



ST. EDMUND'S ACADEMY

WILLIAM L. KINDLER, PH.D · HEAD OF SCHOOL

KEEPING IN TOUCH

July 15, 2008

Greetings to the St. Edmund's Academy Community,

Traditionally, July 15 is the mid-point of the summer from the last day of the previous school year to the first day of new one. This has always been my time to assess completion of year-end tasks and to take stock of the long "to do" list in preparation for opening day.

I am pleased to report the school is humming with:

routine summer maintenance activities,
facilities face lifting projects,
classroom changes to enhance student learning,
interviews for remaining employee openings,
implementation of new technology support systems, which do not usually go as marketed and planned,
review and revision to operating manuals, administrative policies and procedures, and
finalization of curriculum changes for enhancing student performance and success.

We are also setting goals for the school year. The Board of Trustees met in a special session on June 19 to discuss and draft the governance goals. The administration is now engaged in preparing operational goals in support of the governance goals, and in preparing specific, measureable objectives for assessing the effect of curriculum changes and adjustments on the educational growth and development of our students. Curriculum is defined as all student experiences resulting from the opportunities provided under the School's auspices.

During the first week of August, parents will receive the annual packet of information and forms necessary for the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the school's daily operation. In addition, I will send a report to the Community on the curriculum changes implemented for 2008-09. These will be specific using the journalistic format of: who, what, where, why, and how.

An umbrella undertaking this year resulting from discussion at the Board of Trustees special session relates to St. Edmund's Academy's culture, climate, and sense of community. With a focus on the School's climate, NAIS has identified ten essential dimensions, which have great impact on understanding current strengths, weaknesses, and needs in ways that, ultimately, improve the school socially, emotionally, ethically, and academically. In August, I will provide you with the ten dimensions and the major indicators.

When we measure the school climate in sound and comprehensive ways, we not only bring together the school community as a genuine learning community, we also explicitly recognize the social, emotional, civic, and ethical, as well as the cognitive and environmental dimensions of school life. I personally look forward to your participation in this process for all of the right reasons.

Now, please continue to enjoy summer's blessings, and build a great reserve of energy to devote to our wonderful institution entering its 61st year of continuous service to children.