



# Redemptorist Schools of Baton Rouge



## Parent Newsletter - September 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians:

It is my pleasure to introduce myself as the new Administrative Head of Schools for the Redemptorist Schools of Baton Rouge as we start the 2011-2012 academic year. Last year's community exploration of governance issues at the high school and elementary school resulted in two recommendations: first, that the two schools with long historical ties be brought together as one PK-12th grade institution; and second, that a new position of Administrative Head of Schools be created to work with the upper and lower school principals.

After a national search that included input from representatives across the community, the Diocese found me as President of Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School in Cleveland, Ohio, and hired me to lead this year's transition into the Redemptorist Schools of Baton Rouge as a combination of change and continuity. I am thrilled to be able to lead the great team of students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and community partners who are making it happen to advance our institution.

In this new construction, I focus my efforts on working with the new combined Board of Advisors and others on shaping the vision, plans, and goals for RSBR; building

an institutional advancement effort based on best practices followed by successful schools around the country; and sharing the good news of RSBR with the Baton Rouge community to draw quality students to enhance our enrollment. Meanwhile, the principals remain the academic heads of the upper and lower schools and in charge of the day-to-day activities that lead classroom, athletic, and co-curricular activities.

This is an important transition year for RSBR, and we invite your participation in large and small ways as we set the course for our future. Such participation ranges from helping set our long-term goals to volunteering on campus selling items in the Wolf Mart or assisting on teams undertaking campus beautification and upgrade projects. Whatever your skillset, we can find a use for it! Our parents play an integral role in providing our students – your children – with a Redemptorist educational experience that makes a difference in their lives.

Already there is much activity across campus that has created a palpable buzz. We want to share that buzz with other families whose children belong at the Redemptorist Schools of Baton Rouge. On Tuesday, October 18, we will have an Open House running 6:00-8:00 pm. This

event starts promptly at 6:00 pm in St. Gerard's Church with a panel of students, parents, and alumni taking questions about their Redemptorist experiences. People will then tour through the upper and lower school campuses and end the event in the gym with refreshments and more opportunity to ask questions informally of Redemptorist community members. I ask each of you to invite at least one friend, neighbor, or relative with preschool through high school aged children to attend. Anyone with questions about the Open House can contact me at [bmenard@rhsbr.org](mailto:bmenard@rhsbr.org) or 225-357-0936.

Thanks to all who have welcomed me already. I look forward to working with you this year toward the creation of a 21st Century model of Catholic education.

Peace,

Brian R. Menard  
Administrative Head of Schools

### PERSONAL NOTE FROM PRINCIPAL JOHN SANDERS -

*Hopefully, you will take full advantage of the information in the parent bulletins and the student handbook. The best advice anyone can give a parent is to stay informed and stay involved. We hope and pray that each one of you has a great year.*

Sincerely,

John Sanders  
Upper School Principal



#### Administration

Brian Menard  
Administrative Head

John Sanders  
Upper School Principal

Jane LeClair  
Upper School Asst. Principal

John Ramsey  
Dean of Students

# Parent Newsletter

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Welcome to or welcome back to Redemptorist High School. Many activities and events are planned, and we hope you participate in as many as possible. If at any time we can be of assistance to you or your child, please do not hesitate to call the office. This is just a reminder to please use ed-line, e-mail, and voice mail. Staying informed and involved is the best recipe for helping your child.

## NEW FACULTY MEMBERS -

- **Justin Franks** - Mr. Franks has a Master in Education from Delta State University and will be teaching Theology classes as well as coaching.

- **Jonathan Lane** - Mr. Lane has a Bachelor of Science degree from LSU. He will be teaching Math classes and coaching.

- **Aaron Vice** - Mr. Vice has a Bachelor of Science from LSU and is the Head Football Coach.

## PARENTS' PICNIC -

On Wednesday, September 28th, we will have our Senior Parents' Picnic. Our underclassmen picnics will be as follows: Juniors - Wednesday, September 21st; Sophomores - Wednesday, September 14th; Freshmen - Wednesday, September 7th; Seventh and Eighth Grade - August 31st.

