



# St. Gregory the Great Academy

*A Ministry of the Church of St. Gregory the Great*

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The Rev. Michael T. McClane, Administrator

Dr. Jason C. Briggs, Principal

Mrs. Michele L. Rivera, Assistant Principal

August 25, 2016

Dear St. Gregory the Great Academy Families,

Peace be with you! Perhaps it was the first day of August. For others, it may have been on the way home from vacation. Maybe it was during the journey to purchase uniforms or school supplies. For a few, maybe it has not even happened yet! What is “it” you may ask? Why, “it” is the realization that a new school year is ready to commence, and that it is happening on September 1<sup>st</sup>! Here we stand at the dawn of the 2016-2017 school year, filled with anticipation and excitement. The change of routine for summertime is refreshing; however, there is also a comfort, a “coming home” if you will, in returning to school in September. For us, it is a great blessing that our September homecoming is to St. Gregory the Great Academy. After all, how blessed are we that the overarching goal of our school is to help our students get to Heaven! It is my distinct honor to welcome each student, parent, and staff member back for the 2016-2017 school year.

Our world is an interesting place these days. As we reflect on our need to guide our students and prepare them for their bright futures, I believe that it is clear that a renewed focus on the Word of God is an important aspect of this preparation. This year’s theme, **“St. Gregory the Great Academy: Seeking the Overflowing Treasure of the Gospel”** will help guide us as we carry out the holy work of Catholic education this year. Our school exists to teach our students to know and love Jesus Christ and his Church, and focusing on the rich treasure of the gospel is an excellent way to carry out this mission. Without knowledge, understanding, and love of the gospel to guide us each day, our school would simply be a nice place to learn. Instead, by rooting all that we do in the Gospel of Jesus Christ our school is a beacon to help our students reach Heaven. It is why we exist, and why our parish, families, and faculty devote their time, talent, and treasure to the Academy. What could be more important!

I think it is helpful to break open the gospel “treasures” that we will be focusing on. As we open school in September, our focus will be the “Ruby of Respect.” Jesus teaches us to respect each other, ourselves, and creation. Even when we do not condone an action or a behavior of another person, we are bound to respect the human dignity of that person. How can we respect all of the children of God, including those who think differently than we do, without compromising our Catholic beliefs? The harvest month of October will bring the “Topaz of Joy.” God created all that is good, and we should enjoy the company of others and the good that is in our lives in the way that God intends for us to do so. Imagine the joy of the Annunciation or how Mary and Joseph must feel when they find Jesus in the temple! How will we be joyful followers of Jesus? As the weather turns chilly in November, the “Diamond of Love” will be our focus. Jesus is the perfect example of unconditional

love. His love for those marginalized by the society of the day is a powerful example for us. The love which exists between Jesus and His Blessed Mother is a model for us all. How can we love unconditionally? The Advent days of December will bring the “Sapphire of Simplicity.” So often, our modern Decembers differ from the simplicity of the Nativity that the gospel presents to us. Perhaps Jesus would not even be recognized at his own birthday party these days. How can we prioritize God over all things of this world? As we begin 2017 in January, we will center on the “Pearl of Peace.” The secular world of Jesus’ time was not unlike the world we live in today in terms of conflicts and uncertainty. In this chaos Jesus preaches a message of peace and concern about the heavenly Kingdom of God. It is easy to become consumed with secular matters. How can we work to build the Kingdom of God every day? The cold days of February will present the “Opal of Hospitality and Service.” Much as Jesus washes the feet of the Apostles, we are called to servant leadership. Our words are drowned out by our actions; thus, what should our actions communicate? The gospel presents multiple examples of Jesus as a servant leader; how can we follow His example? During the Lenten days of March, we will focus on the “Amethyst of Friendship.” While this may seem like an oversimplification, Jesus was often a friend to the friendless during his ministry on Earth. While not condoning behaviors that were sinful, Jesus recognizes the innate value of every person. How can our friendships reflect Jesus’ love? The holiest days of the year will occur in April, which will give us the “Jade of Faith.” Throughout the events of Jesus’ suffering, death, and resurrection, He consistently declares that the will of the Father was what should come to pass. How open are we to the will of God superseding our own will? As the weather turns warm in May, we will focus on the “Emerald of Forgiveness.” Jesus forgives sins in many accounts in the gospel, and even gives the instruction to “go and sin no more.” He knew that human weakness make it impossible for us to follow this instruction, yet He is there waiting to forgive us each time that we ask for forgiveness and try our best to amend our behavior. How powerful forgiveness is! How can we work to forgive as Jesus did? As we conclude the school year in June, we will focus on the “Turquoise of Prayer.” At many times Jesus shows us how to pray, from the Lord’s Prayer to the Institution of the Eucharist. How can we make prayer an essential part of life, and encourage our students to focus on prayer as we send them off into the summer of 2017? As we move through this coming school year, these ten Treasures of the Gospel will be our guide and will help us grow in our appreciation of the rich teachings of Jesus.

