

Parents, I want to address two things tonight, communications and the importance of parent volunteers.

One thing that I've learned since my arrival in Bernard's Township is that "gossip" runs rampant. Here, I would like to ask you, please, keep the lines of communication open between you and us at the school. Topics of concern should be addressed to the right people, not debate in the aisles of Kings, the municipal pool, the car line or at a cocktail party. Please know that both Mr. Kenny and I have an open door policy. The only thing that I would ask is that you make an appointment. I have voice mail, simply dial the parish (908)-766-0888 extension 226. And, if it is more convenient to jot me a letter, you can e-mail me at [Frglenn@optonline.net](mailto:Frglenn@optonline.net). Keep in mind, however, two points: 1) I do not acknowledge anonymous calls/letters/e-mails and 2) there is a protocol to follow when it comes to addressing concerns pertaining to our school. Parents, if you have questions about the academics or issues with a particular teacher, you must begin with that teacher, then, if there is no amicable solution, make an appointment with Mr. Kenny. If the issue is not resolved there, then, at this juncture, Mr. Kenny would bring me into the discussion. If your concern is financial in nature,

such as an unexpected lay-off, difficulty paying tuition because you are going through a divorce or custody battle, then you can begin with me—since the internal forum should be kept confidential at all times. In short, we have a system; please, do not try to circumvent the proper chain of communication. Let's give communication a chance; after all, we're all adults. The more we dialogue with each other, the less room there is for gossip, which, at times, is not only slanderous but erroneous and destructive—three adjectives which should not be part of Catholic nomenclature.

Last but not least, I want to emphasize the importance of parent volunteers. When Colleen Gallagher speaks to you about the structure of this year's H.S.A., she will touch on this; however, I do want to mention that stewardship, in Catholic circles, means more than cutting a check to pay tuition, it means taking ownership of what belongs to you by sharing your time and talents. While there are five major offices in the H.S.A. and 27 committee chairs, not including the 20 class moms, the more people who wish to volunteer in any capacity, the smoother and more productive our year will be. I've heard it said that St. James School only caters to certain families and only employs the assistance of certain parents—well, I'm in my second year, and I hope that you have learned by now that I do not favor any

one group of people. I do not play “favorites” and I do not limit my hearing to the words of a few individuals. I want everyone to be involved. I want everyone to be Church. I want everyone to claim ownership of St. James School—and I implore you to give volunteerism a chance here.

Thank you, parents, for choosing St. James School and I pray that you will join me in quest of making a great school even better! May God bless you all!

Fr. Glenn