



ST. EDMUND'S ACADEMY
WILLIAM L. KINDLER, PH.D · HEAD OF SCHOOL

KEEPING IN TOUCH

June 18, 2009

Dear Parents,

I extend greetings from a very different St. Edmund's Academy where a summer routine is slowly but steadily taking shape. The hustle and bustle of daily humanity during the school year has diminished to summer camp, basic operations, and intensive finalizing of projects and tasks for the 2009-2010 school year which begins on Tuesday, September 1. The School's operation calendar was included with your contract mailed in February. St. Edmund's Academy starting day is the week prior to Labor Day. This is in keeping with the other independent schools in the Pittsburgh Consortium of Independent Schools (PCIS) and their yearly calendar. Consortium members are increasingly attempting to coordinate school calendars and events at the request of families with children in more than one member school. The number of families in this category has increased over the past several years.

This is the first of six communications I will be sending throughout the summer. Each will focus on a specific area of the St. Edmund's Academy experience that I want to share with you as we continue in our partnership on behalf of your child(ren) and all the children we serve.

One of the highest level priority undertakings this summer is to implement an effective communication program for the 2009-2010 school year with special emphasis on improved, well-coordinated, and timely parent communication. An Administration Task Force on Communication, comprised of administrators and parents representing each of the three divisions (PreK and K, grades 1-4, and grades 5-8), will review each communication format (website, email, newsletters, and school related notices) and determine what works and what does not work. Revisions in each format will be made, resulting in the Parent Communication Program for 2009-2010. A selected number of parents in each division will receive the program to review and for feedback before it becomes official. If you would like to be one of the program reviewers, please let me know. Our genuine effort is to become ever more effective in our communication with you, recognizing that we will not satisfy all. Task Force members and others will serve as "sounding board" advisors throughout the 2009-2010 school year.

On July 1, my communication will highlight the changes in place for the 2009-2010 school year. These changes will strengthen the organization's efficiency and effectiveness of administering our curriculum, upgrade the teaching and learning opportunities in the sciences and mathematics, improve our assessment of children's accomplishments and needs in the school setting, and integrate better non-academic education (core values, character development, social relations) with the nine academic programs (English, mathematics, science, social studies, foreign language, performing arts, visual arts, physical education/sports, computer technology). Our definition of curriculum remains, everything that happens to a student under the auspices of St. Edmund's Academy.

In closing, I thank you for your partnership and support and am so eager to sustain wholesome, sound communication with you as we continue our journey together in support of St. Edmund's Academy's mission and the programs and services that support the precious children we serve.

Sincerely,

William Kindler