

Welcome Back!

Dear Parents,

In a few more weeks, school will re-open. The teachers and administrators have been working hard to prepare for a school year that will help your son continue his growth into a caring, competent, and committed adult. You also have an important role in helping your son get ready. The check list at the end of this newsletter outlines steps you can take to get the new year off to a great start.

Students will report for a half-day orientation to receive books, schedules, lockers, and other materials as follows:

Freshmen – Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 8:20
Sophomores – Thursday, Sept. 10 at 8:20
Juniors – Friday, Sept. 11 at 8:20
Seniors – Friday, Sept. 11 at 9:50

Students must come dressed according to school regulations, printed below. Students may wear the official school summer shirts from opening day until the weather turns cooler, date TBA. (These shirts are available in the cafeteria each morning for \$20 each or two for \$35).

Students will gather in the cafeteria and will be sent to Marist Hall for an assembly. The assemblies begin *promptly* at 8:30 (10:00 for seniors). Students not seated in Marist Hall when the assembly begins will be marked late for the day. Be sure to plan plenty of time to travel to school. Freshmen and sophomores should be done for the day at about 12:00.

On Monday, September 14, all students report at 8:10 AM for a full day of classes. Students must be in the building no later than 8:10 and wait in the cafeteria until they are sent upstairs to class. The opening weeks of class are vital – they set a student on the road to success by learning the core skills needed in each subject, and they establish habits of organization and diligence that will serve them well for the rest of the year. It's much easier to begin with energy and enthusiasm than to turn around poor grades later in the year. *It's never too late to learn – and it's never too early, either!*

Thank you for entrusting your son's education to Saint Agnes Boys High School.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Conte, Principal

A Tradition of Excellence Last June's graduates set a high standard of excellence for all who follow them:

- 100% are attending college
- 51% won college scholarships

Medical Forms All freshmen and any students new to the school must have their doctor complete the medical form they received from the school. Students cannot attend school unless this form is on file. In case you haven't already taken care of this, I am enclosing another copy of the form for all incoming freshmen.

Textbooks On opening day, students will receive hardbound books on loan from New York State. Each student must print his name in each book and is responsible to return the same book in good condition at the end of the term. A student must pay the full replacement price for any book he does not return in good condition.

The State doesn't provide religion books or workbooks that students will write in. The school provides these books by charging a \$75 book fee on your tuition statement. This eliminates the need for students to carry cash or checks to a book sale on opening day.

We ask parents to make sure their sons have written their name in the front of all textbooks and notebooks so that they can be identified if lost. Students should speak to Ms. Breslin after school to claim lost textbooks.



MetroCards The city issues free MetroCards to city residents who live at least 1.5 miles from school and half-fare bus cards for those who live between 0.5 and 1.5 miles from school. We will issue these cards as soon as we receive them from the city. These cards are only for transportation to and from school. Lost cards take up to two weeks to replace, so please encourage your son to be careful not to lose his MetroCard.

Lockers and Locks At orientation, each student will be assigned a locker. Freshmen will be given a school-issued blue lock. Sophomores and juniors will be given the combination to the built-in locks on their lockers. Seniors should bring the locks they already received from the school, either the blue locks from freshman year or the red locks they received for gym

classes. Seniors can purchase a replacement lock from Mr. Conte for \$5.00 in Room 101.

Students are not permitted to share lockers and must not give their locker combination to anyone else.

Gym Uniforms Freshmen, sophomores and juniors will be given a school gym uniform during their first gym class. They are scheduled for gym on all days either in the fall or the spring semester. Students needing *additional* gym clothing may purchase it in gym class. Shirts are \$10 and shorts are \$15. There is no charge for the *first* gym uniform.

Tuition Parents receive a reminder from Tuition Management Systems (TMS) each month. Payments are due to TMS by the tenth of each month, from August through May. On-time payment of tuition is necessary so the school can pay its teachers and meet its other financial obligations on time. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Dress and Grooming Code The following excerpt from the Student-Parent Handbook will help parents and student prepare for the opening day of school. Students are required to follow these regulations beginning September 9.

5.5 Dress Code

Students must be in full compliance with the dress code during the school day, when entering and when leaving the school building. No changing of clothes or shoes is to be done in school except for physical education class.

Regardless of weather conditions, students must leave coats, jackets, sneakers, gloves and hats in the locker during the school day. No student may enter a classroom with these items at anytime during the school day. Students should insure the safety of these items by keeping their lockers locked at all times with a school-issued combination lock.

All clothing must be clean, neat and pressed. It is strongly suggested that students not wear expensive designer-type clothing, jackets or shoes. Lost or stolen items are not the responsibility of the school. Students must dress for school according to the following requirements. Failure to comply is grounds for disciplinary sanctions, including expulsion:

- A dress tie must be worn. Western-style string ties or bow ties are not acceptable.

