



The Cougar



Published every two weeks for SJS Parents

www.stjudebr.org

August 10, 2017

St. Jude the Apostle School provides a Catholic family environment, dedicated to the formation of each student's relationship with Christ through faith, academics, and excellence.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

Sunday, August 13	12:30pm-3:00pm	Back to School Open House/ H&S Gen. Session Mtg.
Monday, August 14		Page 1 Parent/Student Handbook Due
Monday, August 14		Health & Emergency Contact Form Due
Tuesday, August 15	8:15am	School Liturgy (Staff facilitates) Dress Uniforms
Friday, August 18		H&S Forms Due
Thursday, August 24		Qtr #1 Box Top Forms Sent Home (Due Sept. 5)
Saturday, August 26	9:00am-12:00pm	K-3rd Grade Mini Cheer Clinic (Activity Center)
Tuesday, August 29	6:30pm	H&S Executive Comm. Mtg.
Wednesday, August 30	8:15am	School Liturgy (8A facilitates) Dress Uniforms
Friday, September 1	7:30am	Donuts and Devotion (8th grade– Ministry Build.)
Monday, September 4		NO SCHOOL – Labor Day Holiday
Tuesday, September 5	6:30pm	Advisory Council Mtg.
Tuesday, September 5		Box Tops Collection Forms Due
Wednesday, September 6		Progress Reports
Wednesday, Sept.6-Friday, Sept. 8		ACT ASPIRE TESTING
Friday, September 8		“Favorite Team” Free Dress for HR 100% Box Tops
Saturday, September 9		Intramural Soccer Begins– School Field



NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Welcome to another fantastic year at St. Jude the Apostle School. I am excited to be your new principal and look forward to getting to know you and your family. For those new to St. Jude like me, I want you to know your child is attending one of the top Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Baton Rouge. To our returning families, thank you for your dedication to making St. Jude the best! This year promises to be a year filled with wonderful opportunities for all of St. Jude’s students as we strive to educate minds, evangelize hearts, encourage talent and embrace the future.

As we embark on the 2017-2018 school year, the faculty and staff at St. Jude pledge to you, our students and parents, that this will be a year of engaging, meaningful and rigorous work in our classrooms, combined with special events and an array of extracurricular clubs, athletic teams and activities. We extend a special yearlong invitation to our families to join us at all school activities and events whenever possible, and look forward to a positive and productive year together.

Again, here’s to an AWESOME new school year as we work together to fill St. Jude’s mission of providing a Catholic family environment, dedicated to the formation of each student’s relationship with Christ through faith, academics and excellence.

Mrs. Michelle Gardiner
Principal



SCHOOL NEWS & INFORMATION

OPEN HOUSE: We invite all parents (Pre-K through 8th!) to join us this Sunday, August 13th in the activity center for Open House. The event runs from 1pm-3pm with a Home & School general session meeting followed by classroom visits. The ‘Cougar Pride Fair’ will begin at 12:30pm. Please plan to attend and discover all the opportunities available for parents to get involved at SJS! **Once again, open house is a parent-only event.** 2017-18 student spirit apparel will be on hand for sizing questions and order forms will be available.

COUGAR DEADLINE:

Submissions for the next issue of *The Cougar* are due by **Tuesday, Aug 22** E-mail sdriess@stjudebr.org.

WELCOME: Please join us in welcoming our new faculty and staff members: **Mrs. Michelle Gardiner** - Principal; **Mrs. Kathemarie Humphreys** - 1A aide; **Mrs. Stacey Labatut**– Extension Director, **Mrs. Susan Lala**– Asst. Bookkeeper.

SNOCIAL: We were thrilled to see so many families on Sunday to check out the class lists and meet Mrs. Gardiner! Unfortunately, we could not control the weather and had to cancel the snoball portion of the event. A big thank you goes to Tippy Thomassie for organizing the event. Home & School will look for another fellowship opportunity on our calendar to provide our families a sweet treat this year!

THANKS TO HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION: The faculty and staff of SJS would like to extend a huge thank you to the H&S association for providing a delicious lunch during one of our in-service days. What a special treat!

SCHOOL WIDE LITURGY: St. Jude School students will attend our first school liturgy on Tuesday, August 15th for the Feast of the Assumption; Pre-K and Kindergarten WILL NOT attend. All students in grades 1-8 will need to be in dress uniforms (please refer to the [Parent/Student handbook](#)) and may need to be reminded about reverent behavior in church. Once again, SJS will collect items for the Greater Baton Rouge food bank prior to all liturgies. Donations can be sent in the child’s backpack and will be collected during homeroom. At this time, the food bank is in dire need of donations and would not be able to feed thousands of hungry people in our area without our support. As always, we invite and welcome all parents to any liturgy. *Please note that aside from Holy Days or special celebrations, school liturgies will be held on Wednesdays this year.*

ATTENTION NEW FAMILIES: You MUST log-in to RenWeb– our parent portal–to access your students grades and classroom news and schedules, and other important school information. Here are the steps:

1. Click the RenWeb link at the top of the school’s homepage.
2. Click “Create New Parents Web Account” on left hand side
3. Enter District Code STJ-LA
4. Enter your email address (note that it must be one of the email accounts associated with your child)
5. Create your own password, follow the remaining prompts.



