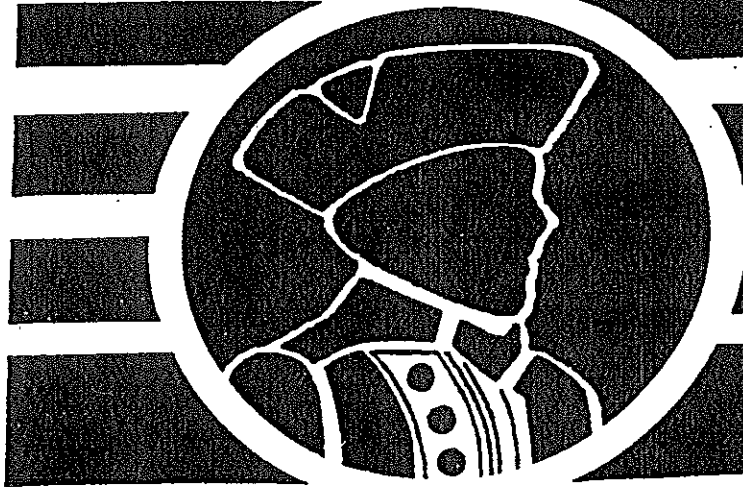


# PATRIOTS

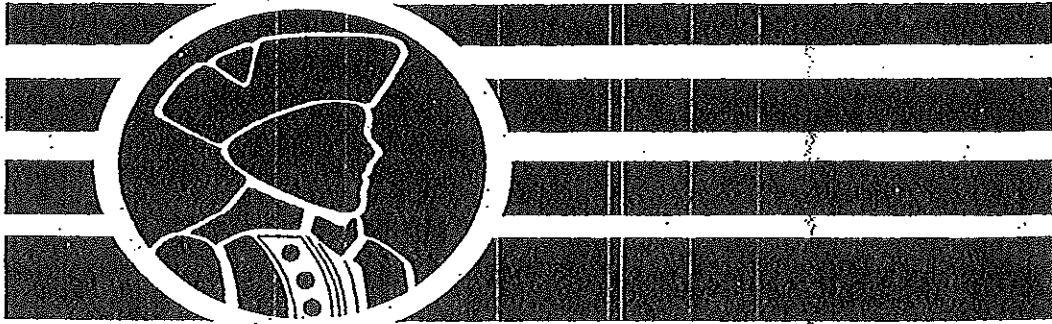


## ST. PIUS X SCHOOL

EIGHTH GRADE  
STUDENT/PARENT  
HANDBOOK  
2009-2010

# St. Pius X School

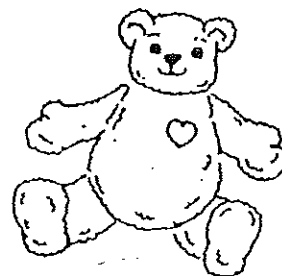
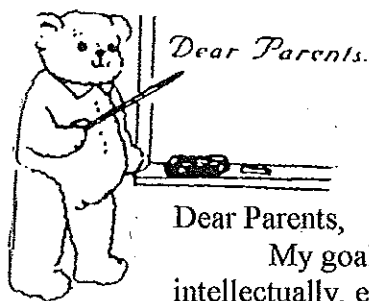
## Home of the Patriots



### School Wide Learning Expectations for St. Pius X School

Graduates of St. Pius X School are students who are:

1. Faithful Catholics/Christians who:
  - \*value Jesus in their personal life
  - \*live the values of love, friendship, respect, service
  - \*know the teachings of the church
  - \*have developed a moral conscience
2. Responsible citizens who:
  - \*are active positive participants in their communities
  - \*demonstrate the ability to resolve conflicts peacefully
  - \*appreciate and respect others
  - \*take responsibility for their actions
3. Confident and competent life long learners who:
  - \*can work independently and in groups
  - \*are technologically literate
  - \*can demonstrate mastery of basic and high order thinking
  - \*can understand different points of view
4. Effective Communicators who:
  - \*are able to speak articulately with confidence and poise
  - \*are able to express their thoughts cogently and logically whether they are presented orally or in writing
  - \*can use technology to assist them in research and written and spoken expression
  - \*utilize active listening skills



Dear Parents,

My goals for the year are to help your child grow and mature intellectually, emotionally and socially as a young Christian person during his/ her last year at St. Pius X School in preparation for a successful transition to high school. I want your child to increase in his/her self-esteem and self-acceptance. I will place emphasis upon cooperative learning, on doing one's personal best, and on feeling confident enough to try something new.

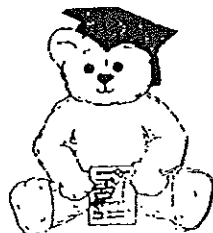
Part of the Eighth Grade curriculum is a review of the skills learned in elementary school and part is a preparation for the more independent, student-centered skills necessary for success in high school and college. We will spend many hours learning and applying study skills and techniques for "studying smarter, not harder" and for using the Habits of Mind and the Eight Smart Ways of Learning. Homework is a daily and vital part of the process. With rare exceptions, homework will be a daily occurrence. If your child has consistently not finished his/her homework after two hours of concentrated work, please contact me. If you find the homework a problem on a regular basis, please let me know and we can set up an individual plan for your child. Your student should copy his/her homework assignments into his/her St. Pius X Student Planner everyday. Ask to see the planner and "match" the assignments given to the completed work. You can also check the assignments on the Internet at our school web site, <http://school.saintpiusx.org>. There should be time left over for relaxation, sports, dance or music lessons, chores, etc. Remember that our free tutoring sessions are held Mondays through Thursdays from 3:00-3:45 P.M.

Please feel free to contact me at any time so that we can work together with and for your child. I am available BY APPOINTMENT ONLY from 7:30-7:55 A.M. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursday, and after tutoring Mondays through Thursdays. I can be reached by phone at: 619-422-2015 during school hours and 619-710-8896 after school hours. You are welcome to visit the classroom after prior arrangements have been made. My e-mail address is: [kaytebearphev@aol.com](mailto:kaytebearphev@aol.com).

I am looking forward to working with you to empower your student to his/her greatest potential.

Sincerely,

Kayte S. Russell  
Kathleen Sherman Russell



Dear Students,

Welcome to eighth grade. You have taken another step forward in your school life. Together we will build on the skills you've already acquired and we will experience the joy of learning new things and of building Habits of Mind and our Eight Ways of Being Smart.

My rules are simple: try your best, accept yourself, and accept the differences of others. Always share your talents. Speak respectfully of and to others. Don't be afraid to make mistakes—it's how we learn. Ask questions. Be willing to risk. Use your Eight Ways of Being Smart and the Habits of Mind.

We'll work with energy, wisdom, and passion, learn lots, enjoy the privileges of 8<sup>th</sup> Graders, and have fun while we work. You'll be surprised at how much you'll grow in one year!

I'm looking forward to great things—welcome to Camp Tassel. (Camp Tassel—where working hard is worth the hassle!)



Joyfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mrs. Russell".

Mrs. Russell  
Camp Tassel Counselor

No Put Downs

Dare to Dream

Unconditional Positive Regard

