



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 24, 2017

Dear St. Gregory the Great Academy Families,

Peace be with you! When I was a child, I dreamt about being a teacher. In fact, I used to play school with my brother in the basement several days each week. On really exciting days, if I could find a third person to play with, I used to play principal! I am incredibly blessed to be able to do each day what I used to dream about when I was a child. Even after all of these years of “living the dream,” so to speak, the beginning of a new school year is still extremely exciting. It is impossible for me to walk through the hallways these days and see the shiny floors, stacks of books, piles of new supplies, and desks set up for each student and not be filled with anticipation about the new school year. Still even more exciting than these physical things is the knowledge that in a week’s time the rooms will be filled with students! The quiet and change of pace which come with summer are nice for a time; however, by the middle of August it starts to seem way too quiet around here. As the late summer breeze blows in through the open window next to me, I anxiously await the first day of school.

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, we need to focus on what sets our mission in Catholic education apart from that of other school systems. This year’s theme, “**St. Gregory the Great Academy: Opening the Gate to Discipleship**” will keep us rooted in why we, both parents and school, carry out the holy work of Catholic education each day. Our school exists to teach our students to know and love Jesus Christ and His Church. We do this by rooting all that we do in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and striving to live a life of discipleship. Our purpose, simply stated, is to partner with you to get these young people to heaven one day. It is why we exist. What could be more important!

As we open the door to discipleship with our students, 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 8th, and then attend the 8:30 AM Mass as a school each Friday of the school year beginning on September 15th. As always, parents are welcome any time that we gather as a school for Mass. Also this year, each grade has been scheduled for a retreat morning at some point during the year. Fr. Al will be facilitating these retreats, which should provide some valuable time of prayer and interaction with our priests for our students.

As the needs of the Academy continue to grow and change, I have established several faculty leadership roles which will help us to serve our students more efficiently. In addition to their regular teaching roles, the following faculty members will work to support the needs of our students and teachers in specific areas. Mrs. Regina Ratzlaff will serve as the Director of Special Services. In this

role, she will not only continue to be a valuable resource for all teachers in meeting special needs, but will also assume a leadership role in assisting individual teachers and parents strategize together as individual needs arise. She will also assist in coordinating ESCNJ services. Sister Natalie will continue in her role of Coordinator of Religion, and I look forward to her continuing to work toward the spiritual growth of our students and staff as she has done so ably for many, many years. As we continue to move toward using data to both inform curricular decisions and to provide insight into student learning, Preschool through Grade 3 using Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) data to assist with curriculum planning and to assist with student development. Concurrently, Grades 4-8, along with Co-curricular teachers, will use this year to develop a unified curriculum map which will detail every month of a student's time at St. Gregory the Great Academy from September of their fourth grade year to June of their eighth grade year. A recurring theme in the data from the parent feedback survey was that it is not always apparent that our students are fully prepared for the expectations which teachers in subsequent grades have for them. This initiative will help to address this issue. The Coordinators of DRA for Preschool through Grade 3 will be Mrs. Amy Jo Wiegartner and Mrs. Amy Parrotta , and the Coordinators of Curriculum Planning for Grades 5-8 will be Mrs. Kelly O'Keefe, Mrs. Brittany DiGregorio, and Mrs. Elizabeth Mills. Mrs. Karen Stives will be our Coordinator of STEM Education. In this role, she will work with teachers in all subject areas, especially Science, Technology, and Math, and across all grade levels to help our students learn how to use all of their skills to solve real-world problems. Also, an important change in this area will be that the Science Fair projects will no longer be a required part of our curriculum. Instead, the scientific inquiry and STEM development aspects that these projects used to address will be integrated in the course of regular classroom instruction in Grades 5-8. This change in approach also is an outgrowth of the parent survey data, combined with research completed by our own faculty. Finally, Mrs. DiAnne Trail will continue to serve as the Coordinator of Technology, supporting the technological needs of our students, especially with the Chromebooks for Grades 5-8.