On these days we invite the parents of our students to visit the campus for the day, go to classes, bring a picnic lunch, or have lunch with their children in our cafeteria or on campus. Lunch begins at 11:08 a.m.

Also, the Senior Class will have an assembly at 11:45 p.m. on Wednesday, September 28th in the gym. Mr. Steve Dykes will give a presentation to the Seniors and their parents about graduation announcements and invitations. This will be after the Senior Parents' luncheon. Senior orders will be placed on Friday, October 21st during lunch. The Junior Class will have an assembly on Wednesday, September 21st, at 11:45 p.m. in the gym. Mr. Steve Dykes will give a presentation to the Juniors about their graduation rings. This

will be after the Junior Parents' Picnic. The Juniors will order their rings on Thursday, October 20th during their Theology Classes.

**Parents of the Juniors and Seniors are invited to their child's respective assemblies.**

## OFFICE HOURS -

Our school office hours are 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on all school days. If necessary, we can accommodate you earlier or later; just give us a call. We are always happy to serve you.

## AFTER CARE PROGRAM -

Our After Care Program has been a tremendous success. We want to thank the participating students and parents for their cooperation. Once again the Redemptorist School Board wants to emphasize the policy that if your child is on campus after 3:00 p.m. and not actively involved in a school activity, your child must report to the After Care Program. It is held in room 41, and the cost is \$3.00 a day until 5:30 p.m. After 5:30 p.m. it is \$1.00 a minute. As a safeguard for the students, the parent must personally check the child out when picking up the student(s).

## CPR -

Mrs. Mendoza will again be offering CPR classes. Dates and times will vary, so please tell your child to listen to announcements and look for notices on the Media Center doors and the Atrium bulletin boards. You may call her at (225) 357-0936 ext. 226 or at 937-5994. **CPR is a graduation requirement.**

## SENIOR PORTRAITS -

Parents of Seniors, please make sure that your child has taken his senior portrait at Layne Photography. The deadline for the sitting is Thursday, September 29, 2011. Also, the students must conform to the grooming regulations when taking their portraits. Failure to meet the deadline or the grooming policy will result in the student not having a picture in the 2011 - 2012 Yearbook.

## INFORMATION FROM STUDENT COUNSELORS -

**Absence, emergency, and announcement automatic phone system:** - This year we will be using the OneCall Now. We will use your home phone number as listed on your registration form for evening calls, such as to remind you when report cards are handed out, special events, and in the event of an emergency. The primary number you listed will be used for daytime calls such as absence notification or emergencies. If you did not list a primary number, your home number will be used. If you would like to change either of these numbers, please call the school office.

## EDLINE -

Edline will again be available for checking on your child's academic progress. This is a great tool; please make use of it. No other grade reports will be issued except Quarterly Report Cards. Teachers update grades weekly. Checking it on Friday is a good way to enforce some weekend consequences or rewards as indicated. You will use the same username and password as last year. If you have misplaced this information, please email Mr. Jonathan Levesque at [jlevesque@rhsbr.org](mailto:jlevesque@rhsbr.org) and be sure to include your name and the student's, and exactly what you need, i.e. username, password, activation code, or extra parent account and include whether the request applies to the parent or the student account.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER -

This is a reminder that if there is threatening weather, we will do whatever East Baton Rouge Parish School system does. Please do not call the school or the Diocesan Office in case of school closure. Listen to the news broadcast on local stations.

## SERVICE HOURS -

The service hour policies are printed in the student handbook on pages 11-12 and online at [www.rhsbr.org](http://www.rhsbr.org) under service hours. Please encourage your son or daughter to start working on the service hours now. All service hours must be completed between May 1, 2011 and March 13, 2012. If you have any

questions, please call Mrs. Shaffett at 357-0936 ext. 228. Each Theology teacher will review the S.I.G.N. hour policy with their classes in early September.

