

July 2009

Dear HGP Parents and Students, Class of 2013:

Welcome to a new academic year and a new school! An especially warm welcome to the 50th year of independent day school education at Holy Ghost Prep. The history of HGP is especially alive and well this year. We hope your anticipation is building toward your first year of high school.

The first day of school for ninth graders is **Monday, August 31, 2009**. When you arrive on campus that day, please come to the **cafeteria** to pick up your schedules for the day and your locker combination. Then please come to the **Chapel** where the orientation will begin at 8:00 AM. Please bring the packet of Spiritan readings you received in May: you will be using them for the first part of orientation. Please make sure you have read and reviewed them by that day as well. Your other two summer readings will be part of an assessment on Friday, September 18.

Dress casually for the orientation day on Monday the 31st. See the handouts in this mailing for exactly what “casual” means. The day itself has four main parts: prayer and reflection on mission; an introduction to school rules by Mr. Tony Chapman, our Dean of Students; a quick (15 minutes each) run-through of your daily schedule; and finally, lunch and recreation hosted by the Student Government and the Campus Ministers.

This letter will give you information you need for the opening of school. **A special note for future months: beginning this August, we will change the monthly mailings to an electronic format.** Look for the first edition of our monthly newsletter via your family email account around the third week of August.

Transitions

In June, we bid farewell to **Mr. Justin Cercone**, who has moved back to his native Buffalo after nine years of teaching Spanish and service to HGP. We wish him and his family well.

Mr. John Crouse, a recent graduate of the Honors Program at La Salle University, will be our new teacher of Spanish. Mr. Crouse worked with communications and athletics programs at La Salle and did his student teaching at Fr. Judge High School in Philadelphia.

Mr. Vontz Samson, C.S.Sp., a native of Haiti and a recently professed Spiritan who completed his novitiate in Chicago, will be with us for this coming year as part of a pastoral internship. In addition to assisting in some Religion and Modern Language classes, he will be working on a special project in Journalism to connect us with students from other Spiritan secondary schools around the world.

Please join me in welcoming Mr. Crouse and Mr. Samson to Holy Ghost Prep.

Physical Improvements

Each summer at HGP seems to get even busier. We continue to upgrade our digital information systems. Network supervisor Mike Jacobs '01, capably assisted by Mike Conway '10, has installed 50 new Lenovo ThinkCenters, and 25 flat screen monitors. Since the spring, we have completed installation of four new SMARTBoards in language, guidance, and social studies classes. Thanks are due to the Greiner Family Fund and to current parents whose "Fund-A-Need" efforts at the auction made these technologies possible.

Safety and security efforts continued this summer with the installation of external cameras for the Fieldhouse. Finally, our soccer/lacrosse field at the southern end of campus has undergone a significant upgrade to its drainage capacities. Thanks to Rich Malley and Co. for weeks of hard work.

In This Mailing: The Student Handbook & More

This mailing also contains the **combined Student Handbook, Faculty and Staff Directory, and Student Directory** which contains a list of students by grade level. The directories are for the exclusive use of the HGP community.

Please note and use the dedicated phone extension for reporting student absences: **215-639-2102, ext 300**. Using this number and extension should save everyone time during the busy morning hours before school.

Please review the **Student Handbook** carefully. The Handbook contains the philosophy, mission, and rules by which our community is governed. Please note that the **first** inside page of the Student Handbook is the **Statement of Understanding**, which must be returned prior to every student's continued attendance at Holy Ghost Prep. Per advice of our legal counsel, we are required to obtain a newly signed Statement of Understanding for each year in which your son is enrolled. All students must return this form, signed and dated, by **August 15, 2009**.

This mailing also contains information and forms which are detailed on the summary list. Please review the forms, schedules and lists that are enclosed.

Thank you for your trust in us. We look forward to an exciting and productive year.

In one heart and one mind,

Michael A. O'Toole
Principal

Enclosures

