

August 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back. We hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready for the new school year. Many things have been happening over the summer. New security doors have been installed, Rooms 15 and 18 were renovated, the faculty lounge and the office were both updated with cabinets, and the front of our school and church have brand new concrete.

As a staff, we are excited to begin this 2016-17 school year with many new goals, challenges, and adventures. Our theme this year will once again coincide with the parish theme, "Jubilee Year of Mercy."

First of all, I am very excited to announce that **Mrs. Sharon Meyer** has been appointed as part-time assistant principal. Our school board members interviewed several assistant principal candidates and recommended Mrs. Meyer to both Father Tom and me as the top selection. Mrs. Meyer has been with ICGS for the past 3 years as the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade language arts educator. She recently earned her administrative degree from Concordia University. Mrs. Meyer will be working closely with me certain periods during the day in an administrative role, but will also be teaching a period or two in the junior high.

**Mrs. Jennifer Caper** will be joining ICGS as our new kindergarten teacher. ICGS is not new to Mrs. Caper, as she worked here from 1996-2000 as an assistant in our kindergarten and as a first grade teacher. Since then she has taught kindergarten at two other area catholic schools. Mrs. Caper lives in Villa Park with her husband and two sons. We are very happy to welcome Mrs. Caper back to ICGS!

**Miss Shannon Luster** is joining us as our new first grade teacher. Miss Luster lives in Bloomingdale and comes to us with a Bachelor of Arts and a Masters in Elementary Education from DePaul University. Miss Luster has a variety of teaching experience in area schools, both catholic and public. We are excited to have Miss Luster join our ICGS family.

**Miss Jenna Pecenka** is joining us as our new second grade teacher. Miss Pecenka comes to us with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Valparaiso University. Miss Pecenka graduated this past May and is looking forward to beginning her formal teaching career. She has a variety of experience to bring to ICGS including teaching in a second grade catholic classroom in Valparaiso. Miss Pecenka resides in Darien with her family. We are delighted to have Miss Pecenka join our team.

**Miss Mary Kate Lyons** is joining ICGS as our new 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade language arts teacher. Miss Lyons recently completed a teaching position at one of our area catholic schools. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Dayton with special endorsements in social studies, language arts and science. She lives in Wheaton. We are pleased for Miss Lyons to join our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade team.

Other changes:

- ◆ **Miss Coppola** will be our new 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. She will be one of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom teachers as well as teaching 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math. In addition, she will continue to teach 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish. Miss Coppola has her Math endorsement and has tutored many students in Algebra.

Teacher letters will be mailed on August 15. Students should expect them within a day or two of that date.

As you may recall for the past two years we have worked on an additional accreditation of our school, called AdvancED. Well, I am very happy to inform you that we received the AdvancED accreditation along with all other schools in our Diocese of Joliet. In the past we were evaluated and recognized by the state. The state recognition was based on a compliance probe and procedures, completed requirements as determined by law, legal forms, safety inspections, and general policies. AdvancED is a process for continuous improvement and transforming movement. Internal and external evaluations are completed; there is a sharp focus on challenges, and researched-based quality standards. Our Strategic Plan was included in this process.

This year we are asking parents to attend a few meetings early in the school year.

- First, please plan on attending a parent meeting regarding Action Based Learning on **Tuesday, August 16** – MPH from 7-9. This year we will be implementing brain principle strategy instruction. Our goal is to improve academic achievement and social and emotional development for all children. Teachers will be trained for this new instruction and some new equipment has been purchased.
- Secondly, for brand new parents – the New Parent Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 17** – MPH from 7-9. This meeting is an opportunity for new parents (no children, please) to find out the nitty gritty about our school. Parents will receive a packet of information regarding the “Little Things.” Representatives from the Parents Club will be on hand to answer questions.
- Next, **Thursday, August 25** – from 7-8:15 in the church – Mr. John Lamperis will be the speaker. This meeting is for all parents (no children) to kick-off the school year.
- Finally, I’d like to personally invite you to our back to school Welcome Back Party, sponsored by the Parents Club on **Sunday, August 21**, from 2-4pm on our parish grounds (on lawn next to our High School.) The entire family is welcome. Refreshments will be served. This will be an opportunity for you to talk to Parents Club representatives regarding all the different types of events/services offered. Please try and attend.

Also, our open house will take place on **Thursday, September 8**. This is an adult only gathering where you will get a chance to meet your child’s teacher(s) and visit the classrooms. Details will be sent later.

Thank you for entrusting your most prized possession, your child(ren), to us. We look forward to working with you this year to insure we all have a successful school year.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Cathy Linley, Principal