As we give due attention to the Treasure of the Gospel, the summit of our Faith journey this year will continue to be our sacramental life. We will come together for our opening Mass of the school year at 10:00 AM on Friday, September 9th, and then attend the 8:30 AM Mass as a school each Friday of the school year beginning on September 16th. Once again, our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students will proclaim the readings at our 8:30 AM Masses. We will, of course, attend Mass on other weekdays when these days are holy days of obligation or special feast days.

While our AdvancED accreditation has been granted, our goals remain central to the development of our academic program. As we continue to journey toward academic excellence, we will be using data from the Terra Nova Assessments to assist in our planning in a more deliberate fashion. Our school wide curricular goals, as have emerged through the AdvancEd process, will be of paramount importance. For Kindergarten through Grade Three, the goal is, “All students in grades K-3 will demonstrate growth toward end of year literacy benchmarks as measured by the DIBELS assessment” and for Grades 4-8 the goal is, “All students in grades 4-8 will demonstrate increased comprehension of non-fiction material as measured by the Terra Nova Assessment.” Both goals will involve deliberate

and well-developed cross curricular projects. Preschool will be involved with the K-3 goal despite the fact that Preschool grades are not listed by name in the AdvancEd platform. We will also be implementing the Eleot Observation Tool this year, which is an outgrowth of the AdvancED continuous improvement process. This student-centered observation tool will be used in conjunction with announced formative evaluations as another source of data to inform our planning, instruction, and assessment. As of this school year, our one-to-one Chromebook program will be fully implemented. Students in Grades 5-8 will be assigned their own Chromebooks, and they will carry their Chromebooks with them for use throughout the day. Students in Grade 5 will have an introductory period with the Chromebooks prior to the devices leaving school.

This year, Hamilton Township has elected to change the provider of Chapter 192/193 and IDEIA services in our school to the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ). ESCNJ replaces Catapult Learning in this capacity. As you may know, state and federal funds for these programs flow to the local school district for expenditure in the nonpublic schools located within its boundaries. Of course, for us this is Hamilton Township. The district has the right to either provide the services using its own personnel or contract with a third party provider. Services affected by this change include: speech, in-class support, supplemental instruction, compensatory education, instructional aides, and evaluation/determination (child study). As of now, I do not have final confirmation as to whom ESCNJ will be assigning to our school to provide these services. While I have been working to retain most of the staff members who previously worked with us under Catapult, I do not have final confirmation of exactly who is being retained. When I do, I will announce this information. As you might imagine, a change of this magnitude is not a small undertaking, and will undoubtedly be a process. I thank you in advance for your flexibility as this transition occurs.

As we prepare for our new school year, we welcome our newest faculty members. Mrs. Katie Wilson assumes the helm in 2B full time this year. Mrs. Wilson served in 2B for the second half of last school year, so she is certainly no stranger to the classroom. Miss Alyssa Donahue begins her tenure in Preschool 4 White. Miss Donahue earned her B.A. from William Patterson University. She is certainly no stranger to the Academy, as she has previously served in EDP, summer camp, and as an assistant in Preschool 3. We also welcome Mrs. Jeanine Fuhrman to the Preschool 4 classroom in the role of Educational Assistant. Mrs. Fuhrman, who is a former SGA parent, earned a B.A. from Trenton State College and comes to us after retiring from the State of New Jersey. Finally, we welcome Mrs. Allison Maffia to 1B in the role of Educational Assistant. Mrs. Maffia, who is the mother of Riley and Maggie, is a graduate of Mercer County Community College.

