

August 5, 2010

Dear St. Andrew's Episcopal School Parents,

Greetings from St. Andrew's, and welcome back! It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you and your children to the 2010-2011 school year at St. Andrew's. The year promises to be an exciting and productive one together.

Exactly one year ago today, I wrote you a six-page introductory letter filled with updates on new faculty and staff, facilities renovations, a new lunch program, a new website, and much more. I promised you then that future letters would not encompass six pages; this year's is down to four, a 33% improvement.

Further improvement, we believe, is our decision not to mail this packet by hard copy. By communicating primarily via e-mail, the School saves paper and postage, and we all reduce waste. If you would like a hard copy of any of these contents, simply call the School Office.

I will begin with a few housekeeping items as well as a list of key upcoming events.

### **Health Forms**

Students may not enroll on August 17 unless all health forms and applicable immunization records have been submitted to the School Office. If you have not already submitted your child's forms, please do so prior to August 17.

### **School Supplies and Dress Code**

If you have not already, please be sure to review your child's class-specific Supply List and plan to have all items in hand by August 17. The Supply Lists may be found on the homepage of our website, [www.standrewsepicopalschool.org](http://www.standrewsepicopalschool.org).

The School Dress Code for 2010-2011 is similar to prior years with three exceptions, which are explained in detail in the 2010-2011 Customary (available for pick-up at the August 20 Parent Orientation). Here is a brief summary of the changes:

1. Students are no longer required to wear belts, even if their shorts or pants have belt loops.
2. Before entering the Church for any occasion (Morning Exercises, Chapel, Assemblies), all student shirt tails should be tucked in. Since we begin each day in the Church for Morning Exercises, all shirt tails must be tucked in by the 8:00 a.m. morning bell. This will be a particular point of emphasis for our students in Grades 1-8.
3. Each child must purchase a collared St. Andrew's Spirit Shirt, in either red or white and in either short or long sleeves, through Rhedhouse.com (go to the School homepage, then click Giving, then Spirit Items for a direct link to the St. Andrew's site). These shirts should be worn on designated Spirit Days throughout the school year as well as on any official School field trip. When ordering the shirts, please refer to the online sizing chart or speak directly with an agent.

## **Drop-Off and Pick-Up**

Drop-off and pick-up for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten is at the Short Street gate near Zimpel Street. The car pool line forms along the School side of Short Street. Please do not leave your vehicle unattended at the carpool line there in the morning, at noon, or at the end of the day. We encourage families to walk their children to the Short Street gate by parking in the neighborhood and escorting your child to the School gate. As in past years, we will have a police officer on duty in the afternoons to assist with pick-up.

Drop-off and pick-up for Grades 1 through 8 is on Zimpel Street at the entrance to Parish Hall. This is also a carpool line, so please do not park along Zimpel Street in the mornings or afternoons. Please do not drive northbound on Short Street or turn left onto Short Street from Zimpel Street, as this causes congestion for the PK and K families.

The school day begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. with Morning Exercises in the Church. Student punctuality is essential to success at St. Andrew's. Please make every effort to have your child inside School gates in time for the 8:00 a.m. service. Faculty are present at both the Zimpel Street and Short Street entrances beginning at 7:30 a.m. each morning.

If your child arrives past 8:00 a.m., please escort him or her directly to the School Office at 1116 Short Street to receive his or her tardy slip.

## **Upcoming Events**

Tues.	Aug. 17	Classes 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon. (Noon dismissal for all students; no lunch or After School Care; half of PK class attends)
Wed.	Aug. 18	Regular School Schedule (After School Care Begins; other half of PK class attends half day)
Thur.	Aug. 19	Extended Day Begins for PK
Fri.	Aug. 20	Parents' Coffee 7:45 A.M., Parent Orientation 8:15 A.M. (Pick up your copy of the <i>CUSTOMARY</i> )
Sun.	Aug. 22	2:00 P.M. Ice Cream Social
Fri.	Sept. 3	Faculty Retreat (No classes for students)
Mon.	Sept. 6	Labor Day (No classes for students)
Wed.	Sept. 8	7:00 P.M. Newcomers' Party
Thur.	Sept. 23	Noon Dismissal (No After School Care) 6:15 P.M. Parents' Night
Sun.	Sept. 26	Episcopal School Sunday (Students Required to Attend)

## **Faculty and Staff**

In May and in July, I introduced you to the six new faculty and staff members who join us for the 2010-2011 school year. I want to reiterate how fortunate we are to have such a fine cadre of educators choose to be part of our community. Please join me in welcoming the following new faculty and staff.

**Bob Graves** will serve as the School's new 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Teacher. Mr. Graves has been an excellent substitute teacher for St. Andrew's for the past year, and he has several years of teaching experience in the Louisiana, Vermont, and New Hampshire public school systems. He holds a B.S. from the University of Tennessee and received his certification in Elementary Education through the Upper Valley Educators Institute.