As we prepare for our new school year, we welcome our newest faculty members. After seamlessly taking the wheel in KB at the end of last school year, we formally welcome Mrs. Kristy Schiano as the 1B teacher. Mrs. Schiano brings experience in public education to her new position, as well as a BA from Kean University, and is enthusiastically looking forward to ministering in Catholic education. We welcome Mrs. Cloe McGilberry as our new 2A teacher. Mrs. McGilberry comes to us after completing her BS at The College of New Jersey this year. A familiar face assumes the helm in 3B as we welcome Mrs. Julie Boles. Mrs. Boles' three children are graduates of St. Gregory the Great Academy, and she has served as a substitute teacher for us the past few years. Mrs. Boles graduated with her BS from Seton Hall University, and taught third grade for eight years at St. Helena School in Edison. Mr. Paul Cutaneo is our new 6A teacher, and will be working with students in both sixth and seventh grade this year. Mr. Cutaneo earned his BS at St. Joseph's University in 2015, and is a graduate of St. Ann School and Notre Dame High School, both in Lawrenceville. We welcome Mrs. Dana Hoover as our 6C Teacher, and she will be working with our fifth, sixth, and eighth grade students. Mrs. Hoover earned her BA at Gwynedd-Mercy University, and comes to us after twenty-one years of teaching at St. Aloysius School in Jackson. Also joining us this year will be Mrs. Kari Huang, who will be instructing our fifth and sixth grade students in Mandarin Chinese as our Chinese program enters its third year. I am also very happy to introduce Miss Francesca DeVito, who will be instructing our third and fourth grade students in American Sign Language this year. Finally, we offer a warm welcome to our new school nurse, Mrs. Marcia Worthy, RN. Mrs. Worthy is eager to begin her time as our school nurse,

and will be working with Mrs. Siemann to ensure a smooth transfer. I am very happy to welcome each of our new staff members to our family here at St. Gregory the Great Academy.

We have some changes among our returning faculty members as well. Mrs. Karen Stives moves to 5A, and will both work with fifth and sixth grade as well as implement STEM instruction for Grades 1, 2, and 3. Mrs. Brittany DiGregorio moves from one end of B-Hall to the other end as she moves to 8B. She will be working with sixth, seventh, and eighth grade. Mrs. Nadine Cleveland, after serving as the Educational Assistant for the entire Kindergarten last year will now focus her efforts in KA. Mrs. Jean Margadonna, after serving as an Educational Assistant in second grade for many years, will bring her talents to KB as the Educational Assistant. Mrs. Kathy Moynahan, after concluding a legendary tenure as 2A teacher now moves to her new role as 1A Educational Assistant. Mrs. Kara Valentino moves from 2B to 2A in the same role as Educational Assistant. Finally, Mrs. Michelle Klama moves to 2B Educational Assistant after her successful time as KB teacher. You will also notice two other familiar faces in our hallways this year. Mrs. Robin Muccia will continue to assist at our school working as a student support assistant in the middle school grades, and Miss Nicole Seitz, who has been a fixture in our summer camp, will be working as a student support assistant in the Early Childhood hallway. I am extremely happy that Mrs. Muccia will continue to have a presence in our school as she is able, as this will be her 37th year at our school!

Summer has been busy here at school this year in terms of the physical plant. All classrooms in the school building have been cleaned and are ready for students! The 3A and 3B classrooms have new floors. This project was completed for a cost of \$2,000.00 in materials, using in-house labor. The 2nd Grade girls' room has been remodeled with new sinks and countertops, and now seems to be the nicest restroom in the school! Be assured, the desire for updating the restrooms throughout the school came through "loud and clear" in the parent survey data, and it is a desire that I share. The impediment is the cost. For example, the plumbing, carpentry, sinks, and countertops for this one location cost almost \$8,000.00. This cost does not include the carpentry labor that Mr. Raynor put into the project. We will continue to do the best that we can to budget funds toward continuing restroom renovations. The Technology Lab has new windows and air conditioning, as the classroom renovation process begins on the second floor. The cost of this project approached \$21,000.00. The Main Office and Principal's Office have new secure windows. After the "great blow in" of April 2017, the job could no longer be postponed. The cost of these windows was \$18,000.00. Thankfully, the cost of this work was covered half by nonpublic security funds and half through the generosity of a donation from a school family. Classroom 1B moved into the old Classroom KB, Classroom KB moved into the old Classroom KC, and the former Classroom 1B is now our new STEM Lab. Kindergarten and Grade 5 have new classroom furniture, which brings the ten year project to replace student furniture in the school to its conclusion. 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.