We have some changes among our returning faculty members as well. Most excitingly, two of our faculty members were married at the end of last school year. Our 4A teacher Miss Jennifer Armiger is now Mrs. Jennifer Gallagher, and our Preschool 4 Educational Assistant Miss Katie Rossiter is now Mrs. Katie Larason. Some reassignments have also taken place. Mrs. Carolyn Kokotajlo moves from maternity replacement substitute in 8A to Grade 3 Educational Assistant. Mrs. Kara Valentino moves to 2B Educational Assistant, which then allows Mrs. Jean Margadonna to work solely as the 2A Educational Assistant. Miss Marisa Arduini moves from 6C to 5C, Mrs. Kelly O'Keefe moves from 7A to 8A, Mrs. Kate Hughes moves from 1B Educational Assistant to Science Lab Assistant, and we welcome Mrs. Christina Ely back from maternity leave to 7A.

Summer has been busy here at school this year in terms of the physical plant. “The Studio” has been reworked and is ready for our weekly broadcasts to begin shooting. The reworking of this space will make it more amenable for use by other classes as well. We are awaiting the completion of the installation of new security doors that will enable us to quickly and effectively secure the cafeteria in the event of an intruder or other emergency. I am grateful to an anonymous Academy family who is fully funding these security enhancements in the amount of \$18,000.00. A new playground has been installed for use by the preschool and kindergarten classes. The color scheme was the result of voting that I conducted with last year’s Preschool 3 and Preschool 4 students. Can you guess which color scheme they chose? (Hint: the wildest one!) The lab tables in the Science Lab have been refurbished, and Grade 1 will enjoy new classroom furniture this year. Preschool 4 will now have the use of a StarBoard. Thanks are extended to Mr. Archila, Mr. Bonifazi, Mr. Raynor, Mrs. Trail, and our summer help for accomplishing all of this work. These projects, along with the floor cleaning and technology maintenance, would not just “happen” without the assistance of many hands.

### I. 2016-2017 CLERGY, ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY, AND STAFF

Rev. Michael T. McClane	Pastor	
<i>BA, Princeton University; STB, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome; JCL, The Catholic University of America</i>		
Rev. Jason Parzynski	Parochial Vicar; Interim Director of Religious Education	
<i>BA, Michigan State University; STB, University of Saint Mary of the Lake—Mundelein Seminary; M.Div., University of Saint Mary of the Lake—Mundelein Seminary</i>		
Rev. Al Gamalo	Parochial Vicar	
<i>AB, The Nativity of Our Lady College Seminary, Borongan, Philippines; STB, St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore; M.Div. St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore</i>		
Dr. Jason C. Briggs	Principal	
<i>BA, Caldwell College; MA, Caldwell College; MA, Georgian Court University; EdD, Neumann University</i>		
Mrs. Michele Rivera	Assistant Principal	Social Studies 8
<i>BS, Elizabethtown College; M.Ed. The College of New Jersey</i>		
Mrs. Kristin Bricker	Academy Counselor	
<i>BA, Coastal Carolina University; MA, Seton Hall University</i>		
Mrs. Susan Furman	Academy Administrative Assistant	
Mrs. Jane Mesday	Academy Administrative Assistant	
Mrs. Mary Lynn Adams	Academy Administrative Assistant/ Preschool 3 Educational Assistant	
Mrs. Teresa Siemann	Academy Nurse	
<i>RN, The Catholic Medical Center School of Nursing</i>		
Mrs. Cheryl Kobren	Pre3 Blue	
<i>CDA, National Credentialing Program</i>		
Ms. Maureen Smitley	Pre3 White	
<i>BA, Trenton State College; MA, Trenton State College</i>		
Mrs. Cathleen Sunshine	Pre4 Blue	
<i>CDA, National Credentialing Program</i>		
Miss Alyssa Donahue	Pre4 White	
<i>BA, William Patterson University</i>		
Miss Kathleen Holub	KA	Essentially Self-Contained
<i>BS, Trenton State College</i>		
Mrs. Michelle Klama	KB	Essentially Self-Contained
<i>BA, Rider University</i>		
Mrs. Nancy Darrah	KC	Essentially Self-Contained
<i>BA, Rider University</i>		

