

Dear 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents,

10/02/17

Welcome to your child's 8<sup>th</sup> grade year - whether this is your 1<sup>st</sup> child, your last, or your only - it promises to be a fun year ahead! We started out a bit rough with Hurricane Harvey but we are back on track and there is lots to accomplish as we prepare our "seniors" for high school. I am hoping you will all take the time to familiarize yourselves with the Parent Night information for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. I am including a link to a list of important dates for parents as we begin to navigate the Catholic high schools admissions process together. Our tours at area high schools are in full swing. I highly encourage *you to visit* the schools you will be considering as well. Attend their Open Houses, meet their staff, walk their campuses, and ask questions. Please be aware that due to these high school visits we take as a school, we do not excuse our students for separate shadowing days. We are blessed with so many wonderful choices in Houston and I am happy to help you in this decision making process. I always tell parents, give your child a voice in the process but the final vote should be made by parents as to the best place for the student when considering all the factors. It is a big decision and shouldn't be made based on where friends are attending or on who had the best lunch service.

Open House, Admissions, and testing dates are noted on the aforementioned link, but I also strongly encourage you to check out individual websites for more detailed information. Be aware the entrance test(s) vary in choice depending on the high school(s) to which your child is applying. Be aware of the registration dates for the HSPT and ISEE as your child will need to register in advance. For students qualifying for testing accommodations, please contact the school where your child will be testing to learn more about what paperwork needs to be completed ahead of time to make this happen.

Make-up entrance exam testing dates are offered at some high school locations. See individual websites for further information.

The high school application process can feel rather overwhelming but we are here to help you through it all. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you'd like to talk more about your child and their high school aspirations.

In Christ's Love,  
Betty Costantini  
St. JPII Middle School Counselor