



August 22, 2016

Dear SJES Family,

On behalf of our loving Pastor Father George and our dedicated faculty and staff I welcome you to the 2016-2017 school year! What a joy it was to begin school today and see you and your wonderful sons and daughters as well as our entire staff all together again. I extend a special welcome to all of our new students and families as well as our newest staff members and ask that our SJES community reach out to our newest family members in Jesus' love. Each Friday following Mass, our school family will gather for our weekly Town Hall assembly of which our parents/family members are always invited to both Mass and Town Hall. Also on Fridays the school will send an electronic SJES Newsletter filled with important school and event information as well as my weekly message that I share with the kids at Town Hall. Today, we gathered briefly to celebrate God's love, each other, and learning.

While at our flagpole gathering this morning, I shared with your children exactly what I wrote to them about this summer regarding a "Student's First" belief: That they are all loved unconditionally by God the Almighty Father and his son Jesus who walked among us and with this unconditional love in both heart and mind, our SJES staff will also love them unconditionally by keeping the bar high every day, expecting the kids to do and be their best, by supporting their hopes and dreams, by laughing every day in school and having joy, by holding them accountable for their actions with love, and as a staff by always working hard to continuously improve in how we serve them and walk Jesus' path of love.

Jesus' great love is ever present at SJES and what a gift it is for our children to experience his love with each other and our staff and through every aspect of our multi-tiered curriculum. In each subject, at recess, lunch, arrival and dismissal, sports, art, music, technology, drama, library, and while praying, Jesus' example through the Gospels of love are roadmaps for all of us to not only follow but to find in others. Thus, I asked the kids today to really try to see Jesus in each other, even when we're not always happy with our friends and family members. The operative word is to *try* to find Christ in everyone.

In closing, we all look forward to a great first week of school getting settled into solid routines and study habits which will enhance your child's learning. Please assist him/her with establishing a study environment at home that is conducive to learning. I thank you in advance for your support of our dedicated faculty and staff as we partner together on behalf of your blessed children. It's a privilege and a blessing from God to be part of this faith-learning community! I would also like to extend my gratitude to our entire PTG for a wonderful Hawaiian Back to School BBQ yesterday and awesome tailgate party today! Lastly, please feel free to reach out to the *appropriate* adult with questions regarding your child as going directly to the source is the best way to communicate. Have a good week with your family and thank you for choosing SJES! God's blessings always and Much Aloha,

Dr. Jacky Rizzo

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