

August 2011



She's the simple peasant girl they call Queen of Heaven. We extend our best wishes to all our families with a special welcome to our new students as we look forward to the start of the school year. In an age of information overload, as a Catholic school we are especially attentive in our instruction to strike a balance between human experience and understanding. We are mindful that knowledge and understanding are far more than the accumulation of information. In a Catholic school, members who share a common belief in Christian values are brought together for the common purpose of educating children in a Christ-filled environment. In choosing Catholic school for your children for the 2011-2012 school year at Immaculate Conception, you continue to provide them with a commitment to the Good News. The sacramental vitality of the Catholic faith is expressed as a normal part of the school day through prayer, the sacraments, Mass, and traditional Catholic devotions. We are committed to being aware in our planning and teaching that we meet our stated mission: to motivate students to acquire and use skills needed to be independent learners, critical thinkers, and creative problem solvers in a cooperative and supportive Catholic, family atmosphere. We want the experience students have with us this year to change their lives in ways that will last. We also want learning to be an experience that leaves students empowered to continue learning and equipped for success later in school and life. We continue to emphasize the importance of the Fine Arts and to provide extracurricular opportunities for our students. These opportunities aid our students in developing leadership, socialization skills, talents, and interests. We are called to love God and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. This simple, yet profound message is our call and the principle by which we nurture the lives of our children. Our school opening begins on Wednesday, September 7th for students in grades 5 to 8. There is no school on Wednesday for students in grades 1 to 4. Thursday, September 8th is the first day of school for students in grades 1 to 4. There is no school on Thursday for grades 5 to 8. On Friday, September 9th, school is in session for all students in grades 1 to 8. Each day is a FULL DAY. Please be sure your children have a bag lunch and drink. Our Milk/Beverage preordered drinks and pretzel snacks are not in effect until Monday, September 12th. Our Hot Lunch program also begins on September 12th. It is very important that we receive your preorders by Friday, September 9th. The food we serve follows federal guidelines for healthy eating. As we enter the 6th year of our school wellness policy we strive to work with diocesan NDS administrators to continually improve the wholesomeness of the products we serve. Lunch envelope/order forms, menus, and ordering instructions are included today. School begins at 8:15 every morning and ends at 3:05. Your child must be in the cafeteria for our morning assembly and

prayer to be considered on time. Please set up your schedule to allow for unexpected delays in traffic, etc. Help your children begin their day in a positive way. Uniforms are to be worn beginning with the first day of school. Summer uniforms are allowed until Tuesday, November 1st. The short & skort uniform shoe is a low top white sneaker (not a running shoe) or a uniform shoe. Just a note of caution – backless, slide shoes, and Croc style shoes are not permitted even though they are in style. Please choose a supportive, sensible “uniform” shoe for your child. All the children walk up and down stairs numerous times each day and a uniform style shoe is required. On cooler days, uniform sweaters can be added and on gym days navy blue sweatpants and sweatshirts may be worn before winter uniforms are in effect. LaCrosse International is our official vendor for gym shorts. They are priced reasonably and are a quality garment. Our uniform suppliers are Flynn & O’Hara along with Rose Uniforms. Scrip for both of these suppliers is sold at Immaculate Conception. Take advantage of this convenient way to purchase uniforms while benefiting the parish and yourself. If in doubt, please check the uniform code online www.icsjenkintown.org, or call the office 215-887-1312 before you make a purchase.

Used Uniform Sale takes place on Wednesday, August 17th from 6:30-7:30pm in the School Cafeteria. “Gently Used” donations gladly accepted!
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Curriculum changes this year include our adoption of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English (ELA) and Mathematics. Research and practice over past years have culminated in states agreeing to and setting uniform standards. The final standards are based on the work of Charlotte Danielson (the state of PA and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia evaluate teachers using Danielson’s rubric); Rick Stiggins (our last middle states project evaluation in 2004 was on Stiggins’ student involved classroom assessment); Carol Tomlinson (differentiated instruction); Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe (understanding by design, a concept used by our teachers in their planning). So though not “new” you will notice schedule changes, report card format changes, etc. as our teachers translate state content standards into measurable academic performances that indicate student mastery. Our support materials will include Loyola’s Voyages in English – Grammar and Writing ©2011 for grades 1-5 as we intended after successfully implementing the program last year for grades 6-8. In reviewing these texts, we believe that the publishers have taken the best of the past (e.g. diagramming) and incorporated learning tools for today’s standards (integration and technology opportunities) . As a school we will continue to teach Palmer Method Handwriting and Cursive and will add Universal Publishing’s Writing Our Catholic Faith ©2008 to grade 1. Grades 2 and 3 used this writing series last year. Our ICS web page (www.icsjenkintown.org.) will continue to be updated by our 8th grade students to keep you abreast of developments in all areas. Your encouragement is appreciated in keeping Summer Reading assignments moving along. Summer Reading is a mandatory assignment. Family involvement matters!

