

# ST. ALOYSIUS SCHOOL

August 10, 2017

Dear Parents & Students,

It is with great joy and anticipation that I welcome you to the 2017-2018 school year. I hope that you are enjoying your summer and spending time connecting with family and friends. I am extremely excited about the upcoming school year. With God by our side, we will soar to new heights! Thank you again for choosing St. Aloysius School for your family for the 2017-2018 school year!

With the end of one academic year comes an exciting beginning. Please join us in welcoming the following new faculty members:

|                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| * Second Grade Teacher | Mrs. Cecilia Rodriguez  |
| * Third Grade Teacher  | Mrs. Annmarie Winington |
| * Music Teacher        | Mr. Alexander Patrie    |
| * Kindergarten-Aide    | Currently Interviewing  |

We want to welcome our NEW families to our special community and invite them to a **"New Family Cocktail Party"** on Monday, August 28th at 6:30 pm in Stapleton Hall. This is the perfect opportunity to mingle, share experiences and develop new relationships.

During any school day, if a parent has any questions, concerns or inquiries, please feel free to contact the school office by phone at **(203) 966-0786** or email to [office@sasnewcanaan.org](mailto:office@sasnewcanaan.org).

## **Our students love to see their parents at school!**

Parent volunteers are needed to provide assistance for numerous school programs, class trips and events. All parents are expected to provide some volunteer time. The Home School Association coordinates the volunteer program. All volunteers are required to complete the "Virtus Training" (Protecting God's Children). For more information on the schedule for upcoming training sessions please visit [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). Once you register and complete a training session, a background check will be automatically completed.

**Carl Anthony Inc.** is our NEW lunch vendor. All lunch orders will be processed online. Many of you may have experienced his delicious pizza that was served mid-June. You will receive additional information within the next couple of weeks. Hot lunch will be served beginning on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. **Please send a bagged lunch with your child for the first three days of school.**

**The New Canaan Bussing begins the first day of school on Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please contact Roy Walder at 203-594-4039.**

## **UPGRADES**

There have been many exciting upgrades to our building. Six NEW basketball backboards/hoops have been installed; two with adjustable heights for our younger students. NEW Projectors in Grades 2, 3, 6, and 8 have been installed. Whiteboards have been installed in all our upper school classrooms. The PA system has been extended to reach the playground, computer room, art and gymnasium. A Security Guard will now be present at our school entrance and/or for evening events as needed. Additional upgrades have been made, according to code, in the kitchen and throughout the building. The building has been cleaned thoroughly and our shiny floors are beautiful! We purchased new carpets for the gym and 8<sup>th</sup> grade entrances. Additional signs and NEW logo boards, with our NEW mission statement, can be found throughout the building for our upcoming accreditation! In addition, we have two new copy machines!



### First Day of School!

We are looking forward to welcoming you back to school on **Wednesday, August 30th**. This will be a full day with a prayer service and flag raising ceremony in the courtyard (weather permitting) at 8:25 am. Parents are welcome to join the students and teachers for this St. Aloysius School tradition!

### Normal School Hours For Students

(8:25 am – 2:30 pm)

### Technology

We are happy to announce that we have launched a NEW website. We continue to provide technology that parallels our curriculum with enhancements that include interactive online lessons. Our textbooks feature problem-based learning and assignments that may be assigned online for extra practice, support, or challenge at home. This includes interactive learning aids and video tutorials. In our rapidly changing world, we must prepare our students to successfully grow into jobs and careers that do not exist today. It is my sincere hope that all of us – parents, teachers, and staff – will work together to foster in our students an enthusiasm for learning and appreciation for quality Catholic education.

Below are important dates:

August 22<sup>nd</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students and parents are invited to meet their new teachers, in their respective classrooms, for an ice cream social at 10:00-11:00 am. Please RSVP by August 18<sup>th</sup> at [office@sasnewcanaan.org](mailto:office@sasnewcanaan.org)

August 23<sup>rd</sup>

Kindergarten Playdate

August 25<sup>th</sup>

1st Newsletter

August 28<sup>th</sup>

New Family Party in Stapleton Hall 6:30 pm (Adults Only)

August 30<sup>th</sup>

First Day of School

Parent Coffee 8:30 am

September 1<sup>st</sup>

First Friday Mass (Parents are invited) 9:00 a.m.

September 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>

NO SCHOOL

September 6<sup>th</sup>

Hot Lunch Program Begins

Band Recruitment Assembly 1:30-2:05 pm - Grades 3-8

September 7<sup>th</sup>

Back To School Night 7:00 pm

September 13<sup>th</sup>

BAND forms due

September 18<sup>th</sup>

After School Clubs Begin (8 Weeks)

September 29<sup>th</sup>

Band Begins 2:30 pm

October 15<sup>th</sup>

Open House for Prospective Families 11:00 -1:00 pm

Because word-of-mouth is our best form of advertising, we like to make our current families aware of our upcoming "Open House" events for prospective families. All three Open Houses are held as follows: **October 15th, January 28th and April 17th**. These events provide an opportunity for prospective families to see St. A's at its finest! If you are interested in sharing your enthusiasm for our school, please see [mnaughton@sasnewcanaan.org](mailto:mnaughton@sasnewcanaan.org) to learn how you can get involved.

