr. Matt for joining us on the first day of school, blessing the student body and then each individual classroom. The students and staff were all excited to be here and I could tell already that students were making everyone feel welcome. Additionally, I hope everyone gained valuable information from Revolution Foods' tasting that day and we are pleased to announce that we will be signing with them for this school year.

A few changes you may notice around the school this year:

There are two lunch periods- one for K-3rd grades and one for 4th-8th grades. We did this so that the younger children would not have to wait until 12:20 for lunch and to have adequate coverage of adult supervision. The 4th-8th graders will now be eating AND playing in the upper yard together. K-3rd will eat together and then play on separate yards. We are still looking for more

things to offer on the 2nd/3rd -grade yard and are open to ideas from all of you.

Our theme this year is "One Body, Many Parts." To this end, we are trying very hard to help the students understand how their actions affect other students. Our new behavior management policy includes Parent Notification Emails. You had requested last year that you wanted to have better communication with the teachers so these emails will let you know exactly what kinds of conversations we are having with your children every day. Of course, these are just a snapshot and we are always available to talk by phone as needed. I talked with the middle school about these expectations on Friday and on Monday with grades K-5th.



Homework Club will be offered for grades 2 through 8 every day except Wednesdays from 2:40 to 3:30 pm, beginning this week. Students are expected to sign into SEP and then out to Homework Club or any other activity they may be participating in that day (instruments, KidsArt, athletics).

Some things you can expect in the Ram Review, sent electronically each week:

Parent Club Announcements- *weekly*

Letter from the Board- *monthly*

Teacher Highlights- *bi-weekly*

Calendars- *monthly*

Please download and read all Ram Review attachments every week.

This week, we are including instructions for downloading and accessing RenWeb. For all grades, teachers will use this to post their newsletters and syllabi. For grades 3-8, teachers will also use this for their grades and homework. Please call the office if you have difficulty accessing this program.

I am also attaching: 1.) "GS School Behavior Management Philosophy" agreed upon by the staff; 2.) "How We Can Connect..." from Stan Davis. These are being posted in every classroom in the school for students to reference and understand.

I realize this is a lot of information at the beginning of the school year, so thank you in advance for your attention to these items. They are essential to facilitating effective communication between the school and home.

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The Green Bench

News From Parent Club



What an exciting start to the school year! Thank you to the teachers and staff who greeted our children with hugs and muffins on the first day of school. Thank you to returning parents and students who welcomed our newest families into our school community. We are all so proud of Good Shepherd!! Thanks also goes to all the volunteers who helped put on our greatest New Family Orientation ever: **Jennifer De Pedro, Heather Devencenzi, Ronda Hernandez, Shanelle Jones, Carol Tara, Vicki Delucchi, Shelley Ainsworth, Lolita Garcia, Randy Driscoll, Peg Muller, Kathleen Cambra, Lisa Erickson, Coach Greg, Valdemar Suarez, Mrs. Sandy and our principal, Mr. Anderson.** Together, we shared what we love about our school with so many new families who have joined us this fall.

- The Parent Club has many new opportunities for service this year. If you are a working family and are looking for ways to get involved outside of school hours, we have a special job for you! For the first time ever, we will have a game booth at the Monte Foundation's Fireworks Extravaganza, an annual fundraiser for local schools, and we need families to help sell tickets and staff the booth. 70% of ticket sales come back to Good Shepherd, and we receive \$1000 for our booth. Stay tuned for more information to learn how you can get involved and earn Family Service Hours in support of our school.

We also are in desperate need of two program coordinators. We are looking for someone to co-coordinate our hot lunch program with **8th grade mom Annette Ghio**, helping her to find, train, and coordinate the volunteer lunch servers.

We also need a SCRIP Coordinator who can promote the program and take orders at the green bench once/week after school. Please see attached job descriptions and let me know immediately if you are interested. We will fill these positions at our fall Parent Club meeting.

- The Parent Club is holding another Uniform Exchange this Thursday, August 27th from 1-4. We need to restock our shelves, so please bring in your child's wearable sweatshirts, jumpers, skirts, and PE clothes to receive exchange credit. We especially need primary grade uniforms.

- If you plan to volunteer in the classroom or drive for fieldtrips, pick up a volunteer check-list from Mrs. Sandy in the office. In addition to various Diocesan forms, you will need a TB test and Livescan fingerprinting. The **Watson Family** has generously offered to do our TB tests again this year at no cost. Dr. Watson's office is located at 550 Water St. Suite A, and they can administer tests any day but Thursday.

