

Dear Parents,

Welcome to St. Jude of the Lake School! For over 50 years, St. Jude of the Lake has provided a strong, Catholic education to its students. With the support and prayers of a vibrant parish community, we are able to fulfill our mission with a *“commitment to worship, and service to others, and academic excellence that children achieve a deeper awareness of their responsibility to God, community and themselves”*.

We have five themes that are the focus of our school: Worship, Academic Excellence, Community, Service and Enrichment Activities. Our goal is for each student to participate and have success in each area. To do this, we offer many activities and opportunities for our students:

WORSHIP - As a Catholic school, our faith is central to all we do. We begin our day with prayer and the Gospel reading of the day, adding a reflection time for students to consider how Jesus is calling them to live out His word each day. Each Thursday, we worship together at our school mass. Students have opportunities to participate as readers, singers, greeters and gift bearers.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE – Achieving high standards for our students in academics is our primary focus. Aligning our curriculum with Minnesota Standards, we use multiple methods to help meet the individual students’ learning styles and help insure their success when they graduate in 8th grade and head to high school. With small class sizes, we are able to provide individual attention and extra care for each student to help them succeed. Our teachers have advanced degrees and continue their learning in best practices as we challenge our staff as well as our students. The caring and nurturing environment provides students a safe place to take risks and discover their potential.

COMMUNITY – St. Jude of the Lake has a strong sense of community. Through events such as Senior Day, Sunday mass hospitality, Christmas program, Rake-a-thon, Reading Buddies, Catholic Schools Week events, and social gatherings such as Fun Nights and dances, students, families and staff form a close knit “family” that supports each other in all that we do.

SERVICE – An extension of our faith, we plant the seeds of life-long service by the many activities our students participate in at our school. Classes attend events throughout the year and help support many charities including: Crisis Nursery, Food Shelf, Sleep Out for Homelessness, Operation Christmas Child, and Pennies for Patients. Within the school, students serve by assisting in school liturgies, offering clerical services to the parish, and leading projects through the Junior Honor Society and Student Council.

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES – To help our students discover all of their gifts and talents, we provide many additional activities for students to participate in and shine! We offer Student Council, Junior Honor Society, Lego League, Quiz Bowl, Art Adventure, Band and Piano, Math Counts and Math Masters. For athletic activities, St. Jude participates in the CAA for volleyball, soccer, hockey, basketball, track, swimming, baseball and cross country. Our 8th grade students take a trip to Washington as a culmination of their years here. One of our biggest activities is our spring musical which involves students in grades 4-8.

As you can see, we have much to offer your child. I hope you find St. Jude of the Lake School your educational home for many years to come. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Cassidy, Principal