**Rebecca Madura**, who ably served St. Andrew's as the Art Department Chair and Teacher from 1998 to 2007, returns to St. Andrew's in the same capacity. In addition, she will serve as the School's Communications Coordinator, responsible for website management and editing and producing the weekly Newsletter. In addition to her work at St. Andrew's, Mrs. Madura has served as the Visual and Fine Arts Instructor and Department Head at New Orleans Charter Science and Mathematics High School and as the Art Instructor and Department Chair at St. Andrew the Apostle School. Mrs. Madura holds a B.A. in Fine Art and Liberal Arts from the University of Texas at Austin.

**Carol Newman** will serve as the School's new Math Department Chair and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Advisor. Mrs. Newman has over thirty years of teaching and administrative experience, having served as a Math Teacher and Department Chair at the Andrews School in Ohio and as a Technology Administrator for Louise S. McGehee School here in New Orleans. Mrs. Newman holds a B.A., *Magna Cum Laude*, from Tulane University and a M.Ed. from John Carroll University. In addition to her administrative and advisory responsibilities, Mrs. Newman will teach math to Grades 6 through 8.

**Suzanne Scott** will serve as the School's new 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Lead Teacher. Mrs. Scott has over twelve years of classroom experience, having taught 4<sup>th</sup> Grade at St. Mary Magdalen School and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade at Memorial Baptist Christian School. In addition to her teaching experience, Mrs. Scott has conducted curriculum and textbook reviews for her prior schools. Mrs. Scott holds a B.S. in Elementary Education from Loyola University.

**Chris Sedgwick** will serve as the School's 5<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom teacher, offering instruction in language arts, social studies, and math. Mr. Sedgwick comes to St. Andrew's with seven years of middle school teaching experience, including two years of teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom and several years of experience as an Outward Bound and experiential outdoor instructor. Mr. Sedgwick holds a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Emory University in Atlanta and an M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Washington. In addition to his core teaching duties in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Mr. Sedgwick will work with Nancy Jaynes to continue to develop our School's community garden, and he will support the School's Athletic Program by coaching one or more sports.

**Natalie Treadway** is the School's new Development Coordinator. Mrs. Treadway has seven years of public relations, marketing, and event-management experience here in New Orleans. She has served as the Special Events and Promotions Coordinator for Harrah's New Orleans Casino and most recently as Operations Manager for BBC Destination Management. Mrs. Treadway holds a B.A. in Communications with a minor in Sociology from Loyola University. Mrs. Treadway's assumption of the majority of the School's fundraising and special events

responsibilities will allow **Lisa Witter** to serve in a new capacity, as Director of Admissions and Financial Aid.

Other faculty transitions include **Allan Woodard** serving as the School's new Dean of Student Life, History Department Chair, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher; **Nancy Jaynes** serving as the School's new English Department Chair and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher; **Dee Dee Estes** serving as the School's Chaplain and Counselor; **Blair Lanier** serving as the School's 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Assistant Teacher; and **Paige Hugg** (née Watson) continuing as a PK teacher but also assuming part-time duties of Advancement Assistant, working with Mrs. Witter and Mrs. Treadway in the Admissions and Development Offices.

### **Facilities**

You will notice many changes and improvements to campus as you return to campus this month. Grades 3 through 6 and Spanish now occupy the renovated second floor of Parish Hall. Grades 7, 8, Science, Admissions, and Development may be found in the renovated second floor of Kimball Hall. The Business Office and the Faculty Room have moved to the main School Office. Given current and projected student enrollment, this new configuration will provide the School with a very good physical configuration for approximately two years, at which time we will need to conduct even more substantial renovations and/or engage in new construction.

### **Lunch**

After increasing the number of lunch program participants by nearly 100% from 2008-2009 to 2009-2010, the School is again contracting with Lakeview Deli and Catering to provide delicious and nutritious lunch options for our children and faculty. For \$5 per meal, you may register your child for a daily hot and cold lunch selection, including a salad and fruit bar and milk or water. Please see the attached flier for more information, including instructions on how to register your child by the August 13 deadline.

I wish to end with a word of optimism and excitement for the upcoming school year. As of today, the School's enrollment stands at 166 students, 24 more than 2009-2010. Over 94% of last year's student body returns this year (the national average for independent day schools is 88%). We have a first-rate faculty and staff, renovated facilities, and a new and growing Middle School program (now including Grades 5-8). We continue to boast, I believe, the most intimate and nurturing educational option for boys and girls in the New Orleans area. Our PK-Grade 8 academic program, which cherishes "the Decade of Childhood", prepares our graduates for high school, college, and beyond. We are, in a word, blessed.

I look forward to seeing you and your children on August 17.

Yours,

Mason Lecky  
Head of School