**CONFIRMATION PREPARATION-** Redemptorist Upper School does not have a Confirmation preparation program in Theology Class because Confirmation preparation is done in the student's Church parish. According to the Diocesan guidelines on sacraments, Confirmation is administered on the eleventh grade level. If your son or daughter would like to prepare for this sacrament, please call your parish office to register. Registration should be sought while in ninth grade because parishes have an ongoing program for this sacrament.

**TUITION PAYMENTS -** All tuition payments to First Bank are to be paid on time and kept current. For each day that a payment is late, there is an additional interest charge added to the total. Any student whose indebtedness to the school (i.e., tuition, fees, and charges) becomes delinquent will be declared ineligible to participate in any school activity including classes. This is the Student Handbook (pg. 7). If a loan is not paid in full by April 16, 2012 it will be charged back to the school for collection and a \$250 fee is incurred.

**NSF CHECKS -** If any check made payable to Redemptorist is returned from the bank due to insufficient funds, there will be a \$40.00 NSF charge applied by the school. Once an NSF check is received, the school will no longer accept a personal check from that individual.

**ASBESTOS REPORTS -** AHERA Regulations mandate that we inform all parents that we have an updated asbestos surveillance and maintenance program in effect at Redemptorist Schools of Baton Rouge. The reports on this program are available in the main office to anyone who wishes to review them.

**HOMECOMING -** The Homecoming Dance will be held Saturday, October 1st at the F.O.P. on Greenwell Springs Rd from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The Court Presentation will begin promptly at 8:00 p.m. No one will be allowed to enter the dance while the court is being presented. All attending the dance must enter before 8:30 p.m. and must remain until 9:30 p.m. While the dance is not formal, the students and their guests must dress appropriately. Jeans are not allowed.

**\*\*\*\*\*Please read the dress and grooming regulations for dances in the Student Handbook. These guidelines will be strictly enforced.\*\*\*\*\***

Also, in order to provide as safe an environment as possible, we will use breathalyzers to check for consumption of alcohol by the students and their guests.

**DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE HIS/HER OWN WEBSITE? -** Please go to the website [myspace.com](http://myspace.com) or [facebook.com](http://facebook.com) and see if your child has his/her own personal website. This is a free site for students, and apparently they can put anything they want on it. If any student has any statements or pictures we deem inappropriate, we will take disciplinary action against him/her. For the possible safety of your child, please check this out.

**VOICE MAIL -** In order to facilitate communication between parents and teachers, we are asking that all parents use the voice mail system to contact teachers for any reason. You can call the voice mail directly by dialing 357-6680 and then dial the appropriate extension. After the greeting and the tone, please leave your message. A list of all the extensions are on our website. Some teachers want email communication as a primary form of communication.

**Please read the dress and grooming regulations for dances in the Student Handbook. These will be strictly enforced.**

*Join us for the  
upper and lower school  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
on October 18, 2011  
Program Starts at 6 to 8 p.m.  
in St. Gerard Church*



## Parent Newsletter - Advancement

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### COMPANIES & VOLUNTEER

#### PARENTS-

Check to see if your company is one that donates funds to volunteer school workers. We have already received funds from companies that reward volunteer efforts. THANKS PARENT VOLUNTEERS!

For more information contact the Advancement Office @ 356-7790 or e-mail [sbritt@rhsbr.org](mailto:sbritt@rhsbr.org)

#### OPEN HOUSE -

Open House will be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2011. The program will begin promptly at 6 at St. Gerard Church. Home & School Volunteers will contact parents to assist with preparations for Open House and various tasks that night. We strive to make this a special event for all our visitors! Thank you in advance for

your generosity of time and talent.