Mrs. Amy Jo Wiegartner <i>BS, Mount St. Mary's College</i>	1A	Essentially Self-Contained
Miss Jennifer Alleman <i>BA, Rowan University</i>	1B	Essentially Self-Contained
Mrs. Kathleen Moynahan <i>BA, St. Peter's College</i>	2A	Essentially Self-Contained
Mrs. Kathleen Wilson <i>BA, Rider University</i>	2B	Essentially Self-Contained
Mrs. Gena Bitonti <i>BS, Trenton State College</i>	3A	Religion 3; Integrated Language Arts 3
Mrs. Karen Stives <i>BS, Wesley College</i>	3B	Religion 3; Math 3; Science 3; Social Studies 3
Mrs. Jennifer Gallagher <i>BA, Neumann University</i>	4A	Math 4; Science 4; Social Studies 4
Sister Natalie Panas, OSF <i>BA, Neumann College; M.Ed., Boston University; MA, Georgian Court University</i>	4B	Religion 4; Integrated Language Arts 4
Mrs. Brittany DiGregorio <i>BA, Richard Stockton College</i>	5A	Religion 6; Math 5; Integrated Language Arts 5 & 7
Mrs. Elizabeth Mills <i>BA, Providence College; MS, University of London; MPA, Rutgers University</i>	5B	Religion 5; Math 5; Integrated Language Arts 5 & 6; Social Studies 5
Miss Marisa Arduini <i>BA, Rider University</i>	5C	Science 5 & 6
Mrs. Robin Muccia <i>BA, Farleigh Dickinson University</i>	6A	Social Studies 5 & 6; Integrated Language Arts 5 & 6
Mrs. Tracey Mularadelis <i>BS, Trenton State College; MAT, The College of New Jersey</i>	6B	Math 6; Social Studies 5 & 7
Mrs. Christina Ely <i>BA, The College of New Jersey</i>	7A	Math 7 & 8
Mrs. Claudia Carle <i>BS, Trenton State College</i>	7B	Science 7 & 8
Mrs. Kelly O'Keefe <i>BS, St. John's University; MS, St. John's University</i>	8A	Integrated Language Arts 7 & 8
Mrs. Barbara Greiner <i>BS, Trenton State College</i>	8B	Religion 6, 7, & 8; Math 6 & 8
Mrs. Maria Carfaro <i>BS, Kutztown University</i>		Science Lab K-8
Mrs. Christine Fucello <i>BS, Trenton State College; M.Ed., Trenton State College</i>		Physical Education P3-8
Mrs. Susann Leidemer <i>BA, James Madison University</i>		Art P3-8
Sister Barbara Furst, OSF <i>BS, The College of New Jersey; ME, The College of New Jersey; MA, Georgian Court University</i>		Library K-5
Mrs. Kristin Bergin <i>BA, Trenton State College; MA, Trenton State College</i>		Music P3-8
Mrs. DiAnne Trail <i>BA, Bethany College</i>		Technology K-8; Extended Day Program Scheduling Coordinator
Mrs. Loretta Palmieri <i>BA, State Univ. of Oneonta; MS, C.W. Post College</i>		Spanish P3-7
Mr. Robert Solecki <i>BA, Hunter College – CUNY</i>		Latin 7 & 8
Mrs. Nancy Araujo <i>BS, John Jay College of Criminal Justice</i>		Mandarin Chinese 5 & 6