We welcome Ms. Rizzo as our 1st grade teacher. Ms. Rizzo comes to us from Chestnut Hill Academy and holds a Bachelor’s Degree in elementary education from

St. Joseph's University and a Master's Degree in elementary and special education from Chestnut Hill College. Additional staffing/scheduling changes for this year include: Mrs. Hagarty and Ms. Wilson will add 8th and 6th grade Religion to their schedule, respectively. Mr. Zimmerman will teach Grade 6 Math. As part of his requirements for completion of his Master's Degree, Mr. Zimmerman will also teach 6th grade Science and Social Studies for the 1st trimester only. During the 1st trimester, Ms Wilson will teach Mr. Zimmerman's 8th grade Social Studies. Ms. Mamrol will continue to provide Instructional Support for our upper grade students and Mrs. Zygala will become our primary Wilson reading teacher as well as continue to teach library skills to grades K to 4. Grades 5 to 8 library classes will be integrated into English Language Arts classes. Mrs. Schmauk will teach Choral. We are grateful to Home & School for supporting our parish in so many ways. This year we will limit our "selling" to 3 programs: Kid Stuff Coupon book at the opening of school, Yankee Candle sale in the fall with a before Christmas delivery date, and a Hershey candy sale in the spring with a before Easter delivery date. Save the date for Back to School Night on September 21st. Your help is always appreciated. Please give serious consideration to our Volunteer Form. We thank you for your support and for assisting us in moving forward. Please refer to the new requirements for volunteers included in this packet.

Financial Commitment Forms and initial tuition payments were due July 1, 2011. Please forward your forms as soon as possible. Our business manager, Ellen McGuinn, needs to know the payment plan you choose so that she can generate an accurate statement. As a reminder, the next monthly payment is due September 1, 2011. Included in this mailing is your tuition statement. If your statement has a beginning balance, this amount represents a past due amount from the prior year and could be for June CARES, lunches or unpaid tuition/fees. Past due balances must be paid prior to the start of this school year. If you are planning to have your child(ren) participate in extra-curricular activities, payment must be current as stipulated in the 2011 Financial Commitment letter or participation will be disallowed. If you need to discuss your account, please call Ellen McGuinn at the rectory.

Faculty for 2011-2012 School Year

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Pastor: Reverend Monsignor David E. Diamond, Ph.D., M.A., M.Div

Principal: Dr. Diane Greco, Ed.D.

Kindergarten & Math Enrichment Mrs. Leslie Overmier

Kindergarten Aide Mrs. Veronica Parkes

Grade 1 Ms. Leslie Rizzo, M.S.

Grade 2 Mrs. Margaret Cooney

Grade 3 Ms. Margaret Harmer

Grade 4 Mrs. Laura Kots, M.S.
Grade 5 Mrs. Deborah Regan, M.S.
Grade 6 Ms. Carolyn Wilson
Grade 7 Mr. David Zimmerman
Grade 8 Mrs. Georgina Hagarty, M.S.
Art & Computer Mrs. Teresa Heinz
Art Workshop Mrs. Elane Cippola
Band Mr. Alexander Schmauk, M.A.
Piano Mrs. Kathy Sandoski
Honors Math Mrs. Jane Tomaszewski
Instruct. Support Ms. Catherine Mamrol
Library & Wilson Reading Mrs. Teresa Zygala
Liturgical Music Mrs. Mary Beth Carroll
Music Mrs. Melia Schmauk, M.A.
God's Voice Mrs. Denise Germont-Risser
P.E. Mr. Michael Roken
Nurse Mrs. Linda Weissman
Secretary Mrs. Mary Zeccardi
Secretary Mrs. Mary Beth Albrecht
Intermediate Unit Staff
Reading & Math Mrs. Marge Ruppel
Speech Ms. Randi Chud
Counselor Mrs. Eileen Ford
Psychologist Mr. John Davidson