Please contact [Mrs. Allyson Corder](#) if you have any problems creating your account.

CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATE: School news and reminders are often sent via RenWeb in text, voice, or email format. If you have changed address, email, or phone numbers over the summer please login to your RenWeb account to update your contact information. Please note that in the case of an emergency or school closure, we will reach you by one or more of these methods so it is critical current information is on file.

CAFETERIA: Please note that information on the cost of student lunches, how to make a payment online, and how to apply for free and reduced lunches can be found on our website by [CLICKING HERE](#). Please contact the [Cafeteria Manager](#) with questions.

VISITORS: If you visit the school during the day, please enter through the main arched gate and proceed directly to the office. **ALL VISITORS MUST SIGN IN AT THE OFFICE** and receive a badge regardless of their purpose or duration of visit. If you are on campus without a badge, you will be escorted to the office to receive one. Also beginning next week, between the hours of 8:30am and 2:30pm, the front doors will be locked and you will need to be buzzed in. Please state your name, child’s name and purpose of visit to Mrs. Peggy. Please know that all of these measures are designed to help us protect your children.

ISG STATUS FOR 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR: Parishioners making contributions to St. Jude Church in order to qualify for ISG status for the 2018-19 school year should enclose their contributions in the envelopes provided by the church. If making contributions online through ACH payments, enter the envelope number when setting up an account and NOT the St. Jude School family ID number. Entering the incorrect number will cause someone else to get credit for their contributions. Cash dropped in the basket that is not in an envelope cannot be credited to an individual’s account; therefore, the cash contribution cannot be used in determining ISG status for the following year. We recommend that parishioners enter their envelope number in the memo section of their checks. Contributions for 2018-19 year must be made by December 29, 2017. Contributions made after that date will not be counted toward the 2018-19 ISG status.

GOING OUT OF TOWN?: Please remember to let the school office know when you will be out of town and who will be caring for your child while you are away. It is important that we have up-to-date emergency contact information at all times.



SJMC THANK YOU: Thanks to all of our great Men's Club morning carpool helpers! It has been a smooth start to our school year thanks to them!

HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS: (From Nurse Mickel). Thanks for your cooperation in returning the emergency health forms for each student **by Monday, August 14th**. The medication forms (which can be downloaded from our web site by clicking [here](#)) are very important in order for medicine to be administered at school. As I review immunization records for Pre-K, Kindergarten and new students, letters will be sent home for any that are not in compliance. Our staff is emphasizing frequent hand washing and all classrooms are equipped with hand sanitizer. Please feel free to contact me by calling 769-2344 or emailing mblaize@stjudebr.org with any concerns or questions throughout the year. My office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

ITEMS LEFT AT HOME: Parents, please note that students are not allowed to come to the school office to collect items (such as homework, tests, planners and conduct cards) left at home. Also, they are not allowed to call home to see if these items can be delivered. In addition, once school is dismissed, a student may not return to the building to retrieve an item that is left behind in his/her classroom.

ENVELOPES SENT TO SCHOOL: If you send an envelope to the school office, please include the following on the front: **your child's name, his/her teacher's name, and the activity or person the envelope is for**. It is very important that all envelopes are clearly labeled.

2017-18 PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK: Handbooks were distributed to each oldest and/or only student in each family. Please be sure to review the contents in its entirety and returned the signed front page to school no later than Monday, August 14th. The handbook is posted to our website for your convenience and may be downloaded by [CLICKING HERE](#).

ADULT SPIRIT APPAREL: We will once again offer our adult SJS apparel items for sale via online orders only. Our store is open NOW, **and orders will only be accepted through September 3rd. No extra product is kept on property for sale.** Products will be sent home with the student the last week of September. Based on demand, the store may open again for a 2 week period in January, but please plan to get all your Cougar pride gear now! Visit the store by clicking below or view the flyer included in this edition.

[CLICK HERE TO SHOP NOW](#); enter code STJSP17.

CAFETERIA DEDICATION: We would like to thank all the parents who generously contributed to our 2015-16 Annual Appeal and the 2016-17 Fun Run for bringing our cafeteria renovations to fruition this summer. We would also like to thank SJS parents Mrs. Lisa Hargrave and Mr. Ryan Nesbit for their professional guidance and involvement in the project. The kids are enjoying the new space!



ATHLETICS

WELCOME BACK: The athletic association is looking forward to another exciting year at St. Jude! There is something for everybody this fall. Please visit “Athletics” on the school website for more information.

- [Intramural co-ed soccer](#) - Pre-K - 2nd grade
- [Girls Basketball](#) - grades 3rd - 8th
- [Boys Football](#) - grades 3rd - 8th
- [Swim](#) - grades 5th - 8th
- [Cross Country](#) - Grades 4th - 8th
- [Girls Mini cheer camp](#) - Grades PreK - 2nd

GYM CLEAN-UP THANK YOU: A big thank you to those who came out over the summer and helped clean the gym!



