



Dear Parents,

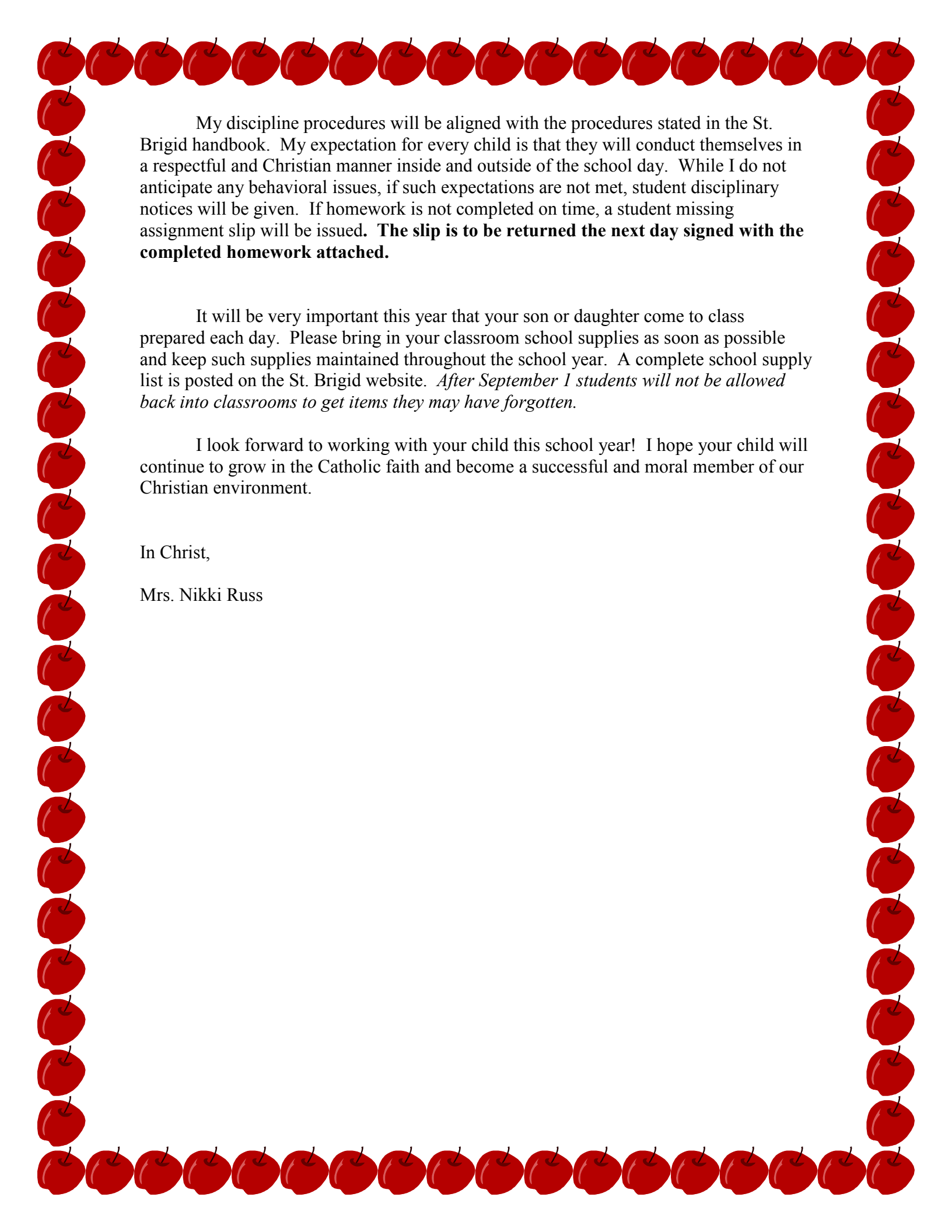
August 19, 2010

It is hard to believe that we are beginning a new school year! I hope that everyone enjoyed their summer and that your child is ready and excited to enter the 5th grade. I am very pleased and excited to be teaching at St. Brigid School. As many of you already know, I attended St. Brigid School from kindergarten through eighth grade. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education 1-8 with a concentration in Language Arts. I also hold a Master's Degree in Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment K-12 and am currently pursuing my Principalship from the University of Dayton. I have taught in both Catholic and Public schools and have ten years of teaching experience. It is wonderful to have come full circle and to have this opportunity to return to St. Brigid School.

As your child progresses into the intermediate end of the school building, there will be gradual, as well as, immediate changes that they will be experiencing. One of my goals this year is to prepare your child to move on to their sixth, seventh and eighth grade years. For this reason, there will be many differences between the fourth grade and the fifth grade. For example, your child will be changing classes for one subject only this school year. Miss Bott will be teaching your child Social Studies this year. This is an excellent opportunity to expose the children to "switching classes" and being organized for more than one class. This also provides movement during the day which is vitally important for student success.

A general schedule of your child's school day is attached. The schedule is a general guideline for the student day. In other words, there may be changes to the schedule based on school-wide activities. You will notice that a 30 minute study hall is built in to the student day. This time is set aside for independent work or to ask the teacher questions. It is very important that this time is used wisely to work on homework.

Communication is essential in helping your child to become successful. A bi-weekly newsletter will be sent home with your child. Please look for this newsletter as it will discuss what your child is working on in class, important information regarding projects or assignments, upcoming classroom and school dates and general classroom information. Please feel free to contact me at school 937-372-3222 or through email at nicoleruss26@yahoo.com. Once my St. Brigid email is set up, I will forward that information to you as well.



My discipline procedures will be aligned with the procedures stated in the St. Brigid handbook. My expectation for every child is that they will conduct themselves in a respectful and Christian manner inside and outside of the school day. While I do not anticipate any behavioral issues, if such expectations are not met, student disciplinary notices will be given. If homework is not completed on time, a student missing assignment slip will be issued. **The slip is to be returned the next day signed with the completed homework attached.**

It will be very important this year that your son or daughter come to class prepared each day. Please bring in your classroom school supplies as soon as possible and keep such supplies maintained throughout the school year. A complete school supply list is posted on the St. Brigid website. *After September 1 students will not be allowed back into classrooms to get items they may have forgotten.*

I look forward to working with your child this school year! I hope your child will continue to grow in the Catholic faith and become a successful and moral member of our Christian environment.

In Christ,

Mrs. Nikki Russ