

F.A.I.T.H.

Center for the Arts

July 11, 2008

Dear Parents,

We trust you are having a wonderful summer! We hope your family has been able to enjoy our beautiful summer weather.

We at FAITH Center for the Arts have been working hard putting the final touches on our Home Education Fine Arts Program for 2008-2009. The enclosed brochure contains a number of changes and new opportunities; you will want to review it carefully. Here are some highlights:

- New Computer Art 3 Class for students who took Computer Art 2 last year. Computer Art 1 and 2 for students 11 and older will be offered again. These classes are now full year classes and a choice for your **three-class** selection.
- In addition to our Drama Classes now being year long and part of your three-class choice, there will be an Intermediate Drama for 7-11 year olds. Your Skill Day Sheet will indicate if your child is recommended for this class. Two class times will be offered for 7-11 year olds and now two for 12 and up.
- Our Vocal Techniques Class can be taken multiple times to gain the most benefit. Please check your child's Skill Day Sheet for their recommended placement **or if your child auditioned on Skill Day Mrs. Oehme has included a letter in your packet.** A desire to improve as a soloist is required.
- Musical Scenes is now our new **voice** offering. It is open to students who have completed at least one year of Vocal Techniques and have a desire to train in the more demanding roles of opera and musical theatre. Students are selected by audition or the recommendation on their May Skill Day Sheets. Students will be performing Pilgrims Progress 2.
- Vocal Techniques and Musical Scenes students must be registered for Concert Choir or Coda Choir. There is no Select Choir or Repertoire for the Solo Voice this year.
- For our Bells classes, we have added an audition group called FAITH Center Ringers who will perform outside of FAITH Center. **Some of our Bell groups will be doing a Read and Ring workshop and a NJ Handbell Festival. Further details in the brochure.**
- **We are beginning a new program for Coda or Finale students to participate in and all others are invited to observe called Seminars. There will be three held this year. Please look on pages 22-23 to see the specific topics, location, and times.**
- **On March 24, The Taylor University Wind Ensemble will spend the Day at FAITH Center. Please begin to pray now if you can house one of our 40+ students or professors. See date page for more detail.**
- Our **May 9, 2009**, Spring Saturday night concert will be for our advanced students. There will be an Arts Festival for our intermediate and beginning students on Tuesday, May 12. Time for the Arts Festival will be determined by the FAITH Center community. Further details will be provided at orientation.

We are excited to offer our Saturday Night Spring Concert as a platform for our advanced students. Again this year is the addition of our second Festival. The name has been changed to the Arts Festival to better represent all the activities which will be showcased. The Festival will include all of our intermediate and beginning level students. The date is Tuesday, May 12. Time will be determined by the FAITH Center community. Further details will be provided at orientation.

To help you choose the appropriate levels of classes for your children, we are enclosing Skill Day sheets for those students who participated in the end-of-the-year evaluations. Please review these thoroughly as many contain registration-specific information. If your students are new to our program but experienced

instrumentalist or vocalists, or they did not complete a May Skill Day audition, please call 973-252-5043 or 973-366-3434 to schedule an audition time for placement before classes begin in September.

While addressing the varied interests and ages of your children, it is our goal to provide your family with a quality fine arts program that addresses the needs of your children and allows you to learn together as a family. We strive to keep our program affordable so that all your school-aged children can participate, if they desire. Our monthly tuition has increased slightly, our art fees have gone up just slightly. Family service opportunities have worked really well, and have allowed us to keep our costs down. All families who register for FAITH Center must sign up for a family service opportunity. It is necessary for families to serve approximately one hour per week in support of the Home Education Fine Arts Program. **This section on the registration form must be filled in for registration to be processed.** Family Service Opportunities are numerous and varied in scope. The list has been expanded and updated and is explained under *Family Service Opportunities* (page 29) in the enclosed brochure. This year we plan to have volunteers more effectively use substitutes when they cannot fulfill their personal responsibility. Please take time to carefully consider how you can help us achieve our mutual goals for your children. We will try and honor the choice you make for your family service opportunity, but please be aware that all jobs are important and need to be filled.

Our schedule again this year utilizes our large facility to the maximum. To help our already busy Fellowship Hall, our older students, 14 and older, will be allowed to eat in the Café on the third floor and use the game room during non-class times. ***In order for this to happen, we must have a parent from that age group as a third floor monitor for each hour from 9:00-3:00.***

At times, it is necessary to make changes to the published class schedule. While we do our best to inform all families directly involved, some of these changes are of interest to others as well. We will be posting changes on our web-site www.faith-center.com under News.

Our goal is to accommodate every student interested in our programs. While scheduling conflicts are inevitable, your prompt registration allows us to resolve many of them before our school year begins. Registrations received after August 25, 2008, will be accepted dependent upon program availability and may not be processed until after the September 9th Parent Orientation. Those of you who submit your registration forms by August 3, 2008, may waive the \$25 Family Registration Fee.

Our program year begins with a Family Ministry Council/Teacher Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on September 2, 2008. **Teachers and Family Ministry Council member please RSVP by August 20, 2008.** Our new Family Orientation is at 11:00 a.m. September 9, 2008. The Parent/Teacher meeting is at 12:15 on September 9, 2008. Because of the large volume of information that is presented at this orientation, **every enrolled family should plan to attend.** Please call Ann Goad at 973-252-5043, if you cannot attend. If you send in your registration form after August 25, 2008, and do not receive a confirmation of enrollment, you should still plan to attend the Orientation where you'll be given information about the status of your children's registration.

With your help and support, we can maintain a safe learning environment where your children can derive the maximum benefit from their classes. We look forward to our best year ever at FAITH Center. See you on Orientation Day!

Sincerely,

Bill Briggs, Director

Ann Goad, Administrator