

April 4, 2008

Dear Parents of Eighth Graders,

How quickly time has passed! Weren't they just in Kindergarten yesterday? In only a few short months, our children will be on to the next phase of their lives. In the interim, we would like to make the remaining weeks at Gesu School as memorable as possible. With this in mind, we are sending to you the enclosed information. We hope that by giving you this early, you will be able to plan ahead. This is a very exciting time for our eighth graders and we hope to make it as special as possible.

FINAL TESTS: Final tests will be given to each eighth grader. The schedule of the tests will be sent home. Your child will receive a copy of this schedule at school.

GRADUATION PICTURE: **The eighth grade graduation picture will be taken on Wednesday, April 16th at 8:30 a.m. in the Church.** The students are expected to dress in Sunday attire: sport coat, dress slacks, shirt and tie for the boys, and a nice dress for the girls, appropriate for church. New clothes are not necessary for the photo. All students are expected to be in the picture.

CEDAR POINT: The Cedar Point trip is planned for Wednesday, June 4th. Students will be chaperoned by their 8th grade teachers.

GRADUATION LUNCHEON: Tuesday, June 3rd is the last day of classes for our 8th graders. They will attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass followed by academic awards. During the Mass, the eighth graders will sit in the front of the church and their parents are welcome to sit directly behind them. The eighth grade academic recognition ceremony will be at 10:15 a.m. in the Family Center. At 11:30 a.m., we will meet in McAuley Hall for the "Graduation Luncheon." This luncheon is for the graduates and both parents, and we hope that every child can have at least one parent present. **Space is limited, so we ask that siblings and other children do not attend.** At this time, the graduates will be presented with their surprise graduation gift. The students will be dismissed from school after the luncheon. Boys may wear golf shirts, khaki-type pants, and school shoes (no jeans, shorts, or athletic shoes). Girls may wear "Sunday" clothes (no jeans, shorts, or athletic shoes). **New clothes are not necessary for this event.**

GRADUATION CEREMONY: On Thursday, June 5th, there will be a Mass of Thanksgiving for the 8th graders and their parents at 7:00 p.m. in the church. The 8th graders will receive their diplomas at the end of the liturgy. The graduates will sit together. Boys are asked to wear dress pants, dress shirt, suit jacket or sport coat, and tie. Girls are asked to wear **simple age-appropriate dresses with no hats.** Keep in mind that this is a church service. **The girls may not wear strapless dresses or dresses with "spaghetti" straps. Shoulders must be fully covered.** Use your best judgment in selecting attire that is respectful, dignified, and appropriate. There are no classes for 8th graders on Thursday, June 5th.

GRADUATION RECEPTION: A Graduation Reception for parents, graduates, siblings, and guests will be held in front of the church immediately following the graduation. Punch and cookies will be served.

GRADUATION PARTY: After the graduates have greeted their families and friends at the reception, they are invited to attend the Graduation Party planned especially for them. It is sponsored and chaperoned by the 7th grade parents of Gesu. The dance will be held in McAuley Hall following the Graduation Ceremony until 11:00 p.m. Snacks and pop will be served, and a disc jockey will provide music for dancing. For security reasons, we would like to note that all graduates must be picked up promptly at 11:00 p.m. They will NOT be permitted to walk home. Please note that this dance is for 8th grade graduates only.

FEES: Kindly attach two checks totaling the amount of \$120.00 **on or before Friday, April 18th:**

1. **One check** is to be made payable to **GESU SCHOOL** in the amount of **\$60.00**. This check is for the Cedar Point ticket and transportation, diploma, and miscellaneous graduation fees.
2. The **second check** is to be made payable to **CASH** in the amount of **\$60.00** which will be used by the Graduation Committee to cover the following: Graduation Luncheon (food, beverages, and paper supplies); Graduation Dance (snacks, pop, decorations, and DJ); Parent/Guest Reception (cookies, beverages, paper supplies, and decorations); Class Graduation Picture; and Surprise Graduation Gift for graduates.

If the costs involved present a financial hardship for any family, please contact Sr. Linda.

ENCLOSED ROOM PARENT LETTER: Please read the enclosed Room Parent Letter carefully. It contains important information about the graduation activities and volunteer opportunities. **Please note the following:**

1. **Your promptness is returning the requested photographs will be greatly appreciated.**
2. **If you would like to be part of a committee listed in the room parent letter, please return the volunteer form to the school office no later than April 18th.**

We wish to thank the Room Parents who have so generously given their time to organize these events. We encourage all of you to share in these precious memories of our children. We welcome your help and involvement. If you have any concerns, please call your child's Room Parent.

Sincerely,

Sister Linda Martin, OSU
Principal