

June 21, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope you are enjoying your summer break with your family. As the details of concluding this year are being orchestrated, the preparations for next school year are already taking place. Our enrollment is very encouraging for the 2011-2012 school year. I thank you for all of your efforts in spreading the good news about Catholic Education at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Education Center.

Since the spring of 2010, the work of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Curriculum Committees have followed the direction of the ICLE (International Center For Leadership in Education), CCSSO (Council of Chief State School Officers), the NGA (National Governors Association), and the work of teachers, school administrators, and curriculum experts to reform our current guidelines and curriculum standards. The first two content areas, English Language Arts (going forward will be referred to as ELA) and Mathematics, will be ready for implementation for the 2011-2012 school year.

The work of the Common Core Initiative defines the rigorous skills and knowledge in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics that need to be effectively taught and learned for students to be ready to succeed academically in credit-bearing, college entry courses and in the workforce training programs.

These standards have been developed to be:

- ❖ Fewer, clearer and higher to best drive effective policy and practice;
- ❖ Aligned with college and work expectations, so that all students are prepared for success upon graduating from high school;
- ❖ Inclusive of rigorous content and applications of knowledge through higher-order skills so that all students are prepared for the 21<sup>st</sup> century;
- ❖ Internationally benchmarked, so that all students are prepared for succeeding on our global economy and society; and
- ❖ Research and evidence based.

The members of the Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Leadership Team and I have attended a series of meetings and the faculty has devoted their June Professional Development Day to the implementation of the Common Core State Standards for the fall. Future Archdiocesan Professional Development opportunities have been included in the Tentative Calendar for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Along with the implementation of the Common Core State Standards, the Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Education Center will now have Departmentalized Instruction. Students in grades 2 through 4 and 5 through 8 will receive daily instruction from several different teachers as each teacher specializes in a single subject. All Homeroom teachers will instruct their students in the area of Religion and the Vocabulary portion of English Language Arts (ELA). Homeroom teachers in grades 2 through 4 will also instruct their students in the area of Lab Learner Science. The subjects of World Language and Music will be situated in the Modular classrooms for all students. For clarity and reference please see the chart on the back.

May I ask you to join with me in extending a warm “BTC Welcome” to our newest colleagues along with a prayer of thanksgiving for the many blessings that we have received. Our new 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher is Miss Sarah Smith. Miss Smith comes to us from St. Margaret’s School in Reading and has also taught at St. Mary Cathedral School in Miami, Florida. Mrs. Casey Mower is our new 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. Mrs. Mower has taught at The Epiphany of Our Lord in Plymouth Meeting and Our Lady of Lourdes School in Philadelphia. Mrs. Jill Casey our Kindergarten Aide and Long-Term Substitute Teacher has also accepted the full-time Kindergarten position. Please know that a decision will be made in the near future for the areas of Music and Technology.

Our new Tentative Roster of Faculty and Staff for the 2011-2012 school year is as follows:

Title/Grade	Administration/Faculty	Departmental Subject
Principal	Mrs. Joan Rook	
Administrative Assistant	Mrs. Colleen Skelton	
Tuition Officer	Mrs. Kathy Rusek	
Lunch Program Coordinator	Mrs. Peggy Yerger	
Building Facilitator	Mr. James Maiale	
Asst. Facilitator	Mr. George Quinter	
PreK-4	Mrs. Elaine Loughnane	
Kindergarten	Mrs. Karen Harbison	
Kindergarten	Mrs. Jill Casey	
Grade 1	Mrs. Jill Richards	
Grade 1	Miss Sarah Smith	
Grade 2	Mrs. Christine Petrella	Math Grades 2-4
Grade 3	Mrs. Nancy Harding	Social Studies Grades 2-4
Grade 4	Mrs. Maria Leidy	Language Arts Grades 2-4
Grade 5	Mrs. Jane Merritt	Math Grades 5-8
Grade 6	Mrs. Michele Gittings	English Lang. Arts Grades 5-8
Grade 7	Mrs. Kathleen Kulp	Social Studies Grades 5-8
Grade 8	Mrs. Casey Mower	Science Grades 5-8
Art/Phys. Ed	Mrs. Catherine Carpenter	Grades K-8
Library	Mrs. Tracey Iezzi	Grades K-8
World Language	Mrs. Dorothy Carbonaro	Spanish K-6 and French 7-8
Technology	TBA	Grades K-8
Music	TBA	Grades PreK-8

Thank you for entrusting your children to our care and making their Catholic Education a priority. Their education and faith formation are priorities that we share.

Sincerely,



Joan M. Rook

*“Each time anyone comes into contact with us, they must become different and better people because of having met us. We must radiate God’s love.”*

*Mother Teresa*