Mrs. Regina Ratzlaff <i>BS, Trenton State College; M.Ed., The College of New Jersey</i>	Resource Room
Mrs. Amy Parrotta <i>BS, The College of New Jersey</i>	Resource Room
Mrs. Tracy Bailey	Educational Assistant – Preschool 3
Miss Elyse Ciaramella <i>Mercer County Community College</i>	Educational Assistant – Preschool 4
Mrs. Jeannine Furman <i>BA, Trenton State College</i>	Educational Assistant – Preschool 4
Mrs. Katherine Larason <i>BFA, The College of New Jersey</i>	Educational Assistant – Preschool 4
Mr. David Murray <i>The College of New Jersey</i>	Educational Assistant – Preschool 4
Mrs. Mary Ann Crawford <i>BS, East Stroudsburg University</i>	Educational Assistant – Preschool 4
Mrs. Mary Lou Chopan	Preschool Morning Assistant
Mrs. Donna Hahn <i>BPA, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University</i>	Educational Assistant – Grade K
Mrs. Susan Hogan <i>BS, University of Scranton</i>	Educational Assistant – Grade 1A
Mrs. Allison Maffia <i>AA, Mercer County Community College</i>	Educational Assistant – Grade 1B
Mrs. Jean Margadonna <i>AA, Blue Hills Regional Technical Institute</i>	Educational Assistant – Grade 2A
Mrs. Kara Valentino	Educational Assistant – Grade 2B
Mrs. Carolyn Kokotajlo <i>BA, Immaculata University</i>	Educational Assistant – Grade 3A & 3B
Mrs. Katherine Hughes <i>AA, Brookdale College</i>	Science Lab Assistant
Mrs. Tracy O’Neill	Extended Day Program Coordinator
Dr. John Shaddy	Director of Sacred Music
Mrs. Susan Scibilia	Director of Development
Mrs. Maureen Cozzi	Parish Business Manager
Mrs. Pat Seladi	Bookkeeper
Mrs. Donna Kalinoski	Rectory Office Staff
Mrs. Patricia Colamarino	Parish Scheduler/Secretary to the Pastor
Mrs. Cathy Fisher	Rectory Secretary
Mrs. Pat Carnevale	Rectory Secretary
Mr. Thomas Raynor	Maintenance Supervisor
Mr. Jason Bonifazi	Maintenance
Mr. Rolando Archila	Maintenance

List current as of 8-24-2016

## II. SCHOOL HOURS

All K-8 students are to be in their classroom no later than 8:00 a.m. Morning supervision is provided at 7:15 a.m. K-8 Dismissal is at 2:30 p.m. except for half day sessions when it will be at 12:30 p.m. Full day and morning-only preschool students may be dropped off beginning at 7:30 a.m., and should be in their classrooms no later than 8:30 a.m. Morning-only preschool students dismiss at 11:30 a.m. at the Preschool Entrance. Full day preschool students dismiss at 3:00 p.m. at the Preschool Entrance.

A. ARRIVAL - Car Arrival Procedure: If you will be dropping off your K-8 child in the morning, please use the Mario Drive entrance and follow the arrows around to the doors on the side of the Parish Center (this is the same area that car riders are picked up at dismissal). We ask that you pull up and have the children get out of the car as quickly as possible. If they need to get backpacks out of the trunk, please park the car. Some parents may wish to park in the area lot and walk the students into the building. This is fine, however, you are asked not to linger inside the building. You may drop off the children between 7:20am and 7:55am. There is adult supervision during this time. After 7:55am please drop children off at the main entrance to the school where they will be directed to their classrooms. Students who are not in their classrooms at 8:05 am are considered tardy and must go to the Main Office for a late pass. Preschool children should be brought to the Preschool Entrance behind the Academy building; please follow the signs and the directions of the staff to the Preschool Entrance. Preschool parents should exit the back parking lot via the same way they entered it and then follow the traffic signs in the front parking lot to exit. REMEMBER, you must make a RIGHT turn when exiting the back parking lot into the front parking lot.

