



# The Academy of Our Lady of Peace

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908 464 8657

August, 2009

*“Start by doing what is necessary; then do what is possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”  
St. Francis of Assisi*

To All Academy Families,

As the summer starts to draw to a close we look at the calendar and realize the beginning of another exciting school year is only a month away. I am sure that you're already making preparations, finishing summer reading and math packets, purchasing supplies, and trying to get in those end-of-the-month vacations.

To help you prepare for September here are some things that we thought would be helpful for you to know as we come closer to the opening of school.

**Staff Changes:** This year we had to say good bye to a few staff members who have been with The Academy for many years. We thank Mrs. Glynn and Mrs. Horun for all their years of service to our school and wish them well in their retirement. We also had to say goodbye to our first grade teacher, Ms. Judy Gale, who is moving to Colorado, and to Mrs. Nicole Evaldi, our middle school math teacher who wanted to be closer to home after the birth of her child.

We would happily like to welcome three new staff members to The Academy this year. We have added a Pre-K3 teacher, Miss Mary Tremallo, our new middle school math teacher, Mr. Andrew Meehan and our new 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, Mrs. Elizabeth O'Toole. I know that you will give them a great Academy welcome when you meet them in the fall.

**Music Program:** At the end of last school year, I had let you know about the possibility of partnering with the Wharton School of Music in Berkeley Heights. Over the summer I had the opportunity to meet with their director and put together a plan that would allow our students to take instrumental music lessons. These lessons will occur in the mornings, before school begins, and will give our students the opportunity to learn how to play a variety of instruments. We are very excited about this partnership and will have more specific information during the first few weeks of school.

**The Academy Scholars Program:** Part of the process in becoming an Academy was that we needed to develop a “gifted and talented” program. In meeting with the faculty throughout the last school year and over the summer we have developed The Academy Scholars Program that we feel exceeds the goals of the Archdiocese. To begin, this program will be available to the students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade who achieved either 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> honors. Our plan is to expand the program to include more grades in the near future. Specific information on the Scholars Program will be available during the second week of school.

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**Uniforms:** The only uniform changes this year are: 1. The new Academy logo has been placed on any new items purchased from Flynn and O'Hara. 2. There is a requirement that new gym uniforms are purchased. Remember that we will have the same uniform this year as we have in the past, there will be a new uniform for the 2010-2011 school year.

**Lunch Program:** Mrs. McDonough will include in this mailing the menu for September and the information for our on-line ordering system, Order Lunches.com. If you have any questions about our lunch program please call the school's office.

**Emergency Forms:** Included in this mailing will be **emergency information forms that need to be completed and returned to the school's office as soon as possible**, at the latest by the first day of school.

**AfterCare:** To register for our aftercare program, parents can call the school's office at any time and request the registration forms be mailed home or the forms can be sent home in your child's backpack when they return to school. All forms must be completed and returned to school before the child can attend aftercare which begins on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.

As is always the case, there is so much planned for the upcoming school year that it is not possible to cover it all in a letter. However, here is a partial list of some of the activities that we will all look forward to as the school year progresses: the Robotics team, Middle School Volleyball team, and after school Soccer program in the fall, the school Choir, a Floor Hockey team, Cub Scouts and Brownies, Yearbook Club, the Forensics team, our Track team, our Middle School Ministry in Action and Peer Building programs, and so much more.

Lastly, I would like to invite all of our families to join us on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 11am as we celebrate our First Friday Liturgy of the year and commemorate the victims of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

If you have any questions in the next few weeks, please do not hesitate to call the school's office at 908-464-8657. I thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to teach your children and I look forward to working with you all to make this another successful year at The Academy of Our Lady of Peace.

Our Lady of Peace, pray for us.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Berrios, Principal  
The Academy of Our Lady of Peace

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