

August 6, 2018

Greetings in Christ,

We hope you have had an enjoyable summer. The school has been abuzz with contractors and we are excited to begin the new school year with our additional fourth floor classrooms, expanded side chapel and wonderful new Principal, Sr. Mary Raymond Thye!

Enclosed you will find important information regarding the new school schedule, Orientation Days as well as a copy of your finalized class schedule (which is attached to this email). *Please note: Due to construction, Freshman Orientation has been changed from two days to one day. Also, there is no Orientation Day scheduled for returning Sophomores or Juniors.*

FRESHMAN ORIENTATION

Thursday, August 30, 7:45am-2:45pm (All Freshman must attend)

Students should report to the Gym upon their arrival. Dress for the day should be comfortable but appropriate (no short shorts or tank tops). Students are required to bring:

- Their tablet/laptop (for an important “log in” and Tech Session)
- A bag lunch and a drink.

TRANSFER ORIENTATION

Thursday, August 30, 10:00am-2:45pm (All Transfer students must attend)

Students should report to the Main Lobby of the school. Dress for the day will be comfortable but appropriate (no short shorts or tank tops). Transfer students will have lunch provided at a special welcome luncheon. Students are required to bring:

- Their tablet/laptop (for an important “log in” and Tech Session)

Important ‘to do’ for Freshman and Transfer Students:

All new students must install MICROSOFT OFFICE AND LANSCHOOL before Orientation Day. These downloads are free to all our students. Directions and links on how to download may be found on our website (www.mountdesalesacademy.org) Choose the ‘Academics’ tab and select ‘Technology’. To the right you will see “Helpful Links”. Choose the fifth option down “Summer Checklist for the 1:1 Program”. The read version of this document is attached to this email.

SENIOR PARENT COFFEE and SENIOR ORIENTATION

Friday, August 31

Parent Meeting: 8:00am-9:00am in Padre Pio side library. We ask that at least 1 parent attend.

Senior Orientation: 9:00am-10:00am in the Music Hall. All Seniors must attend. Please contact Erinn McConville with any questions. emcconville@mountdesales.org

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Bell Schedule: In order to accommodate travel time for our new fourth floor, the daily schedule has been extended by 10 minutes. School will begin at 8:00am and end at 2:40pm. A copy of the new Bell Schedule may be found on the homepage of our website under “Useful Links” and will be included in the Student’s Planner/Handbook.

Seminar of the Human Person: We are excited to be starting the *Seminar of the Human Person*. This seminar will be offered twice per month to freshman and sophomores (during S block) and approximately once per month to juniors and seniors (during R block). A copy of the curriculum may be found on the website under the Academics tab. Students will receive ¼ credit per year for this Seminar. The Course Description is below:

“This Seminar is designed to give students the self-knowledge, skills and confidence

necessary to impact and shape their world before and after graduation. Each year the student will learn about specific skills and abilities that flow from her dignity and are pertinent to her current growth and development. Over the course of her four years here, she will gain a deeper understanding about herself, the dignity of the human person, and how she is called by God to impact the world in which she lives.”

Study Hall/Seminar and E/F block: With the adjustment to the bell schedule and the welcome of the new *Seminar* course, an adjustment was necessary to the E/F block period. E/F block classes will now run every day (Monday-Friday) and a new 40-minute Study Hall/Seminar block (R/S) has been added to the schedule. **The R/S block replaces “Homeroom” and will run after A block on Day 1 and D block on Day 2.** This will serve as the students Study Hall and will be also used accordingly for the students *Seminar Sessions*. Students will still enjoy a 15-minute Break in the morning.

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, September 4: First day of school and Junior ID pictures. Students arrive in full uniform with their device and report to their A block class by 7:55am.

Wednesday, September 5: Sophomore ID pictures.

Thursday, September 6: Freshman ID pictures.

Sunday, September 9: Campaign Kickoff Festival for Center for Performing Arts and Student Life. The whole family is welcome to attend this fun, family-friendly festival! The day begins with Mass in the Chapel of St. Francis de Sales, followed by a short campaign program, lunch, and festivities

10:30 a.m. - Registration

11:00 a.m. - Mass

12:15 p.m. - Campaign Presentation and Update

12:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. - Lunch and Family Fun Activities

Thursday, September 13: Back to School Night 6:00pm in the Gym

SUMMER READING and SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS

Please be sure that you have printed off the accompanying questions for your summer reading which can be found on the Mount de Sales website. Students who are registered for AP courses or Advanced Art courses have been assigned summer assignments. Detailed information should have been given to these students in early June but may also be found on our website. All students are responsible for completing this summer work by the first week of school.

We look forward to having you all return and celebrate with us the unveiling of the fourth floor and side chapel. Enjoy these last few weeks of summer. May God’s abundant blessings be poured out upon each of you!

Sincerely in Christ,

Mrs. Theresa M. Greene
Vice Principal of Academics