B. DISMISSAL – The K-8 Car Rider line will be called for dismissal after all bus lines have been dismissed. The Grade 5-8 car rider line will exit from the BACK of the parish center into the parking lot on the left side of the building. The Grade K-4 car rider line will enter Ferrante Hall and will be seated by grade at the tables. Once the students are seated, parents will need to enter Ferrante Hall to pick up their K-4 children. This process ensures the SAFEST method for picking up our young students. Please park your cars in the lot near the back of the Parish Center to wait for your child and then exit the lot by way of Mario Drive. Preschool students who have siblings in Grades K-8 may be signed into the Preschool Car Rider Line book in the morning when they are dropped off. Preschoolers who are signed into the Preschool Car Rider Line book will come over to Ferrante Hall in line after all the bus lines have been called so that parents with a preschooler and a K-8 student can pick up in one location. Only preschoolers with K-8 siblings in the Academy may be signed into the Preschool Car Rider Line; all other preschoolers must be picked up at the Preschool Entrance. Preschool EDP students will be brought to EDP at 3:00 p.m. The K-8 EDP Line will be called last, and will report to the Parish Center for EDP. **ALL DISMISSAL CHANGES WHICH MUST BE COMMUNICATED TO THE SCHOOL AND THAT ARE FOR THE CURRENT DAY MUST BE TELEPHONED TO THE MAIN OFFICE. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO EMAIL CHANGES OR TEXT CHANGES TO ANYONE, INCLUDING THE TEACHER OR THE OFFICE, AS THEY MAY NOT REACH THE CLASSROOM PRIOR TO DISMISSAL. You must speak to a live person to request such a change.**

C. Bus Transportation (K-8 only): Due to insurance policies, students are only permitted to ride the bus to which they are assigned. Students MAY NOT SWITCH BUSES for any reason without prior permission from your **PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**. The bus driver CANNOT give permission to switch buses, nor can the school.

D. Walkers: We have very few students who walk or ride bikes to school on a daily basis. Students who on occasion decide to walk home, to a friend's home, or to a nearby store **MUST HAVE A WRITTEN NOTE FROM THEIR PARENT (a phone call will not suffice, we must have a parent signature for our file)**. We simply want to be certain parents know of their child's plans.

### III. OPENING MASS

We will have our traditional mass to open the school year on Friday, September 9, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. As always, all are welcome!

### IV. STUDENT INSURANCE

All students in St. Gregory the Great Academy are covered during school hours and on school sponsored trips under the Diocesan plan.

### V. UNIFORMS

A. Shoe Policy: **All students in Grades 1-8 are required to wear black oxford type, Sperry or Mary Jane shoes.** The shoes are to be **BLACK** and **NON-SCUFF!** **Any shoe that is not entirely black or is backless, healed, or clog-like is prohibited.** Sneakers are to be worn by students in Grades 1-8 on Physical Education Day. Kindergarten is to wear sneakers every day, since they are wearing the Physical Education uniform all five days each week. There is no uniform policy for Preschoolers.

B: Grades 5-8: **Remember that the knit/polo shirts are NOT an option in Grades 5-8 for summer or winter uniform.** For Grades 6-8 (NOT Grade 5), the blazer is an option for summer uniform (September, May, and June) and is mandatory **and must be worn EVERY DAY** (except for physical education day) when winter uniform begins on October 1, 2016. For Grade 5, the blazer is an OPTION at all times of the year.

B. Measuring date: Wednesday, September 14, 2016, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. **The summer uniform may be worn through Friday, September 30, 2016.** Please refer to your Family Handbook for the guidelines. Also, we will be strictly enforcing the uniform policy and will be depending on you to support us in our efforts to insure that our students are well-groomed and in a uniform that is appropriate for a Catholic School setting. If you need to purchase uniforms, please call the school office for an order form. Remember that used uniforms are available through the school store at the price of \$3.00 per item. **Students who come to school out of uniform will be provided the appropriate attire to change into and the parents will be billed at the rate of \$5.00 per item, per occurrence.**

### VI. NOTICES/CALENDARS

A 2016-2017 school calendar is included in this document, and is posted on our website. As is now our custom, all of the information and flyers that need to be distributed will be included in the weekly eFriday Folder which will be posted on the school website. This “eFriday Folder” will be posted under the “Publications” tab, “Monthly Publications” subtab on the website each Friday in PDF format. Please be sure that your computer or device has the latest version of a PDF reader installed. If your email address has changed since you listed it on your PFP, please contact Mrs. Mesday to update your email address at [jmesday@stgregorythegreat.org](mailto:jmesday@stgregorythegreat.org). This email address will be used to send you a



reminder each week when the e-Friday Folder is posted online, as well as for other school communication.

