

SUMTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

AUGUST 2011 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 through 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 12, 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. They add up and we usually earn between \$600-\$800 each year. Let's hit \$1,000 this year!

AFTER SCHOOL PICK-UP for K3 through 3rd grade is at the main entrance near the office. Students in grades 4-12 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 2-3 at 2:55, grades 4-5 at 3:05, and grades 6-12 at 3:10. All grades begin at 8:05 a.m. The first day of school is Monday, August 15.

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.

BAND is a part of the curriculum for fourth and fifth grades and is offered as an elective for grades six through twelve. We are in the process of making it a part of the curriculum through eighth grade. Mrs. Lundy (formerly Miss Fleming) is our band director, and you may meet her at Open House. She will have information about renting or purchasing instruments.

P.E. UNIFORMS are required for students in eighth grade. 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 (on our website) for a full explanation of the policy regarding absences and tardies.

FUNDRAISING PROJECTS are announced as the year progresses. Selling coupon booklets the last five 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 allows you to have online viewing of your child's grades, assignments, and your financial statements. The school sends emails via Edline to keep you informed with events and changes at school. If you do not activate your account, you may miss some of this information. 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 12. 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 \$50 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 Mrs. Gibbs or Mrs. Davis will notify the coach. Season passes will be issued as the fees are paid.

SOCCER practice for boys (grades 7-12) begins Monday, August 1 (4:00 pm until 6:00 pm). Each player needs to have shin guards, soccer cleats, and his own soccer ball. Shirts are required.

VOLLEYBALL practice for girls begins Monday, August 1 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m. for JV and 5:15 – 7:00 p.m. for varsity). Girls in grades six 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.

THE DRESS CODE for grades K5-2 is now very similar to the dress code we had last year for grades 3-12. Revised handbooks may be viewed and/or printed from our website. Click “Student-Parent Guide” on the far right side of the homepage.

HIGH SCHOOL CAMP will prove to be a highlight of the year again. This year marks the second year of this annual trip for grades 9-12. We will begin school at The Anchorage Camp in North Carolina. Aaron Burk, the program director there, graduated from our school in 1990. While we are there, we will be the only group there. They cater the schedule to fit the needs of our school. Several of our teachers will go and, of course, the camp’s counselors will be there. We will leave Sunday afternoon, August 14 at 2:30, and return Wednesday, August 17, about 1:30. Since Monday through Wednesday will count as three of the 180 days of school, all students are expected to attend this retreat unless they have a doctor’s excuse explaining why they cannot attend.

The two days and three nights will be filled with fun activities, social networking, and spiritual challenges. The theme of the week will center around developing leadership qualities through service. Even those who have no interest in “outdoor camp activities” will have plenty of enjoyment with other activities and learn to develop leadership qualities.

The camp is located on Lake Waccamaw, only about 2½ hours from Sumter. You may visit their website at www.anchoragecamp.org for more information about the organization. They have the traditional summer camps for juniors and teens, but the school camps are designed differently than summer camps since only the one school group is there.

The cost for each student is \$50, which includes 8 meals and three nights’ lodging while there. Sumter Christian School will pay the cost of transportation. Your cost will be assessed to your school account in August, and the school will send one check to The Anchorage. More details about transportation, dress code, and chaperones will be mailed to all high school students.

SENIOR PICTURES (for yearbook and optional individual purchasing) will be taken during picture day (Sept. 8).

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, and our school committee has voted to increase the reward for recommending students to Sumter Christian School.

When a new family is enrolled for the 2011-2012 school term and indicates on the application at the time of enrollment that you recommended them to our school, we will give you a \$300.00 credit on your account (per student, for every student who enrolls as a result of your recommendation). If more than one family is indicated on the application as recommending someone, the credit will be evenly divided. **The new family will receive \$150 credit per student** when enrolling because of a current family’s recommendation. Credit for both families will be issued on the January statement if the student is still enrolled at the end of December.

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

The Athletics Department manages the concessions and gate for all sports, and proceeds will go into the athletics department.

Volunteers are needed to help.

See Mrs. Gibbs to sign up.

Please call the office if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you at Open House on August 12 (1:00 – 7:00 pm).