

# SUMTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## AUGUST 2010 NEWSLETTER

[www.sumterchristian.org](http://www.sumterchristian.org)

We hope you are enjoying a pleasant summer. We welcome all the new families into our school. This is the first of ten letters to be posted on our website. Please let us know if there is information you would like for us to include on the website.

**WORKBOOK & CLASS FEES** have been assessed to your account and will show on the August statement. You may pay for the workbooks and class fees any time before school starts. Most parents pay at Open House, but coming by to pay sooner may help you avoid waiting in line. There is no rental fee for hardback books. Elementary through high school students will need to purchase the items on the supply list, which is on the homepage under "Forms & Documents." K3-K5 students will pay a \$40 supply fee, and all supplies for the entire year will be provided. This will save you time shopping and ensure that all the younger children have identical supplies.

**OPEN HOUSE** is scheduled for Friday, August 13, from 1:00 until 7:00 p.m. Parents and students are invited to visit the classrooms and meet the teachers. Students should come dressed in accordance with the school's dress code. Day Care will be closed on Open House day.

**BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION** earn us cash for each box top you cut out and send in. Classes compete, and the winning class gets a party at the end of the year. Please be sure to send the box tops to school with your child. Last year we earned \$595, which is being used to help buy new playground equipment for this fall.

**AFTER SCHOOL PICK-UP** for K3 through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is at the main entrance near the office. Students in grades 4-12 are picked up at the rear of the high school building. K3 and K4 dismiss at 12:00, K5 and first grade at 2:45, grades 2-3 at 2:55, grades 4-5 at 3:05, and grades 6-12 at 3:10. All grades begin at 8:05 a.m. The first day of school is Monday, August 16.

**IMMUNIZATIONS** must be completed before school begins. Students in K4-12<sup>th</sup> grade need a second MMR (mumps, measles, rubella) shot. Students in K5-9<sup>th</sup> grade need to have one (1) dose of varicella (chicken pox) vaccine or positive history of disease. Students in K5 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade need four (4) doses of DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis). If they have already had these shots, they need to turn in DHEC form 1148 indicating the dates and/or verification of positive history of the disease. Students in K5 through 12<sup>th</sup> grade need to have started their Hepatitis B series of three shots.

**BEGINNING BAND** is a part of the fourth grade curriculum for every student and is offered as an elective for grades five through twelve. Miss Fleming is our band director, and you may meet her at Open House. She will have information about renting or purchasing instruments.

**P.E. UNIFORMS** are required for students in grades 6 through 8. Uniforms may be purchased at Open House, and they will be distributed the first day of school. The cost is \$12.00 for tee-shirts and \$18.00 for shorts.

**TARDINESS** to class causes the teacher to lose valuable teaching time and prevents the student from receiving the full value of his education. The handbook states, *"Four tardies in a nine-weeks' grading period result in a one-day suspension. Parents have the option of choosing a \$20 fine in lieu of a suspension for tardies if they prefer. High school students are counted absent or present for each class, not for the day. High school students receive demerits for being late to classes."* Please see the paragraph under "Attendance" in the Parent-Student Guide for a full explanation of the policy regarding absences and tardies.

**FUNDRAISING PROJECTS** will be announced as the year progresses. Selling coupon booklets the last four years has been beneficial, and we will do that again at the beginning of school. There are always nice incentive rewards for the students. Information will be sent home with the students.

**EDLINE** is available again this year for online viewing of your child's grades, assignments, and your financial statements. Activation codes may be obtained by calling the office, or you may get it during Open House.

