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### **Message from Mrs. Gardiner**

Dear St. Jude Parents and Guardians,

WELCOME BACK to St. Jude the Apostle School!!!! We are excited to see our students arrive and fill our hallways with the hustle and bustle that has been absent over the summer. I would like to welcome all of our new families into our school community and thank our returning families for their continued support and commitment to St. Jude's mission. Throughout this school year, the faculty and staff look forward to partnering with you to continue our vision of providing the students with a learning environment that nurtures their faith, academics and excellence.

Every year St. Jude School has a bible verse and theme. This year's verse is from Isaiah 30:41, "They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar on eagles' wings; They will run and not grow wearry, walk and not grow faint." Our theme is WE WILL RISE AGAIN! This is our constant reminder that we refuse to just survive the pandemic this school year, but we will continue to THRIVE as a school community and grow in this experience with the help of the LORD.

I am pleased to share that St. Jude recently received the results from the Spring, 2021 ACT Aspire Summative Test, and once again our student's achievement in the areas of reading, English, mathematics, and science are among the highest, top 15%, in the country. This Exemplary High Performing status would not be possible without the wonderful partnership between our students, faculty, staff and parents!

God continues to bless our school with a wonderful faculty and staff. Our newest members to the faculty are Mollie Frazier-Pre-K teacher, Gabi Ammon-Kindergarten teacher, Hannah Sigler-1st grade teacher assistant, Samantha Copeland-1st grade teacher assistant, Vanessa Jakob-4th grade teacher assistant, and Christine Wesley-middle school science teacher. There have been a few transitional staff changes Lauren Andermann -technology coordinator, Megan Riedel-middle school literature and co-technology coordinator, Barbara Sicard-middle school mathematics and 7th grade homeroom teacher.

As we look forward to this new school year, I would like to recognize several organizations that together make St. Jude the exciting, enthusiastic, and enriching learning community:

Men's Club: The St. Jude Men's Club has been very instrumental in helping us have a smooth start to the school year. These dads have been very busy assisting with minor repairs around the school, refreshing the landscape, and helping with morning carpool. The faculty and staff would like to thank you for making St. Jude School a safe and exciting place to be.

Home and School Association: No school year can begin as smoothly as this year without the "behind the scene" work of our Home and School Association. They have organized many of our Back to School events for our families and students. A few of these activities include the used uniform sale, organizing the distribution of school supplies, providing faculty lunch during our retreat day, and so much more. Thank you to Sarah Losavio and Kristyn Starkovich H&S Co-Presidents and our amazing Home and School Association for making the start to our school year so special!!

School Advisory Council: An organization that is an important aspect to the health and vitality of our school is the School Advisory Council. The council's role is to advise me throughout the year in a variety of areas. Last year, I had the privilege to work alongside Dr. Emily Vincent, the 2020-2021 SAC President. I would like to thank Emily for all her support and service to me and the school. I am pleased to announce that this year's SAC President is Mr. Wes Ulrich. I would like to thank Wes and all of the 2021-2022 SAC members for agreeing to assist and advise me with matters that pertain to St. Jude School this year. I know we will do great things!!

# THE COUGAR



At this time, I would like to share with everyone some general school information:

**Building/Grounds**: This summer many repairs and improvements were done to the school campus. These include a new roof on the administration building, the replacement of the decking between church and school, and repairs to the concrete walkways around the school campus. Thank you to the Men's Club, Boy Scouts and SAC Building and Grounds Committee for their tremendous help with these projects.

Carpool: Thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding with carpool. Our main goal is to make sure we have every student safely placed in the appropriate vehicle as quickly as possible. Parents can assist us by hanging your carpool sign on the rearview mirror and allowing our faculty and staff to load and unload your child on the right passenger side of the vehicle. Please make sure that children are unbuckled and ready to get out of the vehicle in the mornings.

Athletics: All school athletic programs will take place this school year. I would like to thank the dads that assisted with the revitalization of our football field. Many of our middle school students are already preparing for the fall sports of football, cross country, girls basketball, and swimming. If you have any question or would like to help with athletics, please contact Lindsey McCombie, Athletic Director (<a href="mailto:limccombie@stjudebr.org">lmccombie@stjudebr.org</a>) or Brad Moses, Assistant Athletic Director (<a href="mailto:limccombie@stjudebr.org">lmccombie@stjudebr.org</a>). Intramural sports for the lower elementary grades will begin after Labor Day. Trey Willoughby will send out information to families next week.

**Peanut Products on School Campus:** The Diocese of Baton Rouge Child Nutrition Program has eliminated the use of peanut products, including peanut oil or any products containing peanuts. **No peanut products, including peanut oil or any products containing peanuts may be served at class parties or special events.** 

As always, I feel very blessed to be the principal of St. Jude School and look forward to working with you to educate our children.

Go Cougars!!!

#### **Parish News**



We are in the process of updating our Parish Guidebook and Directory - make sure you are included!