2017-2018 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. Lines Dela Cruz	Parochial Vicar	
<i>AB, Divine Word College; STB, Pontifical Lateran University, JCL, Pontifical University of the Holy Cross</i>		
Rev. Al Gamalo	Parochial Vicar	
<i>AB, The Nativity of Our Lady College Seminary, Borongan, Philippines; STB, St. Mary's Seminary and University; M.Div. St. Mary's Seminary and University</i>		
Dr. Jason C. Briggs	Principal	Religion 7
<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. Marcia Worthy	Academy Nurse	
<i>RN, JFK Muhlenberg Snyder School of Nursing</i>		
Mr. Sean Semple	Director of Advancement	
<i>BA, Providence College; MA, Georgian Court University</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>AA, Mercer County Community College</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. Nancy Darrah	KB	Essentially Self-Contained
<i>BA, Rider University</i>		
Mrs. Amy Jo Wiegartner	1A	Essentially Self-Contained
<i>BS, Mount St. Mary's College</i>		
Mrs. Kristy Schiano	1B	Essentially Self-Contained
<i>BA, Kean University</i>		
Mrs. Cloe McGilberry	2A	Essentially Self-Contained
<i>BS, The College of New Jersey</i>		
Mrs. Kathleen Wilson	2B	Essentially Self-Contained
<i>BA, Rider University</i>		
Mrs. Gena Bitonti	3A	Religion 3; Integrated Language Arts 3
<i>BS, Trenton State College</i>		
Mrs. Julie Boles	3B	Religion 3; Math 3; Science 3; Social Studies 3
<i>BS, Seton Hall University</i>		
Mrs. Jennifer Gallagher	4A	Math 4; Science 4; Social Studies 4
<i>BA, Neumann University, MA St. Joseph's University</i>		
Sister Natalie Panas, OSF	4B	Religion 4; Integrated Language Arts 4
<i>BA, Neumann College; M.Ed., Boston University; MA, Georgian Court University</i>		

Mrs. Karen Stives <i>BS, Wesley College</i>	5A	Science 5 & 6; STEM 1,2,3
Mrs. Elizabeth Mills <i>BA, Providence College; MS, University of London; MPA, Rutgers University</i>	5B	Religion 5; ILA 5 & 6; Math 5
Mr. Paul Cutaneo <i>BS, St. Joseph's University</i>	6A	Religion 7; Social Studies 6 & 7
Mrs. Tracey Mularadelis <i>BS, Trenton State College; MAT, The College of New Jersey</i>	6B	Religion 5 & 6; Social Studies 5; Math 7
Mrs. Dana Hoover <i>BA, Gwynedd-Mercy University</i>	6C	Religion 8; ILA 5 & 6; Math 6
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	ILA 6 & 8
Mrs. Brittany DiGregorio <i>BA, Richard Stockton College</i>	8B	Religion 8; ILA 7; Math 6
Mrs. Maria Carfaro <i>BS, Kutztown University</i>		Science Lab K-8
Mrs. Christine Fuccello <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-4
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
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. Kari Huang <i>BA, Adelphi University</i>		Mandarin Chinese 5 & 6
Miss Francesca DeVito <i>AAS, Ocean County College</i>		American Sign Language 3 & 4
Mrs. Regina Ratzlaff <i>BS, Trenton State College; M.Ed., The College of New Jersey</i>		Director of Special Services; Resource Room
Mrs. Amy Parrotta <i>BS, The College of New Jersey</i>		Resource Room
Mrs. Tracy Bailey		Educational Assistant – Preschool 3
Mrs. Tanya Beckman <i>BA, Siena College</i>		Educational Assistant – Preschool 3/4
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. Nadine Cleveland <i>BBA, Anna Maria College</i>	Educational Assistant – Grade KA
Mrs. Jean Margadonna <i>AA, Blue Hills Regional Technical Institute</i>	Educational Assistant – Grade KB
Mrs. Kathleen Moynahan <i>BA, St. Peter’s College</i>	Educational Assistant – Grade 1A
Mrs. Allison Maffia <i>AA, Mercer County Community College</i>	Educational Assistant – Grade 1B
Mrs. Kara Valentino	Educational Assistant – Grade 2A
Mrs. Michelle Klama <i>BA, Rider University</i>	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
Miss Nicole Seitz <i>BA, Monmouth University</i>	Support Assistant
Mrs. Robin Muccia <i>BA, Farleigh Dickinson University</i>	Support 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
Sr. Carolyn Houck, MPF	Director of Religious Education
Sr. Domenica Troina, MPF	Religious Education Assistant
Mrs. Patricia Seladi	Bookkeeper
Mrs. Donna Kalinoski	Parish Business 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
Mr. Cosmo Cavallaro	Groundskeeper

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. Students will walk on the sidewalk to the front doors of the Parish Center. For security reasons, the side doors to

Ferrante Hall will no longer be open in the morning. If students 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 in the morning when they are dropped off. Preschoolers who are signed into the Preschool Car Rider Line 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 a “day-of” 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 8, 2017, 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. This is an “excess plan,” and pays above what the child’s primary insurance does not cover.

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 that 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 2, 2017. For Grade 5, the blazer is an OPTION at all times of the year.

C. **The summer uniform may be worn through Friday, September 29, 2017.** 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 ensure 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 2017-2018 school calendar is included in this document, and is posted on our website. Information and flyers that need to be distributed each week will be included in the weekly CHIRP which will be posted on the school website. The CHIRP will be posted under the “Publications” tab 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. This email address will be used to send you a reminder each week when the CHIRP 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 5, 2017. A menu will be published each month. 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 CHIRP 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 an electronic portal 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:

The service requirement for the 2017-2018 school year is 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. FUNDRAISING COMMITMENT

The fundraising commitment is \$300.00 per family. The total of the **school rebates** for all Scrip purchases must equal \$300.00. Your school rebate total can be viewed at any time by signing into your Great Lakes Scrip Center account. All families are asked to seriously consider purchasing tickets for the 2017 St. Gregory the Great Gala to be held on November 18, 2017. Gala tickets will cost \$125.00 each, and each ticket purchased will accrue \$50.00 toward the total \$300.00 fundraising commitment. Families who do not meet the \$300.00 fundraising commitment will need to pay the balance by June 1, 2018. 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 and 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 wishes 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 Thursday, September 14, 2017, 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 Thursday, September 14, 2017, 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 12, at 7:00 p.m. for Grades 5-8 and Thursday, September 14, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. for Preschool-Grade 4.

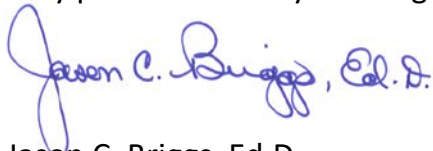
XIV. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Please be advised that St. Gregory the Great Academy operates under procedures outlined in our Crisis Manual. Information will always be shared with parents on a timely basis; however, please remember that necessary steps to contact emergency personnel and to secure students always takes priority over distributing information. My primary method of communication is via email, and the emergency notification system is reserved for true emergencies and weather closings/delays. We will be using the School Messenger emergency notification system this year; please see the information in this packet under separate cover.

Again, I welcome each of you to a new school year. This is truly a blessed place to be! I am excited to begin the journey of the 2017-2018 school year with our teachers, parents, and most of all, our students! I look forward to the Academy's 53rd first day of school, and my 13th 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 2017-2018 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