



HOPE LUTHERAN C H U R C H & S C H O O L S

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July 1, 2010

Dear Hope Families,

I pray that you are having an enjoyable summer vacation so far; hopefully the sun will visit us permanently for a while! I wanted to give you an update on a number of things as we move into July and encourage you to go through the items in this packet carefully as there are many that require action on your part.

Principal Update: We are pleased to report on the progress of our Principal Call Committee. The Committee has worked very hard over the past few months to move this important process forward. Two candidates made on-site visits to our campus last week; both individuals are experienced educators, have Masters Degrees in Education along with other important professional credentials, a strong Christian faith that guides their views on parent/student/teacher relationships, an enthusiasm with solid ideas on academic standards and goals, and a willingness to commit to long-term service at Hope. The School Board is prepared to present a final candidate to Hope Congregation for acceptance at a special congregational meeting scheduled for July 11th.

Discipline Policy: Having a well-crafted discipline policy that aligns with our School's values of teaching children responsibility and respect for others while instilling the love of Jesus Christ in their hearts is one of our goals. Under the oversight of Jeff Allen, the teaching staff created an ad-hoc team to review and revise our school's discipline plan and procedures with input from an outside consultant with experience in this arena. As a result, a new school-wide discipline policy has been drafted and is planned to be introduced at the start of the school year.

"Cover the Gap" – Can You Help? As was stated on our tuition invoices, the cost to educate a child in Kindergarten through 8th grade at Hope Lutheran School is \$6,800. We set our tuition rates lower than our cost in order to make a high-quality Christian education affordable to a broader range of students. The difference between the cost and the actual tuition rates ("the gap") is subsidized by Hope Lutheran Church, and, in a small way, through fundraising. We are asking that school families who are able to give towards covering the gap through a "Cover the Gap" Annual Appeal gift do so, even if it is only \$10. All gifts make a difference and will be considered tax-deductible. Checks can be made out to Hope Lutheran School, designating "Cover the Gap."

\$500 Referral Bonus: As you can imagine, word of mouth is the best way to spread the great news about our school. We are offering a \$500 referral bonus to you when you refer a new family to join our Hope School community and they successfully enroll in our school. Please see the included flyer for details on this opportunity. Thank you for promoting our wonderful school!

Back-to-School Dates - mark your calendars:

- **August 22nd (Sunday)** – School & Church Clean-Up Day
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Come early and join us at 12:00 PM for a BBQ lunch!
- **August 31st (Tuesday)** – Orientation
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM - 6th Grade **Student Orientation**
5:45 PM to 7:00 PM - Preschool 3 Parent Orientation
6:30 PM to 7:45 PM - Preschool 4 Parent Orientation
6:30 PM to 8:00 PM - K– 8th Parent Orientation
- **September 7th (Tuesday)** – First Day of School!
8:30 AM to 12:00 PM - Chapel service at 8:40 AM
- **September 10th (Friday)** – 5:00 PM Welcome Back Party at Lincoln Park

SMART Tuition Contact Info: Parents using our SMART tuition service can access individual account information at www.smarttuition.com to make payments, view amounts due, and find answers to commonly asked questions. The parent help center is also available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at (888) 868-8828.

Enclosures: In this packet, you will find information pertaining to the upcoming school year. A Forms Checklist is enclosed for your convenience; many of the required forms can be found on our school website. Once you have completed the forms, please mail them back to the school or drop them off in the school office. If you have any questions, please contact Shari Wallace at (206) 935-8500.

Thank you for your continued support of Hope Lutheran School. During the summer, you can contact me or Shari Wallace for school-related questions. You can reach me in the church office at 206-937-9330. God has blessed our school with wonderful students and families and a dedicated teaching staff; we look forward to an exciting year under new leadership! We wish you God's blessing as you enjoy your summer break.

In His service,

Julia Doerr
Parish Administrator
Hope Lutheran Church & Schools