



Re: 2017-18 Welcome Back!

Dear Sacred Heart Academy Family,

*Duc in altum!* We proclaim these words with enthusiasm and joy to welcome you to the 2017-18 Academic Year at Sacred Heart Academy. We are beginning a new tradition this year of placing our work for the year under the mantle of a Scriptural verse. *Duc in altum!* is our verse. It is Latin for “put out into the deep” and comes from the second half of Luke 5:4: “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” The verse also was a centerpiece of Pope Saint John Paul II’s apostolic letter at the close of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000. As he states there:

*Duc in altum!* These words ring out for us today, and they invite us to remember the past with gratitude, to live the present with enthusiasm and to look forward to the future with confidence: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Heb. 13:8).” (*Novo Millennio Ineunte*, paragraph 1.)

As I write this letter, the faculty at Sacred Heart is on the first day of our annual retreat where we are casting our nets into the depth of the interior life to prepare ourselves to lead your children to do the same. This effort will help us all discover that as immense as God is, He lives in each of us and wants to fill us with His divine life to our fullest potential. All of us, without exception.

Pope Saint John Paul states that the phrase *Duc in altum!* should remind us that all we do to build the Kingdom “be profoundly rooted in contemplation and prayer” and not to just do “for the sake of doing.” Thus, these words will continually remind us that all we do must begin in prayer. It is from this position that we have planned for the 2017-18 school year. Please read the following paragraphs and enclosed documents closely as they provide much information necessary to begin the year.

### 1. Staffing Changes

a) **First Grade** It is with sadness that we share with you that our first grade teacher, Kathy Ockaskis, resigned for personal reasons on Friday, August 18, 2017. She

remains in our prayers and we ask that she remain in yours as well. We are pleased to announce that Ashley Steffes has accepted an offer to join the team as our first grade teacher. She accepted the job yesterday and is on retreat with us today. God is so good! Ashley is a recent Franciscan University graduate who has a deep passion for teaching. We are blessed to have her at Sacred Heart.

b) **Art and Music Additions** Mark Graham will teach lower school music. He is a very talented musician and we look forward to having him help Dr. Page continue to do wonderful things with our Sacred Music program. Ginger Duncan will be our second art teacher. Ginger, a former art teacher, has two children in Montessori and is excited to teach her passion at Sacred Heart.

c) **Paladin Program** On Monday, August 21, 2017, Gannon Hyland accepted an offer to become the facilities and grounds director for the entire Parish complex. This is a new leadership position in the Parish with significant responsibility to the Parish and Academy for managing the stewardship of our physical resources. Gannon will still teach two classes, 8th grade literature and 9th grade humanities. Gannon has been an informal leader in our community since his arrival three years ago and we are very blessed to have him step into this formal leadership position. A portion of responsibilities will include leading the formation of our Paladins. As a result in this shift, Caleb Whitmer will teach CEC 11/12 Literature and Grammar and Composition classes and Melissa Grimm will teach Trivium.

2. **Orientation Night** Wednesday, August 30, 2017 is our annual orientation night. The evening will begin at 7 p.m. We are structuring the night differently this year. All 5th through 12th grade students will be directed to their homerooms upon arrival for the evening. All parents and Montessori through 4th grade students will begin the evening in the Parish Hall in the church basement.

### 3. **Rapidly Approaching Events**

**September 13, 2017** - Many of you have attended the Fatima events we have hosted in honor of the centennial anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima, Portugal in 1917. We make a special request that you mark your calendars for the next event on September 13, when we will share the evening with Bishop David Walkowiak. Father Sirico is specifically reserving the front pews for all students and would like as many of them to attend in their uniforms as are able.

**September 29, 2017** – Parish & Academy Auction. If you have not secured your tickets, you will want to do so soon. If you cannot join us this year, you might consider participating in the pre-event raffle. From the attached flyer, you will see that we are raffling off a \$5,000 tuition voucher for the 2018-19 school year at the auction. You need not be present to win. Only 200 tickets will be sold.

4. **Parish Formation Schedule** After much prayer and discernment, we have restructured our Parish Family night programs. We will no longer have a Parish dinner on

Wednesday nights. Sacrament formation for Confirmation and First Communion will still take place on Wednesdays along with other adult formation opportunities. Also, on Sunday, September 17, 2017, we will begin our Lord's Day Celebrations. These will occur monthly and be a special time for families to gather together in joy to celebrate the Lord's Day with a potluck and Vespers. Please pay attention to Parish bulletins and Academy newsletters for details.

**5. Partners in Formation** There have been questions about this program. The entire explanation of the program is included in the revised handbook. Here are some clarifications we have shared this summer. The list from the summer mailing is just the Academy's initial commitment for the coming year. We will be filling out that list and adding opportunities as they arise throughout the year. Already we know that there will be at least three Authenticum lectures at the parish (first Thursday evening of every month) which will qualify for credit; our spring Day for Catechists, which would cover an entire semester's worth of hours; and age/subject specific sessions put on by teachers specifically for parents of their students. You are also free to split the attendance. The goal is to have each family, rather than each parent, attend three hours of formation per semester. Additional opportunities will be highlighted in the weekly newsletter once we have all the details.

**6. Handbook Changes** There are several handbook changes. A new printed version will be available at Orientation and an electronic copy will be available on the website.

**7. Summer Schedule** We will discuss the summer schedule more at Orientation. We are conducting a survey to get some feedback on offerings you would like to see. Paper copies of the survey will be available at Orientation and a link for the online version will be sent via newsletter.

Enclosed with this letter are many forms and other important information. Please bring completed forms with you to Orientation.

*Duc in altum!*

Sean Maltbie  
Headmaster

Enclosures

1. VIRTUS opt-out form for 2017-18
2. PTC Volunteer Information
3. Hot Lunch Letter and Order Form
4. Auction raffle ticket flyer
5. Media Release form
6. Pesticide Advisory form
7. Family Info Update form - Fill out only if you have changes from last year
8. Seating at Mass chart
9. Updated calendar

10. Remind app update flyer
11. Concussion awareness form (for new students only)
12. Acceptable Use of Media form (for new students only)