

May 2024

Dear St. Helen School Families:

The school year of 2023-2024 flew by unbelievably quickly! Students and staff have worked hard to help us become one of the top performing campuses in the Archdiocese! We offer our sincere gratitude to our “instructional partners” – parents and families – who consistently go above and beyond to help everyone be successful! “Wisdom, age, and grace” is more than a motto or expression of our mission; it continues to be our mantra!

Your presence and support have assisted us in continuing to be one of the premier Catholic Schools in the greater-Houston area – a beacon that invites others to join us in achieving our goals. We don’t know what the next school year will bring with economic and social challenges we face, but we do know we can count on you to lift us up in prayer to meet any difficulties!

This letter is a reminder about our summer packets, designed to communicate much of the information you will need at St. Helen for the next school year. Please read carefully the information provided to you on our website, www.shcsSAINTS.org. Additionally, the soon-to-be-updated Family Handbook may be found on our link – probably in mid-June. (And please check us out on Facebook, if you haven’t already done so!)

Yes, we’re already planning for the next school year! To review our curriculum standards and expectations for your child, you may visit this link (<https://Choosecatholicschools.org/academics>) from the Catholic Schools Office. And please **mark your planners/calendars for these important future dates:**

Friday, August 2:

- **12:30-3:30 p.m.** Used Uniform Sale, gym and lobby
- **1:30 p.m.** New Parent Meeting, cafeteria
- **2-3:30 p.m.**
 - Grades PK3-5th:**
 - “Meet the Teacher!”
 - 2:00 p.m. Parent Meetings in homeroom classes
 - Drop-off supplies in homerooms or lockers
 - Grades 6-7 Returning Students:**
 - “Stash Your Stuff” in locker; NO formal teacher meetings!
 - Grades 6 and all other new students in Junior High:**
 - “Fish Camp” in the Library/Resource Center
 - One parent per child is required to attend this orientation

Wednesday, August 7 – FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS:

- **Building will open at 7:25 a.m.** All parents may walk their children to class. Due to safety protocols, **children may be walked to class ONLY on the first 2 days of school.**
- **Also, for safety purposes, parents will not be permitted to drop-off students on August 7-8.** All students must be walked into the front lobby or walked up to the portico cross over and handed to a staff member. Safety hazards result when some parents are dropping off and some are walking in.
- **No morning care on the first day, but there will be After Care on the first day.** Please be sure to register for both morning and afternoon care, if needed, as we have limited space.
- **After care will open on the first day, August 7,** for registered students, 3:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Morning care will open on Thursday, August 8, at 6:30 a.m.** for registered students.
- **School dismisses at 3:00 p.m.** Please be prepared to wait approximately an hour for us to load students into vehicles. This is typical for the first day, and we request your patience and your attention to the traffic directors. Time will improve in just a few days as you and your children learn our dismissal procedures. **Safety is our biggest concern at dismissal – please be patient!**

- **Other Important Dates/News for the First Few Weeks:**

- **The first week of school has only 2 student days** due to scheduled professional development for staff, scheduled by the Catholic Schools Office. Students will attend school August 7-8 (W-TH).
- **There will not be school on Friday, August 9. Students will return to school on Monday, August 12, with all of them being dropped off in the car line.**
- **Hot lunches will be served on the first day of school.** Please be alert to an email sent during the last week of July to pre-order hot lunch for the first few weeks of school.
- **The “Feast of St. Helen” will be celebrated on Friday, August 16, and it will be our first school mass for grades K-8.** Students should wear mass uniforms and bring a small piece of wood to commemorate St. Helen’s finding of the True Cross of Jesus (more information to come later).
- **On Thursday, August 29, we will host an Open House for all grade levels, 5-6:30 p.m.** Come tour your child’s classrooms and view some student work!
- **Friday, August 30, will be our first early release day** to give you a head start to Labor Day! Early dismissal is at noon and we will have after care open.

Our award-winning staff and School Advisory Council welcome you to St. Helen Catholic School and “the Sainthood!” May you all have a safe, happy, and fun summer. We pray that God blesses you abundantly!

Godspeed in your journeys,

Phyllis Coleman, Ed. D.
Principal