- Mark your calendars for the **Back to School BBQ on September 11th** and for our first **Parent Club Meeting on September 23rd at 6:30 PM, childcare provided.**

I hope to see you there! -

Rebecca



Student Ambassadors September 13



Student volunteers are needed to attend mass at St. Joseph's, dressed in their school uniform. After mass at 9:00 and 11:00, these students will serve the congregation donuts and coffee. A great way to see all of your friends. This opportunity is also open to graduates of Good Shepherd.

Let's have a great showing for our first donut duty.

Sign up with **Suzie Bargetto** for either the 9:00 am or the 11:00 am Mass and to clean up after the 11:00 Mass. Please contact Suzie Bargetto at 475-6698 or 332-0827.

CALENDAR REMINDERS	
Aug 27	1:00—4:00 Uniform Exchange Open
Aug 28	9:00 Mass Celebration of the Good Shepherd Fr. Ron Shirley
Sep 3	Birthday Free Dress August & September
Sep 7	Labor Day School Closed
Sep 8	Staff Professional Growth Day School Closed
Sep 11	5:00 Back to School Barbecue
Sep 10	Vision/Hearing Screening K, 2, 5, 8th Grades

PLANNING AHEAD

ITBS Testing - Testing is scheduled for the week of September 21 – 25th. Please do not schedule appointments for your 2nd thru 8th grade students for that time period.

What is Birthday Free Dress?

Every month we celebrate the birthday children for that month by having a free dress day for those children. This is a privilege that is only available on that assigned day.

On September 3 we will celebrate the August and September birthdays. Please read your family handbook for the free dress guidelines.

Vision/Hearing & Screening



On Monday, September 10th, Dominican Hospital Health Outreach Services, will be providing their annual vision and hearing screening for students in grades, Kindergarten, 2, 5 and 8.

If you do not want your child to participate in this free public service, please contact the school office by Thursday, September 3rd at 3:00 pm.

Also, if you have a child in another grade who you would like to have screened, notify the office in writing ASAP.

Parent Prayer Group



Come join the Parent Prayer Group on Monday mornings at 8:05. Help us to support the Good Shepherd School community in prayer. All are welcome to join. If you have a prayer request, please add it to the list in the school office, or call **Elizabeth Knapp** at 475-3850 with requests or questions.

COUNSELOR'S DESK

NEW SCHOOL YEAR RESOLUTIONS?

Everybody makes New Year's resolutions. Stop smoking, lose 10 pounds, label the family pictures.

How about making NEW SCHOOL YEAR RESOLUTIONS?

Both children and parents should resolve to make the new school year productive and meaningful.

Schools can't do it all. Parents are major partners in the education of their children. You have three major tasks:

Impart your HIGH EXPECTATIONS. Don't let a day go by without talking to your child about school. Be sure he or she understands that you expect a good performance at school and serious attention to homework.

Lose the "Do the best you can" mantra. Change it to "Get good grades, your future depends on it."

Communicate frequently with your child's teacher. Don't wait for report cards, know how your child is doing every week. Do everything you can to

help a struggling child. Sometimes a few weeks of tutoring does the trick.

Do everything in your power to help your child's school district especially today when the economy has slashed budgets in many communities. Parents in many areas are raising money to restore programs and teachers to their schools.

Resolve to do all three tasks well in the upcoming school year.

Before school starts ask your child about the upcoming year. "What New School Year resolutions will you make?" Explain your three resolutions and how you will carry them out. Let your child think about suitable resolutions. If the kid can't think of any, I can. "I will do better in school this year than last year." "I will get all A's this year."

"I will read at least one book a week that is not assigned."

You and your children are doing more

than you think. You are helping to provide the future human capital we need for our country to survive in this competitive world. Human capital must be well educated.. It starts with you.

New York Times columnist David Brooks recently quoted Barack Obama's story of how his mother woke him at 4:30 am every morning to tutor him before he went to school. When he complained she told him, "This is no picnic for me either, Buster!" Brooks sagely noted this anecdote points to the two traits needed for academic success: RELATIONSHIPS and RIGOR. Be sure your children know you care about how well they do at school and how hard they work because you are the relationship that counts.

Marilyn Heins, M.D.



"Get good grades, your future depends on it."