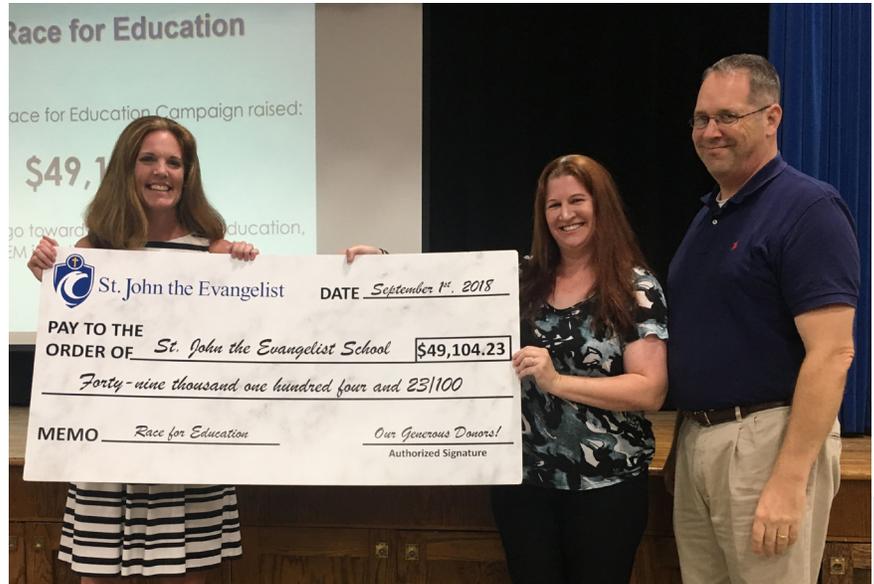


Opening the Lines of Communication Between Home and School

At Saint John, the energy and joy are high as we jump back into school. In our first days of school, “Back to School Nights,” a “Welcome Back Picnic” and the “New Family Mass & Brunch” line the calendar slots along with all the school day festivities to begin the school year together. The importance of these events for parents and families illustrates how imperative it is to open the lines of communication between home and school from the very first moments of a new school year.

These kinds of face-to-face moments are filled with valuable information in the initial moments of the school year and build relationships between the faculty and parents to last until June arrives. Before parents even walk into the school or send individual communications to staff, though, there are great ways to connect to the life in your school and find information:

- Check out the school website. This is where you can find/subscribe to the calendar, which is the lifeline between family and school for many families. On the website, many schools host teacher websites where you can find class-specific information about daily routines, announcements and homework.
- Follow the school on social media. On platforms such as Instagram, Vimeo and Facebook, you feel the energy and life of your school; where you see your children in action; and most likely the fastest way the school communicates quick updates and reminders about what is going on around campus each day.
- Look for the weekly communication or bulletin from the office/principal, and read it. If your leadership team is like ours, you could receive an email each moment of the day with something to announce or remind. Most schools, however, have a weekly



communication folder or email (or both!) that is a comprehensive with information about volunteering, events, activities, sign-ups and a thousand things everyone needs to know for the benefit of our children. If you don't have time to read the dozens of other reminders or to pop onto the website, take five minutes to read or look through this communication.

With all the ways you stay connected to your children's Catholic school, remember that your teachers and school leaders are your partners in educating your children. They choose this amazing vocation of Catholic education every day! If you have questions about events, about homework, about recess rules, you should email or call them. They will take the time to talk, you will build your relationship with them, and the children will benefit with each passing day when these lines of communication are open and active.

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