Contact Athletic Director, [Tanna Moses](#), with any questions about Athletics! You can also follow us on Twitter by clicking here:

https://twitter.com/intent/follow?original_referer=http%3A%2F%2Fstjudebr.org%2F&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw&screen_name=SJSBRAthletics&tw_p=followbutton
GO COUGARS!

HOME & SCHOOL

WELCOME BACK: SJS Home and School Association would like to wish you a very happy, healthy, successful 2017 - 2018 school year! For our new families, our purpose is to enhance the quality of campus life for our students and faculty through service. We look forward to seeing everyone at the COUGAR PRIDE FAIR & HOME & SCHOOL GENERAL MEETING! PLEASE join us [Sunday, August 13th](#) beginning at **12:30** in the Activity Center. It will be followed immediately by Open House. The Cougar Pride Fair will showcase many wonderful ways parents can get involved with organizations and events on campus. Come visit with old friends, make new ones, and find out how you can get involved this year!!

The [VOLUNTEER REQUEST/TIME AND TALENT](#) forms are going digital! Please review the Home & School Committee Descriptions and follow the link on this form to submit your areas of interest to volunteer. The children love to see you on campus, and many of our volunteer opportunities can also be accomplished from home! All forms can be found at www.stjudebr.org or by [CLICKING HERE](#).

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

CAFETERIA: Attention Cafeteria Volunteers, Sign up forms can be found online by [clicking here](#). Please turn in your forms by **Friday, August 18th**.

ROOM MOM COORDINATOR: If you are interested in volunteering to be a Room Mom or Assistant Room Mom for your child’s class please fill out the form and return it back to the school by **Friday, August 18th**. Those interested in being an 8th grade Room Mom, please return your form by **Friday, August 11th**. Forms will be available at Open House at the Home & School table, in the classrooms during Open House or by [clicking here](#). If you were a Room Mom or Assistant last year you may apply again this year! The selection process will include only those forms returned by this date. Looking forward to a great year in planning and assisting our teachers.

COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN: Keep clipping those Box Tops!! Our first box top collection form will go home **Thursday, August 24th**. It will be due back **Tuesday, September 5th**. Homerooms with 100% participation will have a “Favorite Team” theme dress day on **Friday, September 8th**. We are also putting more focus on our Community Coffee campaign this year! Send in those CC proof-of-purchase labels! If you have any questions, please email Erin Simonson erinsi-mo@gmail.com.



DIRECTORY: Please remember the deadline to update your information printed in the school directory is **Friday, August 25th**. Did you Move? Do you have a NEW EMAIL ADDRESS? Have you CHANGED PHONE NUMBERS since last year? Please [visit RenWeb](#) to update your address and personal information by **Friday, August 25th**. Any changes made after this date will not be reflected in the student directory.

STUDENT SPIRIT AND APPAREL: You can find order forms for student spirit apparel by [clicking here](#). Orders are **due by Friday, September 1st** so that items can be delivered before the first pep rally on October 27th. Samples of the items will be on display at the Cougar Pride Fair/Open House on **Sunday, August 13th** if you would like to view sizes prior to placing your order. We will have a new item available this year - a navy 1/2 zip fleece for our middle schoolers! Thanks in advance for getting your orders in timely!!

THANK YOU! Several H&S Committees were busy over the summer getting us ready for the new year and we would like to give them a HUGE THANK YOU!

- **Used Uniform* Sale in July was a success thanks to Ginny Anderson and Ashley Territo!
- **School Supplies* were sorted and distributed thanks to Jenny Hanks, Paula Balkum and their entire team of volunteers.
- *The campus looks beautiful thanks to the *Beautification Committee* for their talents in the flower beds and updating the gate wreath! Thanks to Le Vu and Tricia Fernandez!
- *The *Birthday Bulletin Board* is up and looks great in the new cafeteria! Thanks to Jessie Wagner and Megan Higginbotham!
- *Thanks to Julie Reynolds and Laurie Chiasson for converting our paper collection of volunteers to an *online sign up* form! This huge improvement helps H&S tremendously!
- *Thanks to Christina Carville and Jaclyn Landry for hosting the *Newcomer's Coffee* this past Friday. All of the new SJS families were greeted with a warm welcome to campus!

PARISH NEWS

GIRL SCOUTS: All St Jude Girl Scouts of all levels are invited to come together for an evening of fun to kick off the 2017-18 year of Girl Scouts! We will gather on the deck (Parish Hall if bad weather) on **Friday, August 25th at 6:00 PM**. Additional details will be shared through your troop leaders. Please contact Kimberly McDaniel (kimberlymcdaniel@gmail.com, 225-931-0060) with any questions

Is your daughter interested in joining Girl Scouts? We're 2.6 million strong - 1.8 million girls and 800,000 adults who believe in the power of every G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)TM to change the world. We're the preeminent leadership development organization for girls. And with programs from coast to coast and across the globe, Girl Scouts offers every girl a chance to practice a lifetime of leadership, adventure, and success. Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Come see us **Tuesday, August 15th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall to learn more! You'll get to meet other Girl Scouts, meet the troop leaders, and have some fun!**