**Please return the  
Emergency Contact  
form to the office by  
August 13. It is under  
"Forms & Documents"  
on the homepage.**

**ALL ATHLETES** are required to have a physical exam before participating in a sport. Students who plan to play a sport during this coming school year may want to get a physical exam before the summer ends, since it is more convenient. Sports fees are due before the first game of the season. The varsity fee includes a season pass for the entire family to all home games during that season. Parents of JV players will be charged admission for each game they attend. If a parent has a varsity and JV child, the pass for the varsity game will allow free admission to the JV game also. The fees are \$75 for each varsity sport and \$35 for each JV sport. If a parent has two or more children playing a varsity sport in the same season, the fee is \$50 for the additional varsity siblings. Athletes who plan to play a fall sport but cannot attend practice before the start of school should contact the school (773-1902), and Mrs. Gibbs or Mrs. Davis will notify the coach. Season passes will be issued as the fees are paid.

**SOCCER** practice for boys (grades 7-12) begins Monday, August 2 (5:00 pm until 7:00 pm). Each player needs to have shin guards, soccer cleats, and his own soccer ball. Shirts are required.

**VOLLEYBALL** practice for girls begins Monday, August 2 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m. for JV and 5:15 – 7:00 p.m. for varsity). Girls in grades six through twelve are invited to attend these practices, which will be in our gym. Kneepads and tennis shoes are required. Knee-length shorts, culottes, or slacks are permissible.

**CHEERLEADING** may be available during the basketball season but not the soccer season.

**THE DRESS CODE** for grades 3-6 is now very similar to the dress code we began last year for grades 7-12. New handbooks are in the office, or you may download the entire handbook on our website. Click “Student-Parent Guide” on the far right side of the homepage.

**HIGH SCHOOL CAMP** will prove to be a highlight of the year. For this coming year, our board has scheduled something special for grades 9-12 that we think they will enjoy. We plan to begin school at The Anchorage Camp in North Carolina. Aaron Burk, the program director there, graduated from our school in 1990. He was in chapel in February to show a DVD of the camp and tell the students that we are scheduled to attend. While we are there, we will be the only group there. They cater the schedule to fit the needs of our school. Several of our teachers will go and, of course, the camp’s counselors will be there. We will leave Sunday afternoon, August 15 at 2:30, and return Wednesday, August 18, about 1:30. Since Monday through Wednesday will count as three of the 180 days of school, all students are expected to attend unless they have a doctor’s excuse explaining why they cannot attend.

The two days and three nights will be filled with fun activities, social networking, and spiritual challenges. The theme of the week will center around developing leadership qualities through service. Even those who have no interest in “outdoor camp activities” will have plenty of enjoyment with other activities and learn to develop leadership qualities.

The camp is located on Lake Waccamaw, only about 2½ hours from Sumter. You may visit their website at [www.anchoragecamp.org](http://www.anchoragecamp.org) for more information about the organization. They have the traditional summer camps for juniors and teens, but the school camps are designed differently than summer camps since only the one school group is there.

The cost for each student is \$50, which includes 8 meals and three nights’ lodging while there. Sumter Christian School will pay the cost of transportation. Your cost will be assessed to your school account in August, and the school will send one check to The Anchorage. More details about transportation, dress code, and chaperones will be announced later as we develop our plans.

**SENIOR PICTURES** (for yearbook and optional individual purchasing) will be taken during picture day (Sept. 9).

#### **TUITION CREDIT REMINDER**

Each year we invest a certain amount of money for advertisements for Sumter Christian School. The best advertisement that we have had has been satisfied parents. Most folks who enroll students in our school do so because of a recommendation from one of our current families. For the last several years, we have shown our appreciation to you in a tangible way. When a new family is enrolled for the 2010-2011 school term and indicates on the application at the time of enrollment that you recommended them to our school, we will give you a \$100.00 credit on your account. If more than one family is indicated on the application as recommending someone, the credit will be evenly divided. Credit will be issued on your November statement for each student you recommended who is still enrolled at the end of October.

Openings are filled on a first-come basis. Thank you for all the recommendations you give for Sumter Christian School.

The Athletics Department will manage the concessions and gate for all sports this year, and proceeds will go into the athletics department.

#### **Volunteers are needed to help.**

See Mr. Blevins or Mrs. Mahoney to sign up.

Please call the office if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you at Open House on August 13 (1:00 – 7:00 pm).