### ROOM RESERVATIONS – NEW INFORMATION

#### Booking Stapleton -

If you need to book an event in Stapleton Hall for school purposes, please contact our HSA President, Mrs. Lindsay Pignataro, for a room reservation form that needs to be filled out by you.

#### Booking Gymnasium -

If you want to book a school event in the gym, please see Mrs. Bearden so that it is recorded in the gymnasium calendar.

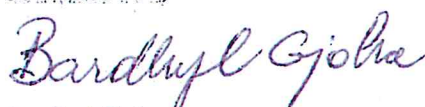
"Back To School Night" is planned for **Thursday, September 7th** from 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Parents are invited to meet the principal, teachers and staff and learn about the curriculum and expectations for their children. In addition, homeroom teachers will announce a second meeting date, for parents who want additional information about the curriculum, textbook materials and the online component to these programs.

**THE SCHOOL CALENDAR IS ENCLOSED.**

We look forward to an exciting and successful new school year!

God Bless You,



Bardhyl Gjoka  
Principal



## Welcoming Our New Teachers!

**Cecilia Rodriguez (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)** is an experienced teacher with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Connecticut and a Master of Science degree from the University of Bridgeport. She majored in Elementary education and is certified in the state of Connecticut to teach Pre-K through Grade 8. She is also trained in the Orton Gillingham Reading program. Mrs. Rodriguez has been working with the Diocese of Bridgeport for many years. She believes that the fundamental purpose of a Catholic school, its mission, is to teach as Jesus did. Mrs. Rodriguez models the teachings of the Gospel by supporting every child as they learn to know, love and serve the Lord. She credits her Catholic school upbringing for making her the person she is today and considers it a privilege to give back to the system that has given her so much.

**Annmarie Winington (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)** is excited and thrilled to join St. Aloysius School as our third grade teacher. She is returning to teaching full-time after working part time while caring for her two daughters, Emily and Elizabeth. She is a firm believer in Catholic education, the values it instills in children, as well as the family atmosphere it fosters. She has stated that in St. Aloysius she has found the perfect mix of academic excellence, family values, and Catholic education.

Annmarie began her career at Public School 108 in the Bronx, New York. She stayed there until starting a family. She then accepted a position teaching math and chemistry at night to post secondary students at Lincoln Technical Institute. This way, she could still pursue her passion for teaching, but be home with her children during the day. Once her kids were school age, she accepted a position at Saints Philip and James School in New Jersey. This was her first experience with Catholic education and she fell in love. She enjoyed the ability to openly speak about God, values, and character education. She vowed she would continue in this tradition from this point forward in her career. Her husband's career then took them to Connecticut, where she began teaching at Christ and Holy Trinity Preschool in Westport. While she loved her job there, she decided it was time to return to teaching full time after five years. This has brought her to Saint Aloysius in September!

This past summer, Annmarie also taught at the Summer Institute for the Gifted at Fairfield University. A not for profit organization that believes that gifted and talented students deserve more attention and programs in public schools, they strive to provide environments in the summer that help foster the out of the box creative thinking that this population is known for. She used inquiry-based techniques and a project based approach to learning. It was an amazing experience that she will bring into her classroom.

Annmarie is beyond thrilled to begin her journey at St. Aloysius School! She will bring her past teaching experience as well as her love for God and Catholic education into her classroom!

**Alexander Patrie (Music)** earned his Bachelor of Music (Vocal Performance) from Western Connecticut State University. His experience includes Instrumental and Choral Conducting, Voice Coaching, organ and classical guitar. He recently served as the Gregorian Chant Instructor at St. Peter's Roman Church in Danbury. He has instructed and managed a private music studio teaching voice, keyboard and guitar. As an aside, he is fluent in Latin, Italian, German, French and Spanish. He will continue to work with Cidalia Kettles to continue to enhance the music at St. Aloysius School.



# St. Aloysius School

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### 2017-2018

| NOVEMBER                          |    |    |    |    |    |       |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| M                                 | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S     |
|                                   |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |       |
| 6                                 | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |       |
| 13                                | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |       |
| 20                                | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |       |
| 27                                | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |       |
| 7 Election Day - Faculty PD       |    |    |    |    |    |       |
| 15-16 Early Dismissal - P/T Conf. |    |    |    |    |    |       |
| 22 Early Dismissal - 11:30        |    |    |    |    |    |       |
| 23-24 Thanksgiving                |    |    |    |    |    |       |
|                                   |    |    |    |    |    | 19/60 |

| OCTOBER                               |    |    |    |    |    |       |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| M                                     | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S     |
|                                       |    |    |    |    |    |       |
| 2                                     | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |       |
| 9                                     | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |       |
| 16                                    | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |       |
| 23                                    | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |       |
| 30                                    | 31 |    |    |    |    |       |
| 6 Faculty Retreat - No School         |    |    |    |    |    |       |
| 9 Columbus Day - No School            |    |    |    |    |    |       |
| 25 Early Dismissal - 11:30 Accred. PD |    |    |    |    |    |       |
|                                       |    |    |    |    |    | 20/41 |

