



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ST. JOSEPH
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www.sjsd.k12.mo.us



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Superintendent of Schools

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August 6, 2010

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Teachers, principals, administrators, staff, and I are eager to welcome your children and youth back to school. This is the second year we have started school earlier. A couple of years ago we heard from parents and students that completing the semester in January was causing students to work on projects and test preparation during the Christmas holiday. By starting school earlier, the semester is now complete when we leave for our winter break. In addition, starting earlier provided extra days for instruction prior to the MAP, your child's high stakes, mandated test that is taken in April. We realize August in Missouri is hot, as are June and July. We will continue to monitor weather and make sound decisions regarding your child's needs. Our goals and plans are always to provide a safe, secure learning environment. Resources and curricula are in place that will challenge your student to grow academically while engaging in rich learning experiences. Opportunities await us for 2010-2011.

No Child Left Behind: Enclosed you will find a letter informing you about the St. Joseph School District's assessment results in communication arts and mathematics. Please take time to read this very important information. Also, if you have questions please contact your building principal or call my office.

Parent Information: Each year you will find information about attendance procedures, dress code, and transportation as well as expectations for student behavior in the student handbook you will receive from your building principal. I also encourage you to read about the Family Educational Right to Privacy Act and Pupil Right to Privacy Amendment (PRPA is referenced as Board Policy JHDA in the Handbook), both of which deal with your right to privacy, certain information concerning your student, and alerts to student surveys. Furthermore, your school may publish a student directory (a public document listing parent name, student name, date of birth, address, and phone number). If you wish to opt out of the directory, please contact your principal in writing as soon as possible. Also as a reminder, the District is committed to maintaining accessible facilities. If you need special accommodations to attend an event, please work closely with your building principal.

As in the past two years, the District will continue to utilize ALERTNOW throughout the school year to make you aware of inclement weather decisions as well as to notify you about school events. To that end, please assist us by making sure telephone contact information with ALERTNOW is up-to-date when school begins. Please make sure your ALERTNOW notification number is a personal phone number (home or cell) rather than a work number.

The St. Joseph School District – Educating each child for success



The Northside Community Center Clinic (NCCC), an extension of Health Express services, is available for pediatric care and is located behind Lindbergh Elementary School. The clinic is staffed by a paramedic and a pediatric nurse practitioner. Be aware the appointment line is available 24 hours a day at 816.671.4897; however, children are seen by appointment only. We hope this service will be beneficial to your family.



What an exciting spring we had as the community and the school district gathered together to collaborate on the future of our great school district! The PACT (Planning a Course Together) community engagement sessions for long-range planning have provided valuable input from patrons. If you have participated in PACT meetings, thank you! If you haven't been able to attend, I invite you to view all of the presentations from March, April, May, and June at www.PACTforSJSD.com. Also, **SAVE THE DATE for September 21**, 2010, 6-8 PM at Central High School gymnasium for the **Back to PACT** session featuring Dr. Franklin Hill, an internationally recognized leader in educational change and building design. We need your input and ideas! John Dewey said, "What the best and wisest parent wants for his own child, that must the community want for all its children."

Many organizations work closely with us as partners, but two have the SJSD as their single priority. Your St. Joseph School District Foundation supports your child by supporting teachers and students with scholarships as well as by sponsoring numerous activities and awards. If you have questions about the Foundation, please call 816.671.4117. In addition, your school's Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) provides numerous hours of volunteering. Check out PTA websites at <http://www.pta.org/> or www.stjoeppta.org. There are many ways to get involved in your local school. Watch for events and activities held at your child's schools. A strong partnership with your child's school will enhance his or her success this year.

Again, we look forward to working closely with you this year. Our SJSD website provides a wealth of information and has frequent updates. www.sjsd.k12.mo.us.

Sincerely,

Melody A. Smith, EdD
Superintendent of Schools