



**Principal's Post#1: A Message from Mrs. Kozlowski**  
**August 16, 2023**

**“The joy of the Lord is my strength.” Nehemiah 8:10**

The official theme of the Archdiocese of Baltimore Division of Catholic Schools for the 2023/24 school year is JOY. This is based on the above biblical passage from Nehemiah stating “The JOY of the Lord is my strength.” Next week we welcome St. Stephen faculty and staff back onto campus to officially begin their journey in JOY this school year. We are certain to find JOY in being together again as a group of Catholic professionals. A complete list of our faculty and staff will be shared in next week’s Principal Post email.

To enhance our faith between home and school, we will be launching a new initiative, outlined in this video from Facebook here: [Link from social media video](#) We will be working with our students to create a prayer corner/area in their home, where you will be able to come together as a family to pray. Each month supplies and directions will be sent home with each family, usually going to the oldest student of the family. Your homework for August is to designate a space in your home for this prayer area and to adorn it with some form of green (fabric piece, placemat, piece of paper) as we will begin our school year in the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. We look forward to the JOY this prayer journey will bring to your student and family.

Please note the following dates on your calendar for the upcoming months of August through December. These dates, while they will be referenced in emails to come, contain extra details and information that will help with your organization for a smooth and successful school year. A paper copy will be provided to all families during Sneak a Peek. A similar calendar will be posted again in January for the second half of the school year.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dS84YFqvBk-gcVTJQdvIcbCgWS1g7YoSoffUcFnUo4/edit?usp=sharing>

Finally, Father George shared an important update regarding the location of the Pastorate offices for Holy Spirit and St. Stephen last week with parishioners. Please see his video here for additional information: <https://youtu.be/FvfUNb5vfu8>

Grace and peace,  
Mrs. Marianne Kozlowski

## **Additional Information:**

### **New Family Orientation**

All new families to St. Stephen School are invited to attend New Family Orientation on Wednesday, August 23, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the school gym. It should last about one hour. School administration and various members of the school community will present helpful information so that you can successfully transition into the school year at St. Stephen. It is suggested that parents attend the orientation without their children as the information is geared specifically for the adults.

### **Sneak a Peek**

On Friday, August 25, 2023, students and families are invited to St. Stephen School from 9 - 11 am to meet & greet their teacher and see their classroom. This is an “open house” style event. Students are NOT required to wear their uniform. Students are encouraged to bring their school supplies to this event to leave in their homerooms. Students and families will begin this event by visiting the St. Stephen School tent (it’s red) in the parking lot. Here you will receive your Scavenger Hunt list to complete. We look forward to seeing our Eagles soon!

### **First Day of School & Early Dismissal**

We will begin the 2023/24 school year on Monday, August 28, 2023. A detailed email regarding the arrival and dismissal procedures will be shared next week. All students will wear their regular school uniform, as there will be no special area classes on this first day. Students do NOT need to pack lunch. Kindergarten through grade 8 students will be dismissed at noon. Prek3 and prek4 students will follow the schedule outlined by their child’s teacher.

### **Early Dismissal: Friday, September 1, 2023**

There will be an early dismissal for students and faculty at noon on Friday, September 1, 2023. This means that students will NOT need to pack lunch today. The school office will close after dismissal.

### **No school: Monday, September 4, 2023**

Due to Labor Day, there is no school for students and faculty on Monday, September 4, 2023. The school office will be closed.