



Welcome Back!

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2009-2010 School Year.

The theme for this year is *Catholic Schools — Dividends for Life: Faith, Knowledge, Discipline, Morals*. This year we will focus on these “Dividends” in our studies of Jesus Christ and His great love for us. As Catholic educators, we strive to show our service to Jesus Christ in all that we do in and out of the classroom. For over 100 years Sacred Heart of Jesus School has been providing quality Catholic education to the children of New York City placing a strong emphasis on the teachings of Christ.

This year we will continue to foster an atmosphere for academic excellence and spiritual growth. The emphasis on excellence in education, sound moral values, and strong faith in God witness to the fact that our school is a cooperative venture of parents, students, teachers and clergy in a faith-filled community.

With the start of this new school year, let us ask God’s blessing on our efforts to live the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ as it is in the Gospel and to bring that message to the lives of the children. We ask God to give blessings to all our new families and the students as they begin a new journey at SHJS.

Please continue to enjoy the last few days of summer. Keep Christ in your heart and remember, He is the Master Teacher.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working together this academic year.

Sincerely,

Rev. Gabriel Piedrahita
Pastor

Mrs. Noelle Beale
Principal

Meet our new Pastor, Father Gabriel Piedrahita

Father Gabriel comes to SHJ Parish with a vast pastoral experience. He has served as a missionary priest in South America, Africa, Germany, Switzerland, and the US for the past 23 years. He speaks 5 languages including English and Spanish.

During his time at the Church of Our Savior in the South Bronx, Father Gabriel worked with a variety of parish groups and he developed a strong parish community. He also built a strong partnership with the local community organizations and other churches to improve the quality of life for the parishioners and the most vulnerable members of the neighborhood.

For the last 2 years, Father Gabriel has been serving the people of St. Peter’s Church in Haverstraw, NY, where he enthusiastically has been leading parish groups in a vigorous campaign to reach out to families and conducting Bible studies in their homes.

He is part of a multidisciplinary coalition to develop a model of cooperation between clergy and clinicians in the mental health field to assist patients and their families in a continuation of healing.

Father Gabriel has strong ties with Fordham University, his alma mater, where he is member of the Partners in Healing coalition and presents workshops on Parenting and Addiction treatment. He has also worked in the field of drug treatment and mental health with such prominent organizations as Daytop, Beth Israel and Mt. Sinai Hospitals.

Faculty

Gina Policastro
Pre-Kindergarten 3

Cathy Santora
Pre-Kindergarten 4

Dianela Firpo
Kindergarten

Delphine Rodriguez
Grade 1

Martha Romero
Grade 2

Jeanette Velez-Soto
Grade 3

Natalia DeVilla
Grade 4

Vera Waring
Grade 5
Science Departmental

Patricia Vamvoukakis
Grade 6
Religion Departmental

Delia Ramaraju
Grade 7
Math Departmental

Gil Soto
Grade 8
Social Studies Departmental

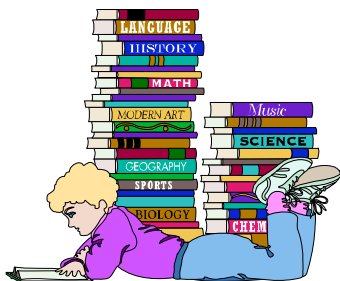
Irma Rodriguez
Art

Diana Atilano
Library

Margaret Evans
Music

Michael Grullon
Will Pacheco
Physical Education

Br. Lucian Knaap, CFC
Technology



Immunizations & Physicals

Students entering Kindergarten should have their second MMR and students entering Grade 6 should have their Tdap. All students must have a current physical on file in the school. Please have your pediatrician complete the Department of Health form distributed with the final report card and return it to school in September. Remember, the Department of Health requires these physicals and immunization and a student will be suspended from classes in September if documentation is not complete. If you should need an additional Department of Health medical form please call the school office.



Calling All Musicians — Strike up the Band!

Paul Effman School of Music will be returning to SHJS again this year. The band program will be available for students in grades 3 to 8. On Tuesday, September 15th at 11:30am all students in Grades 3 to 8 will be able to see and hear the instruments available during our Band Assembly. Parents are welcome to attend the assembly too.



Instrumental music lessons will be available for Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone and Percussion. Small group lessons will be conducted during school hours once a week.

Additional information will be available at the assembly and on our website following the assembly.