- Students must wear a long- or short-sleeved solid white dress shirt with buttons from the neck to the waist and that has a collar. Shirts must be clean, pressed, tucked inside slacks, and completely buttoned. Flannel shirts are not acceptable.
- Shoes are to be solid black dress shoes that are capable of being polished. No colored piping or two-tone shoes are allowed.
- Socks are a required part of the dress code.
- Dress pants or slacks must be worn in a businesslike manner, with a belt. Pants must be worn at the waist. No pants with outside pockets are allowed. No denim or jeans whatsoever, regardless of color, are permitted. Corduroy dress slacks are permitted if they conform to all other guidelines.
- The only sweaters allowed to be worn are V-neck sweaters sold in the cafeteria before school. No denim, leather jackets, vests or sweatshirts of any style may be worn in school.
- Hats may never be worn in the school building.
- Students cannot wear long-sleeved shirts under the school dress shirt or school summer shirts.

Students are required to be neat and clean in appearance. Shirts, pants and ties are to be worn in a correct, businesslike manner.

Beards are not permitted. Students may have a small, neatly trimmed mustache. Sideburns may not extend below the bottom of the earlobe. Students are not permitted to dye their hair in any color that will draw attention to their person. Ponytails are not permitted. The length of hair is not to exceed the top of the shirt collar or the bottom of the ear lobe, even if braided. Hair must not protrude from the scalp by more than two inches. Extremes in grooming are not permitted, such as, but not limited to: Mohawks, designs cut into the hair, etc. The determination of what is extreme will be made at the sole discretion of the assistant principal for students. Students not complying with the above regulations will be sent home.

Earrings or studs are not allowed. Visible piercing of any type is not permitted.

Student-Parent Handbook Students will receive a copy of the Student-Parent Handbook during the opening week of school. Every student and his parents or guardians are required to sign the agreement form at the front of the handbook, detach it, and have their son return it to his homeroom teacher on **Monday, September 14**. No student will be allowed to remain in school unless this signed form is on file. The handbook includes a detailed school calendar and information on academics, discipline, finances, and other practical matters. Please keep the handbook where you can easily refer to it throughout the school year.



Office Hours The school office is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 AM to 12:00 NOON during the summer. Beginning September 8, regular office hours resume, from 7:30

AM to 3:30 PM on school days.

Soccer Team Tryouts Students interested in soccer will meet in front of the school at 11:00 AM on Wednesday September 2nd. Students must have their medical forms on file to participate.



Free and Reduced Lunch Program St. Agnes will continue to participate in the free and reduced lunch program. Applications will be mailed the last week in August. Please be sure to have your son return the form to his homeroom teacher on Monday, September 14.

These application forms are also used to determine other forms of government assistance to schools. For example, the school receives internet service at a reduced rate, depending on how many students qualify for the free or reduced lunch programs. Taking a few minutes to complete the lunch program application will help your son in more ways than just lunch! Thanks.

Homework on the Web Our teachers regularly post their homework assignments for the week on our website by mid-day on Mondays. Parents can monitor their son's work and students who are absent can keep up with their school work by checking the web posting. Visit our website www.staghs.org and click on Homework.

Required Summer Reading Students and parents were informed of the summer reading requirement last June. I remind you that all students were required to read the assigned books listed below during the summer. Students will be assessed on their summer reading by their English teachers in the opening weeks of school.

Students Entering Grade 9

Fallen Angels – Walter Dean Myers

Of Mice and Men – John Steinbeck

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime

– Mark Haddon

Students Entering Grade 10

This Boy's Life – Tobias Wolff

Into the Wild – John Krakauer

Animal Farm – George Orwell

Students Entering Grade 11

Maggie, a Girl of the Streets – Stephen Crane

A Raisin in the Sun – Lorraine Hansberry

The Catcher in the Rye – J.D. Salinger

Students Entering Grade 12

Gulliver's Travels – Jonathan Swift

Heart of Darkness – Joseph Conrad

*A person who won't read
has no advantage
over one who can't read.*

-Mark Twain

CHECKLIST

FOR A

SUCCESSFUL START

In August

- ✓ Does school clothing still fit? replaced if necessary? clean and ready for use?
- ✓ Hair cut and groomed properly?
- ✓ Summer reading assignments completed?
- ✓ Tuition due August 10 paid?
- ✓ Have you notified the school of any change in address, home or work telephone numbers?
- ✓ Freshmen and transfer students must mail in their medical form, completed by a doctor, before school opens.

On Opening Day

- ✓ Freshmen: Weds, Sept 9 at 8:20.
- ✓ Sophs: Thursday, Sept 10 at 8:20
- ✓ Juniors: Friday, Sept 11 at 8:20
- ✓ Seniors: Friday, Sept 11 at 9:50

On September 14

- ✓ Handbook Agreement signed and returned in homeroom on Monday, September 14.
- ✓ Free and Reduced Lunch Application completed and returned in homeroom on Monday, September 14
- ✓ Has your son put his name in all of his textbooks?
- ✓ Remember to bring the schedule and locker combination on the first full day of classes, Monday, September 14
- ✓ Parents can check homework assignments on our website www.staghs.org