



August 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

**We say it every year..... It's hard to believe it's that time of year again-the beginning of a new school year!** And while you aren't part of our teaching staff, you are just as important to your child's education as we are. Your child receives the best education when parents and our dedicated teachers work as a TEAM because together, we can continue to achieve great things.

**There is a lot of excitement ahead of us!!** Our Home School Association and all of your fundraising efforts enabled us to fully furnish the middle school grades with chrome books. Mrs. Monticello has been able to purchase some additional chrome books for fourth and fifth grade use and carts to house the chrome books. The Hansraj family has once again generously donated more carts to outfit the school electronic equipment! Thank you!

The Archdiocese of Newark is continuing to work on curriculum maps for grades K-8. You may locate the maps on the RCAN website under catholic schools. We currently follow the Archdiocesan curriculum maps for Mathematics, ELA, and Technology. Science is being completed this year and will include a STEM component.

We are beginning a new reading series that will offer our students more close reading and language practice. The Journeys program will be used in grades 1 through 5 and we will add the middle school into this program next school year.

While completing our Middle States report we found that our students need additional practice with actively using our science lab, participating in STEM projects, and writing in general. Our teachers are writing up an action plan to incorporate these activities into their lesson plans across the curriculum. Grades 4 and 5 will be using the Science lab monthly along with our middle school classes.

Our faculty and staff have been compiling information and writing our Middle States report. This takes a lot of extra time and work on their part. Our Middle States visit will be in March of 2018. You will be receiving more information about this throughout the school year.

Although Mrs. Donner will not be a first grade teacher with us this year, she will be joining us as a special education and technology assistant. Mrs. Donner's degree in Special Education and Reading will enable her to join our Bergen County Education Specialists in working with students who have ISP's and to help Mrs. Monticello bring more technology into the classrooms for teachers and students. We are excited to be able to utilize her talents in this manner!

Last but not least, please join me in welcoming our new Home School Association Board and School Advisory Board. You may find them listed on our school website. Both groups will post monthly activities and reminders on our website so we can keep you informed and up-to-date on the latest information at Visitation Academy. Our HSA and School Advisory board are looking for volunteer parents to work with them on various projects throughout the school year. They need YOU and are looking forward to getting parents involved! Please contact the presidents of these organizations or myself if you are willing to help out.

As soon as we receive Terra Nova test scores we will be mailing them directly to your home. Please see the letter from the Archdiocese of Newark on our school website about this situation.

Our floors are being waxed, our classrooms are being cleaned, and our office is buzzing with new registrations and teachers coming in to prepare for a tremendous school year! We cannot wait to see you! If your child hasn't begun their summer reading or math or has any questions about it, teacher summer work is listed on our website.

Enjoy the rest of your summer vacation!

God bless,



Ms. Kimberly Harrigan  
Principal

**The office will be closed July 31, 2017 to August 4, 2017 and will reopen August 7, 2017. We are open 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. As of August 21, 2017 the office will be open from 8:30 to 3:00 pm.**

**August 30, 2017.....New Family Orientation...7:00 pm Auditorium**

### **SEPTEMBER CALENDAR**

- 6.....Grades 1-8 report to school. 12:00 dismissal. No before or aftercare  
PreK3, 4 and Kindergarten Orientation... 9:00 am in classrooms
- 7.....Grades Prek3-8 report to school. 12:00 dismissal. No before or after care
- 8.....Grades PreK3-8 report to school. 12:00 dismissal. No before or after care  
Back to School Social
- 11....Full day of school begins. Lunch program begins. Before and after care begin
- 12....8<sup>th</sup> grade COOP meeting 7:00 pm... School Auditorium
- 15....School Liturgy...8:45 am...Parents Welcome to attend
- 19....Back to School Night...More information to follow
- 26....High School Expo...Auditorium...7:00-8:30 pm