#### GRANDPARENT FORMS-

If anyone has not yet turned in his grandparent addresses, please go to the Redemptorist Upper school website to print the form, complete it, and return it to the Development Office, 4000 St. Gerard Ave., B.R., 70805. Grandparents' Day is not until February, but your early response is essential to ensure that all grandparents receive an invitation. If you are not sure whether you have turned in this information or if it has changed (deceased, etc.), please contact the Advancement Office @ 356-7790 or e-mail [sbritt@rhsbr.org](mailto:sbritt@rhsbr.org).

#### STUDENT DIRECTORY-

Student directories should be ready by late

September on the website.

#### PHOTO/VIDEO, SAFE HOME FORM, AND GRANDPARENT FORMS -

If you have requested these forms, you may go online to print, sign, and return to the Advancement Office or e-mail back to [sbritt@rhsbr.org](mailto:sbritt@rhsbr.org). If the grandparent is recently deceased or moved, please let us know as soon as possible, so we do not send out unnecessary mail. The students as well as the grandparents love Grandparents' Day, but we cannot send them an invitation if we do not have the names and complete addresses on the Grandparent Form. If you are not sure if you have sent the correct information, please contact the Advancement Office.

## Parent Newsletter - Alumni

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### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE -

The Alumni Association's membership drive for the 2011-2012 school year will begin in January 2012.

### HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS-

Hall of Fame Nominations for the 2012 Redemptorist Alumni Association's Hall of Fame are now being accepted. Call the Alumni Office at 225-356-3558 for more information.

### ATTENTION ALUMNI:

#### HOMECOMING TAILGATE PARTY

The annual Redemptorist Alumni Association's Homecoming Tailgate Party will take place on September 30, 2011 at Majella Field. Look for the big tent in the end zone for food, fun, and laughter with fellow alums. The Alumni Association will also be selling jambalaya, hamburgers, and

sausage po-boys that night. We encourage all Alums and their families to support the WOLVES!

Parents: Need to earn some hours and still enjoy the game.

**If you would like to volunteer to help out with the Alumni Tailgate for Wolf Track hours, contact the Alumni Office at 225-356-3558.**

## Parent Newsletter - Home and School

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### WOLFTRACK OPPORTUNITIES

1 - Join the Facilities Upgrade Group - . Your name, skill, and phone number will be put on a call list to help take care of campus related maintenance tasks. Duties will include grass cutting and other yard work, painting, remodeling projects, and other odd job duties. Experience is a must for some of these duties, but not all. Send inquiries to Brenda Willie at [brendaw@performance-contractors.com](mailto:brendaw@performance-contractors.com).

2 - We are looking for three individuals to man a Spirit Table for Home and School at all RSBR Football home games. You

will need to bring sale items from the Wolfmart to the table at the Field, work the booth, and bring money and items back to Wolfmart after the game. Hours are 5 pm to 10 pm (or until finished). Home game dates are 9/2/11, 9/16/11, 9/30/11, 10/7/11, and 10/21/11. Contact Carolyn Murry at [Carolyn.murry@jacobs.com](mailto:Carolyn.murry@jacobs.com), Klare Joyce at [klaretpj@bellsouth.net](mailto:klaretpj@bellsouth.net), or Barbara Chenervert at [brchene@cox.net](mailto:brchene@cox.net).

3 - We are looking for six individuals to judge Staff Employee of the Month and Student of the Month awards. One of the individuals needs to be the manager and would be responsible for gathering the

votes and report winner to Carolyn Murry on the 25th of each month, so awards can go out by the end of the month. The first six individuals to reply will be given the task. For details or to sign up, contact Carolyn Murry at [Carolyn.murry@jacobs.com](mailto:Carolyn.murry@jacobs.com).

4 - Teachers are still in need of typical classroom supplies. Contact Carolyn at [Carolyn.murry@jacobs.com](mailto:Carolyn.murry@jacobs.com), Klare Joyce at [klaretpj@bellsouth.net](mailto:klaretpj@bellsouth.net), or Barbara Chenervert at [brchene@cox.net](mailto:brchene@cox.net) for a list of items. Walmart gift cards also accepted in increments of \$20.00. For every \$20.00 spent, one Wolftrack hour will be given.