

St. Simon Parish School

Educating Children to Know, Love and Serve God and His World

Dear Parents of Eighth Grade Students:

Welcome to the high school application process! This is an exciting time in the lives of eighth graders and we have compiled this information to help you sort out the different elements involved in applying to high schools. It is our hope that this information clarifies some of the most frequently asked questions. If further clarification is necessary or there is a question we have not addressed, please do not hesitate to contact us. Parent-teacher conferences are also a great time to discuss some of these topics. We are here to support parents and students throughout this process.

May God bless you,

Mrs. Laura Gremett, 8th Grade Teacher
lgremett@stsimon.org
650.968.9952 x 30

Mrs. Michelle Nealon, 8th Grade Teacher
mnealon@stsimon.org
650.968.9952 x 29

Mr. Steven Clossick, Principal
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650.968.9952 x 11

Mr. Steven Rummell, Vice-Principal
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650.968.9952 x 33

Shadowing: Many high schools have set up a shadowing program to allow students to visit the school during school hours and get a sense of the school environment. While many Catholic high schools have such programs in place, each school has different requirements and procedures. A few things to note:

- Please shadow only at schools to which you are considering applying. It is not appropriate to shadow at a school to which you already know your student will not be applying. However, since we recommend that students apply to at least two Catholic high schools, we recommend shadowing at more than one school.
- Keep an open mind and think about your son's/daughter's strengths and weaknesses, and the learning environment that would be the best fit for them during their high school years. Some students succeed better in a smaller class size and learning environment, while others shine in a larger environment. Make your choices based on what provides the best opportunity for your child to succeed.
- Shadowing does not mean a student must apply to that school. The family should make a decision based on the student's experience and personal qualities, open house visits, faculty input, a school's website, and other information and factors.

- Parents will set up shadowing dates. For St. Lawrence Academy, Presentation, Notre Dame, Bellarmine, Archbishop Mitty, and St. Francis, each parent will need to set up their own shadowing date.
- Students must provide documentation to St. Simon to ensure that they are marked as “shadowing” rather than “absent” in the attendance records.
- All missed schoolwork should be gathered and tests (if any) taken PRIOR to shadowing. It is the student’s responsibility to make these arrangements with their teachers.

The contact information for scheduling shadowing is below:

Archbishop Mitty: (408) 252-6610

Bellarmino: (408) 537-9259

Notre Dame: (408) 294-1113

Presentation: (408) 264-1664

St. Francis: (650) 968-1213

St. Lawrence: (408) 296-6391

Letters of Recommendation: Eighth Grade teachers at St. Simon greatly enjoy completing recommendation forms for students applying to Catholic and private high schools. All schools have at least one recommendation form that should be completed by Mrs. Gremett or Mrs. Nealon. Some schools have optional or secondary recommendation forms that can be completed by a teacher who currently teaches your student, but who is not his/her homeroom teacher.

All teacher recommendation forms for schools must be turned into the homeroom teacher no later than **Monday, October 31, 2011**. If you would like to request that a particular teacher complete the optional application, then please indicate that with a note. Once we complete the recommendation forms, we deliver the forms, along with student test scores and copies of report cards, directly to the high schools in the Diocese of San Jose. This is one of our top priorities.

Paperwork for schools outside of the Diocese should be turned in as early as possible, even before the **October 31** deadline. These schools often require more paperwork and the forms are often due in January, sometimes even in December, so getting an early start on them is essential.

A sample of the Diocesan high school recommendation form has been attached. Please note the following:

- Please do not fold any of the forms.
- Please only fill out *your* portion of the forms.
- A parent or guardian **must sign** each form.

Teachers will *not* accept late recommendation forms, so make sure to get them in on or before **Monday, October 31, 2011**.

If at any point, a family decides not to apply to a particular school, after you have indicated that you will apply, please let Mrs. Gremett or Mrs. Nealon know in writing immediately. This allows us to focus our attention on the applications that will go out and prevent confusion for the high school admissions officer.

Essays: An essay is required as part of each application form. The Eighth Grade teachers, Mrs. Gremett and Mrs. Nealon, will be happy to review and provide direction on any student's essay if he or she would like input. We strongly encourage parents to work with students on their essays at home. Families include the essay with their portion of the application. Do not turn the essay in to St. Simon.

High School Information Night: Tuesday, September 13, 2011 @ 7:00pm

St. Simon will be hosting a high school information night where you can hear presentations from Bellarmine, Archbishop Mitty, Notre Dame, Presentation, St. Francis and St. Lawrence. (More information to follow.)

If you are unable to attend, please refer to the attached information sheet or contact Mrs. Gremett or Mrs. Nealon for alternative dates and locations.

High School Open House Dates and Application Deadlines:

Please look on the High School websites for details, date, and times.