



September 1, 2016

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for your flexibility as BCPS instituted their new heat closing policy. We did not anticipate that it would be used so soon and so often. It is our goal to have students in school when feasible and safe for them. Since our three first days were early dismissals, and the heat index reaches its peak after noon, we believed that it would be best for all to open schools as planned. If the heat decides to soar again this month, we will follow the policy set for the county.

In your summer mailing we introduced two of our three new teachers. We also would like to welcome Ms. Elizabeth Hipple, our part-time PE teacher. Ms. Hipple will be here Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. We share Ms. Hipple with St. Pius School.

Students in grades PK, 1, 4 and 8, as well as new students to the school in Kindergarten, will have hearing and vision screening starting September 9th. Consent forms were sent home yesterday for those grades. PK will receive theirs on Tuesday. If parents in these grades are interested in having your child participate we ask that all forms please be returned by Wednesday, September 7th. Please do not use pencil when completing the consent form.

Our school dismissal time is now 2:45 pm. We are closed on Friday, September 2nd and Monday, September 6th.

The new, common ramp from the inner loop of I-695 to NB and SB MD 147 (Harford Road) will take place today and the existing ramp will be eliminated. This will affect traffic so please make sure you allow enough time in both your morning and afternoon routine for this change.

The Student/Parent Handbook has been sent home by today. If you have not seen it, please check with your child. It is important that you read the entire book since there are changes throughout. Some of the important highlights are bulleted below:

- Use of cell phones prohibited during school day and school sponsored activities (pg. 7)
- Use of Power School to change information (pg.16)
- Publishing pictures of other students on social media (pg. 16)
- Socks without logos and covering ankle bone (pg. 17-18)
- Service hour deadlines (pg. 19)
- Shield the Vulnerable training (pg. 22)
- Extended Day Inclement Weather Policy (pg. 4)

In addition, the signed receipt page asks permission regarding your child's photo. Please return the signed receipt by Friday, September 9th.

Also it has been noticed that a few children are wearing the wrong shoes. This policy has been in effect for numerous years and is stated in the handbook on page 17. *"Students cannot wear buckle shoes. Students in grades K-2 can wear a brown or black non-scuff tie or Velcro closure shoe and all other grades are to wear a solid black or brown non-scuff tie shoe or loafer. All shoes must be cut below the ankle."* When in doubt if a shoe follows the policy, please contact the school office

The School Board will be sharing budgetary summaries periodically throughout the year. This will be posted on the website in the near future.

The Health Department has told us that there will be no flu mist program this year. You may want to make other arrangements through your pediatrician for your children.

Back to School Nights will be held Wednesday, September 7th for grades 5-8 and Thursday, September 8th for grades PreK-4. Both nights will start at 7:00 with a general meeting and then move to grade specific presentations.

Individual pictures will be taken on Tuesday, September 20. Students should be in their school uniforms. If it is their gym day, they may wear tennis shoes on that day with their regular school uniform.

St. Ursula School will be hosting the High School Fair on Thursday, September 22. The fair is open to all sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. All Catholic high schools in the area will be represented. The scheduled hours for the fair are 6:30-8:30. Doors will open at 6:00 for check-in.

Again, thank you for your continued support to St. Ursula School. St. Ursula is such a highly regarded Catholic school due to your support and the blessed children you send us.

God is good,

Debbie Glinowiecki

Principal