



OFFICE FOR CHILD AND
YOUTH PROTECTION

ARCHDIOCESE OF
PHILADELPHIA

September 7, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to the 2014-2015 school year at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia! I hope you enjoyed a restful and restoring summer with an opportunity to enjoy family and friends.

Did you know that studies show that parent involvement in a child's education is one of the most important factors in raising student self-esteem and academic achievement? If you have the time we welcome you to a volunteer in your child's school. There are many opportunities for parent involvement including, helping in the classroom, reading to children, assisting in the administrative office, and chaperoning a school trip, to name a few. Please contact your child's school directly to get more specifics on how you can be of assistance.

Please keep in mind that as a part of our ongoing commitment to protecting children, *all school volunteers*, as well as staff, must undergo criminal and child abuse background checks *prior* to starting their activities in the school. This is true even if you plan on volunteering just one time, such as chaperoning a class trip. You can find information on our Safe Environment program and how to obtain background checks on the Office for Child and Youth Protection (OCYP) website at www.chilyouthprotection.org under "Staff & Volunteers" or you may contact OCYP at 215-587-2466 or email us at ocyp@archphila.org.

I offer my best wishes to you and your family for a successful and blessed school year. If the OCYP staff can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best Regards,

Leslie J. Davila, Director
Office for Child and Youth Protection