## VII. LUNCH

CaféTerias, Inc. will continue to be our lunch service provider this year. Lunch will begin on Tuesday, September 6, 2016. A September menu is included in this packet. The lunch price will remain at \$3.75 for the full meal. Preschool and Kindergarten parents are asked to look for the weekly order form in each week's eFriday Folder and to complete this form each week and send it into school if your son or daughter will be purchasing their lunch.

**This year, we will be using Volunteer Spot for mandatory lunch duty sign up. This will ensure that lunch will operate smoothly. Please see the information in this packet under separate cover.**

## VIII. SERVICE REQUIREMENT:

TOTAL FOR 2016-2017 = 30 POINTS. Please refer to your Parish Family Partnership and other information in this packet for further details. **Remember that at least 8 of these points must be earned through Bingo, Parish GALA and/or Carnival.**

## IX. SCRIP

All families (Grades K-8) are required to purchase at least \$5,000.00 in scrip or can opt to buy-out no later than October 31, 2016 for \$250.00 or after this date for \$275.00. Points will be awarded for scrip purchase (see Parish Family Partnership for details) after the family obligation has been met. We also welcome our preschool parents to support the Academy by purchasing scrip. Please see the information on our electronic scrip purchasing program under separate cover.

## X. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Because of the increasing number of food allergies and sensitivities among our student body, it has become necessary to develop enforce clear guidelines as to the types of "treats" that will be acceptable for birthday celebrations. **The ONLY acceptable FOOD items that will be permitted for classroom birthday celebrations are: pretzel nubs, fruit or vegetable trays, snack packages of pretzels, or snack packages of goldfish crackers.** Any parent in any grade who wished to send a treat for the class for a child's birthday MUST contact the teacher at least 48 hours prior to make arrangements. The teachers have specific responsibilities they must carry out prior to distributing any food in the classroom. ANY OTHER TYPES OF TREATS (donut holes, cupcakes, candy, cakes, etc.) will NOT be distributed, and will be returned home.

## XII. P.T.A.

First meeting date is Tuesday, September 13, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria followed by Back-to-School Night for Preschool 3- Grade 4 at 7:30 p.m. A reception for all new school families will be held

at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 in the Music Room in the Academy – all new families are invited to come and be welcomed.

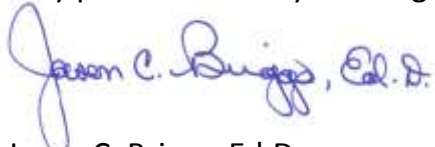
### **XIII. BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHTS**

This year's Back-to-School Nights are scheduled for Tuesday, September 13, at 7:30 p.m. for Preschool 3-Grade 4 and Thursday, September 15, at 7:00 p.m. for Grade 5-Grade 8.

Again, I welcome each of you to a new school year. There is truly no better job in the world than being principal of St. Gregory the Great Academy! I am excited to begin the journey of the 2016-2017 school year with our teachers, parents, and most of all, our students! I look forward to the Academy's 52<sup>nd</sup> first day of school, and my 12<sup>th</sup> first day of school here.

A new school year brings promise, hope, and excitement. Mrs. Rivera and I look forward to our journey together this year with each of you. On behalf of Fr, McClane, the parish clergy and staff, and all of us at St. Gregory the Great Academy, welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! We are so glad that you are here!

May peace and every blessing be yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason C. Briggs, Ed.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Jason C. Briggs, Ed.D.  
Principal