



**Saint Hilary of Poitiers School**  
**920 Susquehanna Road**  
**Rydal, PA 19046**

*"Love your neighbor as yourself."*

August 1, 2018

Dear Parents,

May the Joy and Hope of Our Lord be with you!

As principal of St. Hilary of Poitiers School, I am elated to welcome you to the 2018-2019 School Year. This summer I had the opportunity to enjoy the inspiring movie, *Won't You Be My Neighbor*, the documentary on the life of Fred Rogers. As a person, Fred Rogers was the embodiment of goodness and hope! His virtuous human nature coupled with his wealth of study and experience in child development brought Christ's teaching of love for oneself and our neighbor to children and adults through television. In Christ's commandment, he teaches us that each person has a valuable place in this world. Christ reminds us that we need to respect each person as unique. While remembering also, that we must be genuinely kind to ourselves in order to be more understanding to others.

Saint Hilary of Poitiers School strives to be the essence of Christ's powerful message! As Mister Rogers said at the end of each show, "You've made this a special day by just being you. There's only one person in the whole world like you, and people like you exactly as you are". Through the presence of the Eucharist and the value of relationship building, the Saint Hilary administration, faculty, and staff see God in each student and inspire them to be the best version of themselves ~ to be a *"good neighbor"*.

We can feel the enthusiastic anticipation as we prepare to open the doors of St. Hilary School for our journey this year with new staff members, property renovations, and curriculum updates.

We welcome back our returning faculty members, extraordinary educators who engage students in learning, have a desire for all students to succeed, excel in subject matter and who witness to the Gospel Message of Jesus Christ. We thank them for the positive impact they have on our children as they continue the rich tradition of an outstanding St. Hilary education.

Please join me in wishing *Mrs. Katherine Osborne* our blessings as she moves to the position of Eighth Grade Teacher.

Please join me in welcoming our newest faculty members:

*Mrs. Elizabeth Brown*, Grade 3. Mrs. Brown holds her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education/ Early Childhood Education.

*Ms. Kathleen Forsythe*, Grade 4. Ms. Forsythe holds her Bachelor of Science in Middle Level Education with a minor in Special Education.

*Ms. Katherine Lord*, Art Education. Ms. Lord holds her Bachelor of Arts with a concentration in Ceramics and 3-D Studio Art.

We wish Mrs. Carlo, Ms. Navarrete, and Ms. Mahon well on their new journeys and thank them for their service to St. Hilary School. We also welcome those students new to St. Hilary of Poitiers School entering Pre-K, Kindergarten, and other grades, along with their families!

As we strive to continually update and enhance the school grounds, numerous improvements and renovations to the facilities were completed over the summer with the help of the parish and Home and School Association. With the help of a donor and the fundraising funds, new rubber treads are scheduled to be installed on the steps to the cafeteria. The younger children will experience the beautiful renovations to the play area outside the Parish Center. In addition, a new drainage system was installed outside the modular buildings, under the area surrounding the modular buildings and under the new play area. We continue our IPAD Initiative with the upgrade of our older IPADS.

The students and faculty extend their sincere appreciation to Father Murray, the parents for their support of our fundraisers, and to our parishioners and generous benefactors for their continued support and individual donations to our school. Your efforts and sacrifices have allowed us to continue to grow! Our children are the recipients of your gift of time and treasures! THANK YOU!

Regulation school uniforms are to be worn starting Wednesday, September 5. Please refer to the enclosed uniform code. In order to maintain order and proper respect for each other, I ask that you pay particular attention and see that your child/ children are outfitted in the appropriate uniform, **including regulation shoes/ sneakers. All students must wear the new regulation shoes this year.**

The first Home and School Meeting and our annual *Meet the Teachers Night* will be held on **Wednesday, September 12** beginning at 7:00 PM sharp. We will gather in the church. **It is very important for each family to be represented in the church at the General Home and**

**School Meeting for the short business meeting and presentation on our school policies, the new programs, and directions for the classroom meetings.**

We encourage your participation in the Home and School Association. Pope John Paul II reminded us *"dialogue with pupils' families, which should also be encouraged through the promotion of parents' associations, is needed for an educational project to be efficacious."*

The opening schedule for the new school year 2018-2019 is:

<b>Wednesday, September 5</b>	Students in Grades 5-8 only- Dismissal 3:15 Pre-K and K Orientation Schedule
<b>Thursday, September 6</b>	Students in Grades 1-4 only - Dismissal 3:15 Pre-K and K Orientation Schedule
<b>Friday, September 7</b>	All students in Grades 1-8 <b>Opening School Liturgy, 9:00 AM</b>  Pre-K and K Orientation Schedule Noon Dismissal

Please remember tuition and fees must be current for your child to enter school in September. Contact the rectory if you have any questions or concerns in reference to tuition or fees.

Please look out for an upcoming email with details on our before and after school CARES Program.

In closing, I thank you for choosing St. Hilary of Poitiers School to holistically educate your child. At St. Hilary of Poitiers School, it is about ***HOW*** we do what we do, rather than what we do. St. Hilary School is a holy ground, a sanctuary that protects and loves the children entrusted to us. With a joyful heart and enthusiasm, I look forward to working with Father Murray, Deacon John, our dedicated faculty, staff, and supportive parents to ensure that your child/ children become life- long learners and problem solvers whose lives are centered in the Gospel Message of Jesus Christ.

With God's Blessings,

*Eileen M. Fagan*

Eileen M. Fagan  
Principal

Enclosure: Dress Code; Mass Invitation, Rita's Water Ice

***I believe that appreciation is a holy thing, that when we look for what's best in the person we happen to be with at the moment, we're doing what God does; so in appreciating our neighbor, we're participating in something truly sacred."*** Fred Rogers-Commencement Address at Middlebury College May, 2001 "