In the Last 2 Years: Have you moved? Get a new cell phone number? Do you have a new email address? Moved out of your parents' home? If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, please update your family contact information with our parish office. You may fill out a form online on our website: <a href="https://">https://</a>

osvhub.com/st-jude-the-apostle-church/forms/st-jude-the-apostle-parish-census-form-1

#### **Give Back Night**



# THE COUGAR



#### **Home and School**

**WELCOME BACK**: SJS Home and School Association would like to wish you a very happy, healthy, and successful 2021 - 2022 school year! For our new families, our purpose is to enhance the quality of campus life for our students and faculty through service. See below for ways that you can get involved and make a difference for our school community!

**VOLUNTEER REQUEST/TIME AND TALENT FORM**: There are many ways to get involved and share your time, talent or passion! Please review the Home & School Committee Descriptions and follow the link on this form to submit your areas of interest to volunteer. We are hoping to be able to have volunteers back on campus after Labor Day! The children love to see you during their day and the faculty and staff truly appreciate your help! All forms can be found by <u>CLICKING HERE</u>.

ROOM PARENT/ASSISTANT ROOM PARENT FORM: If you are interested in volunteering to be a Room Parent or Assistant Room Parent for your child's homeroom, please fill out the online form by Wednesday, August 18th. The form can be found by CLICKING HERE. If you were a Room Parent or Assistant last year, you may apply again this year. The selection process will only include those submitted by the deadline. We are looking forward to a great year in planning and assisting our teachers! If you have any questions, please contact Jaclyn Landry <a href="mailto:jaclynplandry@cox.net">jaclynplandry@cox.net</a> or

Emily Vincent emilydaviet@yahoo.com.

**STUDENT AND ADULT SPIRIT APPAREL AND SPIRIT GEAR**: Spirit sales are digital again this year! You can order your fleece items and spirit shirts directly from Red Stick Sports by clicking this link

https://stjudefall21.itemorder.com/ You will have the option to choose to have items shipped to your home, or to have them delivered to school. Starting in September, every Friday will be spirit day this year!! You will be able to wear your spirit shirt with uniform bottoms every Friday. This year we have a newly designed red spirit shirt for grades Pre-K through 8th. Also new is an updated navy fleece for grades Pre-K through 8th. Parents you can show your school spirit as well by purchasing newly designed adult spirit wear! Please have all of these orders in by SUNDAY, AUGUST 15. We will open the store again later this year. However, the quicker you get your orders in, the sooner you will have your items. Please consider purchasing gear for cooler weather now so that you are ready for that first cool snap! We will not be keeping any extra items in stock.

SJS Car Decals, and Garden Flags can be ordered using the new SJS Home and School Store on our school Auctria site. You will need to create an account to order from this site. However, this is the same website used for our school auctions so you may already have one! Check out the store by <a href="CLICKING">CLICKING</a> HERE. Place your order and pay through the website and your items will be delivered to your child's homeroom. Be on the lookout for our popular tattoo items to be added to the store soon.

You can also find the links to these stores throughout the year on the St. Jude School website under the About Us section. Please contact Lindsey Gueho at <a href="mailto:lindsey">lindsey</a> usry@yahoo.com</a> for any questions with spirit wear or spirit gear.

**THANK YOU**: Thanks to Britney Ford and her Hospitality Committee for creating beautiful baskets to welcome our new 1st through 8th grade families!

Thank you to Ashley Territo and her Used Uniform Committee who coordinated the Used Uniform Sale in June. Thanks to everyone that donated items as well. The sale was a success! Special thanks to our volunteers who assisted with the sale: Stephanie Horvath, Brittany Martin, Emily Rogers, Kate Cook and Tiffany Prather.

A big thanks goes out to The Alford Family, The Barbato Family, The Gueho Family, Kate Cook and Camille Starkovich for creating balloon decorations and chalking the sidewalks of the school to welcome everyone back from the summer break!

Lastly, thanks to Kathryn Gremillion with the Beautification Committee for a refresh of the wreath and planters at the front gate. We appreciate all you do to keep our school looking amazing!

## THE COUGAR











## **Athletics**

#### Parents,

Athletics are in full swing! We are so excited to see your children coming out for the fall sports team and staying active with their friends! Girls basketball tryouts are underway this week, Cross Country has been putting in the miles and hill work out at Highland Rd. and swim team sign up has been sent through email, please register by Friday! We had a great turn out for football this year and I would like to thank Adam Davis, Matthew Vaughan, Drew Gasser and Chad Martin who came out to help clean up the football field and have been key in helping get it back to where it needs to be. We have a lot of things in the works for our athletic program and the future is looking bright!

Thanks!!

Lindsey McCombie Athletic Director



#### **Important Dates**

Tuesday, August 17th....School Mass

Monday, August 23rd....Yearbook pictures

Tuesday, August 24th....Give back night at Great American Cookie