

Siena Circular



January 22, 2008

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 3:13-15

Dear Parents,

Beginning next Sunday, Catholic schools across the United States celebrate Catholic Schools Week. In this week's *Siena Circular* and those in the weeks to come, I wish to share with you some reflections from a booklet by Archbishop J. Michael Miller entitled *The Holy See's Teaching on Catholic Schools*. In particular, we will focus on the "Five Essential Marks of Catholic Schools." I hope these reflections will help our school community to examine how well we fulfill our calling to educate our children according to the wisdom of the Church. While these reflections apply primarily to Catholic Schools, they have real implications for parents as well, since parents have the awesome responsibility to provide the best possible formation for their children.

The following reflection falls under the first essential mark of a Catholic school: "Inspired by a supernatural vision":

The Church sees education as a process that, in light of man's transcendent destiny, forms the whole child and seeks to fix his or her eyes on heaven. The specific purpose of a Catholic education is the formation of boys and girls who will be good citizens of this world, loving God and neighbor and enriching society with the leaven of the gospel and who will also be citizens of the world to come, thus fulfilling their destiny to become saints.

How well do we recognize the ultimate goal of Catholic education, namely, citizenship in heaven? Do our priorities and expectations for our children support this ultimate goal? Do we truly want our children to become saints?

In *The Seven Habits for Highly Effective People*, Stephen Covey presents the first habit as "Begin with the end in mind." Let us remember the only "end" worth striving for is perfect union with God, beginning in this life and to be perfected in the life to come. Teaching our children to keep their eyes on this end will not solve all their problems; it will, however, offer them the most convincing reason to persevere in doing what is right even when the going gets tough.

Prayer Corner

Please pray for:

- Pope Benedict, Archbishop Gregory, Archbishop Donoghue, Father Doyle, Father Terry
- The Taylor Family
- The McNally Family
- Noah and Olivia Zimmer's grandfather who recently underwent a kidney transplant
- For Erin Hagebusch's grandfather, Richard, who is being treated for cancer
- For all other requests submitted to the Spiritual Committee's prayer chain throughout the year

Calendar at a Glance

* Thursday, January 24

- School Mass (6A)
- 8th Grade parent meeting @ 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria
- Middle School parent meeting @ 7 p.m. in the cafeteria

Saturday, January 26

- Open House for prospective students (9-11 a.m.)

Sunday, January 27

- Catholic Schools Week Mass – SCS students @ 11:30 a.m. Mass

Monday, January 28

- All school Mass @ 9 a.m.

Tuesday, January 29

- HSA General Meeting (2:30 p.m.); park & pick
- Parent-appreciation day (Catholic Schools Week)! Goodies will be distributed to parents during morning carpool (no change to our morning carpool routine – we'll bring the goodies to you!)

Wednesday, January 30 Please note the date on the original calendar for this Mass (31st) is incorrect.

- Archdiocesan 8th Grade Mass @ SCS @ 10 a.m.

* Due to the parish mission at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, our school Mass this week will be on Thursday, January 24 @ 9:00 a.m. Students should wear their dress uniforms on Wednesday as well as Thursday.

8TH GRADE HIGH SCHOOL VISITS

We have received a number of questions concerning 8th grade students' visits to prospective high schools. Specifically, the question is: Are the absences excused? Each student may take two days to visit possible schools of choice in the area with excused absences for both days. A brochure of the school with an administrative signature is required upon the student's return to SCS for this to be counted as a visit. Students are responsible for all make-up work and missed lectures.

OPEN HOUSE & CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Thank you to the students who came to last weekend's Masses at SCS dressed in their dress uniform. Thank you to our students who served as speakers spreading the good news about our parochial school and inviting our parishioners to attend our upcoming Open House. Again, we invite students to come to the **11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, January 27** dressed in their dress uniforms. To celebrate our presence at the parish, SCS students will serve as readers and gift bearers at this Mass. As an extra incentive, these students may receive an out-of-uniform pass to be used on Thursday, January 31 by signing in with Sister Mary Jacinta or Ms. Huval prior to or after the Mass.

PARENTING EXPERT SPEAKER: JOHN ROSEMOND

Calling all SCS parents! For 10 bucks, reserve your seat NOW to hear **John Rosemond** on **Feb. 26, 2008** in our gym at 7 pm. Check in will be at 6:30 pm. We've sold 90+ seats to this event so far for this outstanding parenting speaker and would love to sell out at 500...see **the SCS website** for more details. As of this week, we will be opening up this event to the preschool and parish as well as surrounding parishes...so don't miss out! Call Ann Contrucci 770-516-6211 or email theshirleys4@bellsouth.net for questions.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

The February 14th Parent-Teacher Conferences are optional. We will have noon dismissal on that day to allow conferences to take place in the afternoon, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Parents who would like to schedule a conference with a teacher should contact the teacher within the next two weeks to arrange a time for the conference.

RECESS DURING WINTER

Please be sure your children come to school dressed warmly with appropriate coats for the cold weather. Typically, students do not have the option of staying inside at recess except for health reasons.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to:

- Our parents and students who helped with the SCS Open House and Auction tables at the Church this past weekend.
- Our parents and students who will help out in various ways at our Open House next Saturday.
- Our many volunteers who help with lunch and recess duties, Tuesday Folders, Media Center and Computer Lab lessons on a regular basis.
- All visitors for signing in and out and putting on a name tag when coming inside the school building during the school day.

Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic School unites with family and community to provide an excellent academic and religious education, developing the whole child while encouraging individual talents and abilities in a Christ-centered environment.

In imitation of Saint Catherine, faithful daughter of the Church, we provide a formation grounded in truth through which we engage the culture, setting the world ablaze with the love of Christ.