

Greetings QCA Families:

In spite of the excessive heatwave, it was a terrific first week. The teachers and kids plowed through without complaint and everyone passed the first tough lesson of the year the “Art of Perseverance” with a solid “A”!!

And although we reluctantly bid farewell to the laid-back, easy style of the summer, there is a part of us that welcomes the structure of the school year. The children may resist putting away their summer clothes and bathing suits, and yet, deep down, there is an excitement, even a comfort, in putting on their school uniforms. Thus is the rhythm of life. We rest in that which is comfortable and familiar while we, at least on some level, are energized by the idea of change. Ultimately, change leads to growth. And constant growth is both necessary and life-giving.

God willing, this will be a positive year of growth for all of us. With our top-notch veteran staff and an enthusiastic group of new faculty members, we are bound to motivated and inspired by their gifts of optimism and zeal. I pray that each child will grow academically and socially this year as they learn more about themselves and each other and more about the world in which we live. I hope, too, that each family grows this year, always learning to be compassionate and supportive of one another. Strong families provide a solid foundation for a community. Be sure to make good choices for you and your family; to spend more time together, to prioritize your demands, to grow as a team with common goals.

And, finally, I pray for all of us to grow spiritually this year. I hope that our efforts here at school will reinforce your efforts at home to further embrace the Gospel truths and to come to know Jesus Christ in a more personal and life-giving way. On the contrary, the journey continues as we strive to know, follow and praise the One who gives our lives purpose, meaning and direction...the God of today, tomorrow and forever.

Welcome back and God bless you all!

Paul Kelly
Principal



Note: I will continue to send a weekly Newsletter to QCA Families every Friday afternoon. I hope that this correspondence will be helpful to keep us connected throughout the year, as we share good news that has happened during the week and look ahead to the activities and events that are coming up soon.

I thank you, in advance, for taking the time to read these Newsletters, so that we remain connected and so that everyone is “in the loop”! I will be as succinct as possible, although some weeks, like this first one, will be heavy with information. Again, thank you for taking the time to read and digest the information. Here are some timely updates:

- **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- *Thursday, September 14 - All-School Liturgy – at 1:00 ~ All are most welcome to join us for the Liturgy at the church*
- *Thursday, September 21 - Back-To-School Night – from 6:00-7:30 pm*
 - Please join us for a General Meeting beginning at 6:00 in the Gym/Auditorium. This will be an opportunity for me to share some of our goals and plans for the upcoming year.
 - Following the general meeting, parents are invited to visit with their child’s classroom teacher to learn more about the curriculum and academic highlights that are planned for this upcoming year
 - The Specialist teachers will be on hand as well, if you care to have a quick visit (Phys. Ed, Music, Art, Computers)
 - The evening will wrap up no later than 7:30 pm
 - We hope to see you there!
- *Friday, September 22 –Dress Down Day ~ \$1.00 to participate. More details to follow!*

RENWEB Emergency Alert - Assuming we have your correct cell phone numbers, you should have received an “Instant Alert Testing” text from our Alert System sometime on Friday. If you do not, then we probably do not have your correct cell phone number. If this is the case, please contact me at paul.kelly@quincycatholicacademy.org or call the main office.

MUSIC MUSIC MUSIC - QCA is pleased to continue to offer some exceptional **Music Opportunities**. If your child has an interest in music or a hidden talent waiting to be untapped, please consider any of the following opportunities:

- Piano Lessons – **See attachment** from Piano Playtime for Registration Information
 - *Piano Lessons will begin on Monday afternoons, but if there is enough interest, we may offer additional lessons on Thursday afternoons*
- Instrument & BAND Lessons – **See attachment** from Effman Music Co.
 - *A hard copy Registration Form was also sent home with students*
- School Musical Production – More information to come!
- School Liturgy Choir (grade 3-8) – We rehearse every Wednesday afternoon from 2:15-3:00.



AFTER-SCHOOL/EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM:

Hello QCA Families! We are looking forward to a great year at **Extended Day!** The program will begin on Monday, September 11, 2023. The hours are 2:00-6:00 for preschool and K1 and 2:15-6:00 for K2 through Grade 8. On half days the program ends at 2:30.

This year each family will receive a student number that will be used to manually clock out your child/children from the program. If you do not clock out you will be billed for the entire day. Billing is by the hour. Please plan accordingly. **Any family arriving after 6:00 on full days or 2:30 on half days will be billed one dollar per minute.**

We kindly ask that all families send students with a snack and water. These items will not be provided by the school.

Extended Day is a great way for your child to have some time with friends in a relaxed environment after school. The typical schedule for the students is as follows: snack and free time, homework (staff can provide assistance), activity time (gym, playground, school yard, etc). Any questions, please reach out: tracy.rixham@quincycatholicacademy.org

Thank you,
Tracy Rixham
Director, Extended Day

FUNDRAISING:

All families signed a financial commitment paper. If you signed up for fundraising, our first fundraising project begins today. Meadow Farms order forms are going home today. Only families who signed up for the fundraising option will receive a package (1 per family), but any family is welcome to participate. Just let us know if you would like a package!

Please note that **50% of order total from Meadow Farms is credited to a family's fundraising commitment.** **All orders are due by September 25th**

PARENTWEB PORTAL ON RENWEB:

Our student information system, RenWeb, has a ParentWeb portal. This portal posts important dates, homework (for classrooms of older grades) and much more. **The directions for setting up an account are attached.**

NUT-FREE SCHOOL:

The students of Quincy Catholic Academy are aware and sensitive to the serious medical conditions of some of their classmates with allergies. NO nut products or by-products are allowed at QCA. Thank you!

DROP OFF AND PICKUP:

We are so grateful to all our families for cooperating so effectively with our drop off and pickup procedures. All the planning in the world would not work unless our families cooperate. Your patience

and support are vital to our success...thank you so much! Please remember... **NO drop off in front of the school or schoolyard.** Please drive around and drop students off at the drop off area. This is MUCH safer! Anyone crossing Glover Ave MUST cross at the crossing walk. We are blessed to have a crossing guard here this year for everyone's increased safety.

If you happen to arrive after 7:45 a.m. for K2-Grade 8 or after 8:15 a.m. for the Early Childhood, please go to the front main door for admittance.



IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM MRS. SEARS:

Greetings to new families and welcome back to those of you returning! If you don't know me yet, I am QCA's school counselor and I am excited to start another year with your child(ren). Over the past several years, we have covered a number of important topics such as integrity, respect, gratitude, self-control, friendship, grit, empathy/compassion, communication, choices, healthy coping skills, compromise, and commitment. This is more than just a social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum; rather they are central values that are practiced on the playground, part of morning prayer and assemblies, and taught within and across all subjects. It does take a village to raise a child.

This year, our character development will be seen through the **"ABC's of SEL"**, going through the alphabet covering topics such as identifying and managing emotions (especially the more difficult ones), conflict resolution, embracing diversity, and building a growth mindset.

In case you were wondering...what else does a school counselor do besides teach SEL?

- 1) I create space at school where students feel safe
- 2) I help students find strategies to be more successful
- 3) I help students solve their problems
- 4) I support teachers
- 5) I assist parents and outside providers

Something on your mind? Please feel free to contact me at stephanie.sears@quincycatholicacademy.org and x101 through the school phone. I look forward to seeing you at back-to-school night on September 21. My room is next to our nurse Mrs. Sterling's office on the top floor.

Gratefully,
Mrs. Sears



Attachments:

- Piano Playtime/Piano Lessons Registration Form
- Instrument & BAND Information Sheet
- Instrument Lessons and BAND Registration Form
- Renweb Parent Access Instructions