| SEPTEMBER                             |    |    |    |    |    |       |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| M                                     | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S     |
|                                       |    |    |    |    |    |       |
| 4                                     | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |       |
| 11                                    | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |       |
| 18                                    | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |       |
| 25                                    | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |       |
| 4 Labor Day                           |    |    |    |    |    |       |
| 5 Bishop's Convocation                |    |    |    |    |    |       |
| 7 Back to School Night                |    |    |    |    |    |       |
| 22 Early Dismissal - 11:30 Accred. PD |    |    |    |    |    |       |
|                                       |    |    |    |    |    | 19/21 |





| AUGUST                      |    |    |    |    |    |     |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| M                           | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S   |
|                             |    |    |    |    |    |     |
|                             |    |    |    |    |    |     |
|                             |    |    |    |    |    |     |
| 21                          | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |     |
| 28                          | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |     |
| 25 Professional Development |    |    |    |    |    |     |
| 28 Professional Development |    |    |    |    |    |     |
| 30 First Day of School      |    |    |    |    |    |     |
|                             |    |    |    |    |    | 2/2 |

| MARCH                                |    |    |    |    |    |        |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|--------|
| M                                    | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S      |
|                                      |    |    |    |    |    |        |
| 5                                    | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |        |
| 12                                   | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |        |
| 19                                   | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |        |
| 26                                   | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |        |
| 5-16 STD Testing                     |    |    |    |    |    |        |
| 9 Early Dismissal - 11:30 Accred. PD |    |    |    |    |    |        |
| 29 Holy Thursday - No School         |    |    |    |    |    |        |
| 30 Good Friday - No School           |    |    |    |    |    |        |
|                                      |    |    |    |    |    | 20/131 |

| FEBRUARY                             |    |    |    |    |    |        |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|--------|
| M                                    | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S      |
|                                      |    |    |    |    |    |        |
| 5                                    | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |        |
| 12                                   | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |        |
| 19                                   | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |        |
| 26                                   | 27 | 28 |    |    |    |        |
| 9 Early Dismissal - 11:30 Accred. PD |    |    |    |    |    |        |
| 19-23 Winter Recess                  |    |    |    |    |    |        |
|                                      |    |    |    |    |    | 15/111 |

| JANUARY                               |    |    |    |    |    |       |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| M                                     | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S     |
|                                       |    |    |    |    |    |       |
| 1                                     | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |       |
| 8                                     | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |       |
| 15                                    | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |       |
| 22                                    | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |       |
| 29                                    | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |       |
| 1 Christmas Recess                    |    |    |    |    |    |       |
| 15 Martin Luther King Day             |    |    |    |    |    |       |
| 24 Early Dismissal - 11:30 Accred. PD |    |    |    |    |    |       |
|                                       |    |    |    |    |    | 21/96 |

| DECEMBER                   |    |    |    |    |    |       |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| M                          | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S     |
|                            |    |    |    |    |    |       |
| 4                          | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |       |
| 11                         | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |       |
| 18                         | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |       |
| 25                         | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |       |
| 8 Immaculate Conception    |    |    |    |    |    |       |
| 22 Early Dismissal - 11:30 |    |    |    |    |    |       |
| 25-31 Christmas Recess     |    |    |    |    |    |       |
|                            |    |    |    |    |    | 15/75 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Snow Days: June 20-22</p> <p>  Prof. Day<br/>  First / last day<br/>  No school<br/>  11:30 Dismissal         </p> <p>180 School Days</p> |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| JUNE                     |    |    |    |    |    |        |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|--------|
| M                        | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S      |
|                          |    |    |    |    |    |        |
| 4                        | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |        |
| 11                       | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |        |
| 18                       | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |        |
| 25                       | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |        |
| 19 Last Day of School    |    |    |    |    |    |        |
| • (if no snow days used) |    |    |    |    |    |        |
|                          |    |    |    |    |    | 13/180 |

| MAY                            |    |    |    |    |    |        |
|--------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|--------|
| M                              | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S      |
|                                |    |    |    |    |    |        |
| 7                              | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |        |
| 14                             | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |        |
| 21                             | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |        |
| 28                             | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |        |
| 4 Professional Development     |    |    |    |    |    |        |
| 25 Field Day - Early Dismissal |    |    |    |    |    |        |
| 28 Memorial Day                |    |    |    |    |    |        |
|                                |    |    |    |    |    | 21/168 |

| APRIL                                 |    |    |    |    |    |        |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|--------|
| M                                     | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S      |
|                                       |    |    |    |    |    |        |
| 2                                     | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |        |
| 9                                     | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |        |
| 16                                    | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |        |
| 23                                    | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |        |
| 30                                    |    |    |    |    |    |        |
| 2 Easter Monday - No School           |    |    |    |    |    |        |
| 9-13 Spring Recess                    |    |    |    |    |    |        |
| 25 Early Dismissal - 11:30 Accred. PD |    |    |    |    |    |        |
|                                       |    |    |    |    |    | 8/8/17 |