

SUMTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

AUGUST 2009 NEWSLETTER

www.sumterchristian.org

We hope you are enjoying a pleasant summer. We welcome all the new families into our school. This is the first of ten letters to be posted on our website. Please let us know if there is information you would like for us to include on the website.

WORKBOOK & CLASS FEES

have been assessed to your account and will show on the August statement. You may pay for the workbooks and class fees any time before school starts. Most parents pay at Open House, but coming by to pay sooner may help you avoid waiting in line. There is no rental fee for hardback books. Elementary and high school students will need to purchase the items on the supply list, which is on the homepage under "Forms & Documents." K3-K5 students will pay a \$40 supply fee, and all supplies for the entire year will be provided. This will save you time shopping and ensure that all the younger children have identical supplies.

OPEN HOUSE is scheduled for Friday, August 14, from 1:00 until 7:00 p.m. Parents and students are invited to visit the classrooms and meet the teachers. Students should come dressed in accordance with the school's dress code. Day Care will be closed on Open House day.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

earn us cash for each box top you cut out and send in. Classes compete, and the winning class gets a party at the end of the year. Please be sure to send the box tops to school with your child. We need a volunteer to coordinate this for us. Call the office if you would like to do this.

AFTER SCHOOL PICK-UP for K3 through 2nd grade is at the main entrance near the office. Students in grades 3-12 are picked up at the rear of the high school building. K3 and K4 dismiss at 12:00, K5 and first grade at 2:45, grades 2-4 at 2:55, grades 4-6 at 3:05, and grades 7-12 at 3:10. All grades begin at 8:05 a.m. The first day of school is Monday, August 17.

IMMUNIZATIONS must be completed before school begins. Students in K4-12th grade need a second MMR (mumps, measles, rubella) shot. Students in K5-9th grade need to have one (1) dose of varicella (chicken pox) vaccine or positive history of disease. Students in K5 through 5th grade need four (4) doses of DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis). If they have already had these shots, they need to turn in DHEC form 1148 indicating the dates and/or verification of positive history of the disease. Students in K5 through 12th grade need to have started their Hepatitis B series of three shots.

BEGINNING BAND is a part of the fourth grade curriculum for every student and is offered as an elective for grades five through twelve. Mr. Rollings is our band director, and you may meet him at Open House. He will have information about renting or purchasing instruments.

P.E. UNIFORMS are required for students in grades 7 and 8. Uniforms may be purchased at Open House, and they will be distributed the first day of school. The cost is \$12.00 for tee-shirts and \$18.00 for shorts.

TARDINESS to class causes the teacher to lose valuable teaching time and prevents the student from receiving the full value of his education. The handbook states, "*Four tardies in a nine-weeks' grading period result in a one-day suspension. Parents have the option of choosing a \$20 fine in lieu of a suspension for tardies if they prefer. High school students are counted absent or present for each class, not for the day. High school students receive demerits for being late to classes.*" Please see the paragraph under "Attendance" in the Parent-Student Guide for a full explanation of the policy regarding absences and tardies.

FUNDRAISING PROJECTS

will be announced as the year progresses. Selling coupon booklets the last three years has been beneficial, and we will do that again at the beginning of school. There are always nice incentive rewards for the students. Information will be sent home with the students.

EDLINE is available again this year for online viewing of your child's grades, assignments, and your financial statements. Activation codes may be obtained by calling the office, or you may get it during Open House.

**Please return the
Emergency Contact
form to the office by
August 14. It is under
"Forms & Documents"
on the homepage.**

ALL ATHLETES are required to have a physical exam before participating in a sport. Students who plan to play a sport during this coming school year may want to get a physical exam before the summer ends, since it is more convenient. Sports fees are due before the first game of the season. The varsity fee includes a season pass for the entire family to all home games during that season. Parents of JV players will be charged admission for each game they attend. If a parent has a varsity and JV child, the pass for the varsity game will allow free admission to the JV game also. The fees are \$75 for each varsity sport and \$35 for each JV sport. If a parent has two or more children playing a varsity sport in the same season, the fee is \$50 for the additional varsity siblings. Athletes who plan to play a fall sport but cannot attend practice before the start of school should contact the school (773-1902), and one of the secretaries will notify the coach. Season passes will be issued as the fees are paid.

SOCCER practice for high school boys begins Monday, August 3 (5:00 pm until 7:00 pm). Each player needs to have shin guards, soccer cleats, and his own soccer ball. Shirts are required.

VOLLEYBALL practice for high school girls begins Monday, August 3 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m. for JV and 5:15 – 7:00 p.m. for varsity). Girls in grades seven through twelve are invited to attend these practices, which will be in our gym. Kneepads and tennis shoes are required. Knee-length shorts, culottes, or slacks are permissible.

CHEERLEADING may be available during the basketball season but not the soccer season.

THE FALL REVIVAL (“The War of the Special Forces”) is August 30-September 4. Evangelist Jim Van Gelderen will speak in high school chapel each weekday and Wednesday-Friday evenings. He has been with us several times before, and the teens love him and respond well to his ministry.

DRESS CODE CHANGE The school board recently made a change to the dress code for high school next year. We considered going to uniforms in 2004 when we removed the requirement for dresses or skirts for girls. The decision to allow pants for girls was a good decision, but the appearance of our students has become more casual than we desire (sometimes even sloppy). We reconsidered uniforms at our meeting this month because of the many advantages that come when uniforms are used in a school. However, we want to have some flexibility that uniforms do not provide. Therefore, the following is a simple policy for students in grades 7-12, beginning August 2009.

All students in grades 7-12 will wear solid-color traditional polo shirts (any color). Traditional polo shirts are slip-over shirts with two or three buttons and a collar. Slacks (or knee-length skirts for girls) must be navy, black, or khaki and have inset pockets (no cargo-style pants or patch-style pockets). The pants must be “khaki material” (not corduroy, denim, stretch, etc.). We plan to allow knee-length shorts in these three colors once we have one company as the supplier so all shorts will be uniform in fit and length. We will put this information on our website and also send letters home this summer.

We plan to implement a similar (or identical) policy for 6th grade and under for 2010-11 and will finalize the policy for those grades at a later meeting. Sixth grade and under will be allowed to wear the shorts we select this coming year if they wear a solid-color polo shirt with the shorts.

SENIOR PICTURES (for yearbook and optional individual purchasing) will be taken during picture day (Sept. 10).

Bus Drivers Needed
(for games and/or field trips)
Call the office if you have a CDL and are interested.

**TUITION CREDIT
REMINDER**

Each year we invest a certain amount of money for advertisements for Sumter Christian School. The best advertisement that we have had has been satisfied parents. Most folks who enroll students in our school do so because of a recommendation from one of our current families. For the last several years, we have shown our appreciation to you in a tangible way. When a new family is enrolled for the 2009-2010 school term and indicates on the application at the time of enrollment that you recommended them to our school, we will give you a \$100.00 credit on your account. If more than one family is indicated on the application as recommending someone, the credit will be evenly divided. Credit will be issued on your November statement for each student you recommended who is still enrolled at the end of October.

Openings are filled on a first-come basis. Thank you for all the recommendations you give for Sumter Christian School.

The Booster Club will manage the concessions and gate for all sports this year, and proceeds will go into the athletics department. Parents are needed to help. See Mr. Manley to sign up.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- To coordinate
- The Coupon Booklet Fundraiser
 - Box Tops for Education
 - Concessions & gate for athletics

Please see one of the secretaries for more information or to enlist.

Please call the office if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you at Open House on August 14 (1:00 – 7:00 pm).