

July 2009

Dear HGP Parents and Students in the Classes of 2010, 2011, and 2012:

It's almost time! 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 summer for you and your families is going well.

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.

And before the rest of the news, please note: school begins for the entire student body on **Tuesday, September 1**. Students report to the **Fieldhouse** at **8:00 AM** that day.

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 flatscreen monitors. Since the spring, we have completed installation of four new SMARTBoards in language, guidance, and social studies classes. Mr. Jim McCullough will join the ranks of teachers with SMART technologies this academic year. Welcome, Jim! Thanks are due to the Greiner Family Fund and to current parents whose "Fund-A-Need" efforts at the spring auction made these technologies possible.

We have also continued our behind-the-scenes renovations in Cornwells, but I will let your sons tell you about this year's improvements. You may also notice that the pump house near the Chapel has been removed to make way for more faculty and staff parking. 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 these 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