Summer Reading Assignments

Just a reminder that students are expected to complete all summer assignments. Summer reading assignments are designed to assist students in maintaining their skills during the time away from the academic setting. During the months of July and August, students should work daily on these assignments, therefore, not causing a great deal of panic on Labor Day weekend.

All summer work will be collected on Friday, September 18, 2009. All summer reading assignments will be graded and calculated into the Reading and English Language Arts grades for the first marking period. Summer reading assignments that are not completed will receive a grade of zero. Late assignments will be reduced by 5 points each day, and no assignments will be accepted after Thursday, September 24th.

Summer Reading assignments were distributed with last year's report card and are posted on our website www.shjsnyc.org. Be sure to follow the directions when completing the assignments. Good Luck!



Calendar Changes for 2009-2010



The 2009-2010 calendar is posted on our website and will be distributed to all families on the first day of school.

Our new school Superintendent, Dr. Timothy McNiff, has made several changes to the calendar to ensure more instructional time for the students. As a result of these changes, we will only have 11 half-days this academic year. The purpose of these half-days are to allow for faculty professional development and therefore, on the 11 half-days this year we will not be offering the After School Program. Also, with the exception of Thanksgiving Recess, all days preceding a school holiday will now have a 3:00pm dismissal. All of these dates are marked on the calendar, but a list of some of these dates are given below.

Half-Days with No After School

Wednesday, September 9th
Friday, October 16th
Friday, November 6th
Wednesday, November 25th — 11am
Friday, January 15th
Friday, February 26th
Friday, March 19th
Friday, April 23rd
Friday, May 14th
Tuesday, June 22nd
Wednesday, June 23rd

3:00pm Dismissal with No After School

Friday, December 18th
for Christmas Recess
Thursday, February 11th
for Mid-Winter Recess
Wednesday, March 31st
for Easter Recess

After School Program

SHJS will be offering our After School Program again this year. The cost for this program is \$175.00 per child, per month.

The After School Program will begin on Wednesday, September 16th and will operate from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. Families participating in the After School Program must pay the monthly fee no later than the 10th of each month, with the exception of September and June. The September payment is due by the 18th and the June payment is due on the 1st of June.

Back to School Night



Please join us this Thursday, September 17th at 6:00pm in the Church for our Back to School Night. We welcome all parents to this information filled evening. We will begin with a brief introduction from Father Gabriel, our new Pastor and Mrs. Beale.

Classroom presentations will

begin promptly at 6:30pm and the evening will conclude at approximately 7:30pm. Please take this opportunity to visit with us and to meet your child's teacher and to see all the improvements we made over the summer.

New Early Childhood Faculty

In September we will welcome 2 new teachers to our Early Childhood faculty.

Miss Gina Policastro and Miss Cathy Santora will be teaching in the Early Childhood Program. Miss Gina will replace Miss Connie in Pre-K 3 and Miss Cathy will replace Miss Nicole in Pre-K 4.

Miss Connie is leaving SHJS to become a member of the Superintendent of School's staff as the Assistant Director of Early Childhood Programs for the Archdiocese and Miss Nicole has returned to the classroom, as a student, to pursue full-time Graduate studies in Education at Manhattanville College.

We wish much success to our new and departing members of the SHJS faculty.

The First Week of September

*Students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 report to the Main Courtyard
Students in Pre-K 3 & Pre-K 4 report directly to the classroom*

- Wednesday, September 9 First Day of School for Grades 1 to 8, students report by 8:15 am
12 noon dismissal, No After School Program
- Thursday, September 10 Students in Grades 1 to 8 report by 8:15 am & dismiss at 3:00pm
9:00am Mass of the Holy Spirit to open the 2009-2010 academic year
Breakfast Program Begins at 7:30am
Lunch Program Begins
No After School Program
- Friday, September 11 Students in Grades 1 to 8 report by 8:15 am & at 3:00pm
No After School Program
- Monday, September 14 First Day of School for Pre-K 3, Pre-K 4 & Kindergarten
Early Childhood students report at 8:30 am and dismiss at 12:00pm
No After School Program
- Tuesday, September 15 Early Childhood students report at 8:30 am and dismiss at 12:00pm
No After School Program
- Wednesday, September 16 After School Program Begins

SACRED HEART OF JESUS
SCHOOL

456 WEST 52ND STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10019



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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



DIVIDENDS FOR LIFE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED