



St. Gregory the Great Academy

A Ministry of the Church of St. Gregory the Great

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August 24, 2017

Dear Parents,

Peace be with you! As you know, we have utilized the Honeywell Instant Alert system for several years at St. Gregory the Great Academy for the purpose of emergency notification. Over the summer, I elected to switch our emergency notification provider to School Messenger for a few reasons. First, this system has many more features, including the ability to send SMS (text) messages and a smartphone app. Second, the system is fully integrated with Genesis for the purpose of data transfer, so there will no longer be a reason for families to have to manually manage their information in the emergency notification system. Informing the office of changes in contact information will be the only step required. Third, the cost of School Messenger is less than half of the cost of the old system. Finally, several other schools in our diocese use School Messenger. For these reasons, we are moving forward with School Messenger.

As mentioned above, one important feature that School Messenger will offer is sending SMS messages. As you might already know, in order to receive regular SMS messages from a company a user must "opt-in" by sending a message to a short code number. (For example, if you want to receive prescription updates via text from a drug store, you will get an initial message asking you to confirm your consent by "replying YES to this message.") In order to enable your phone to receive SMS messages from School Messenger, you will have to opt-in to the system. The attached flyer provides instructions on how you can manually opt-in to the system at any time. There will also be a one time "opt-in" message that will be sent to all cell phone numbers on file on September 8, 2017 which will enable you to opt-in.

It is important that cell phone numbers are on file as such with the school. Thus, we will need families to confirm each "home cell" number on the EMERGENCY INFORMATION VERIFICATION FORM that will be sent home with each student on the first day of school. If you only have a cell number as your home contact number (e.g., you do not have a land line so you just use your cell number), please write the cell number in the "home cell" field on the form even if it is already listed as your "home" number. This will ensure that we have cell numbers accurately recorded in Genesis. If we only have your cell number listed as a "home" number in Genesis, it will not receive SMS messages even if it is a cell number. Thus, it is very important that you **return the emergency information verification form to school the very next day** after you receive it.

I will be sending a test message via School Messenger on Monday, September 11, 2017 to test all contact information. We will address any missing data after that message is sent.

If you have any questions aside from your contact information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

May peace and every blessing be yours,

Jason C. Briggs, Ed.D.
Principal



A 2014 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

Emergency Information Verification Form

Please sign as indicated. Also, please fill in any missing information and make corrections where necessary.

Current School: St. Gregory the Great Academy		Grade:	Homeroom:
Student's Name:		DOB:	Sex:
Legal Residence:		Mailing Address if different than residence:	
		Court Orders/Legal Restrictions:	
Please include company name for Work numbers, so that if your company changes phone numbers we will still be able to locate you. Emergency numbers will only be used in the event that we cannot reach at the other numbers listed. The Primary or Home Number will also be used for attendance auto-dialer.			
Guardian 1:	Primary #:	E-Mail:	
Home:	Home Cell:	Work:	Work Cell:
Guardian 2:	Primary #:	E-Mail:	
Home:	Home Cell:	Work:	Work Cell:
Emergency 1:	Primary #:	E-Mail:	
Home:	Home Cell:	Work:	Work Cell:
Emergency 2:	Primary #:	E-Mail:	
Home:	Home Cell:	Work:	Work Cell:
Emergency 3:	Primary #:	E-Mail:	
Home:	Home Cell:	Work:	Work Cell:

Health Information: Medical alerts/allergies: Receives daily medication during school hours (Y/N): N Wears glasses and/or contact lenses (Y/N): N	This student's health information may be shared with pertinent school staff if necessary to maintain well being and safety. Parent/Guardian will call the school if student will be absent or late.
	_____ Signature Date

Health care provider information (for emergency treatment when we are unable to contact you):		
Contact Type	Contact Name	Contact Number
Hospital		
Doctor		
Dentist		
Does your child have health insurance coverage? No	Please sign here to indicate that we have your permission to call the physicians listed or to have your child taken to the hospital when you are not available or in an emergency.	
If yes, what is the name of the Insurance Company?		
_____ Signature Date		

NJ FamilyCare provides free or low cost health insurance for uninsured children and certain low income parents. For more information call 800-701-0710 or visit www.njfamilycare.org to apply online. You may release my name and address to NJ FamilyCare Program to contact me about health insurance.

Signature	Printed Name	Date
For School Use Only: Student ID:		Date filed:
Date Updated in Database:	Initials:	

Parents and Guardians

You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Our school utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.

You can participate in this free service* just by sending a text message of “Y” or “Yes” to our school’s short code number, **67587**.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with “**Stop**”.

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge™, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.



**Opt-In from
your mobile
phone now!**



**Just send
“Y” or “Yes”
to 67587**

i Information on SMS text messaging and Short Codes:

SMS stands for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a “text message”. Most cell phones support this type of text messaging. Our notification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a true SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as “short code” texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers. If you’ve ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 46999, you have used short code texting.

*Terms and Conditions – Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See schoolmessenger.com/txt for more info.