



**Michael Butzow, Principal**  
**Michigan Lutheran High School**  
615 E. Marquette Woods Rd.  
St. Joseph, MI 49085-9391  
(269) 429-7861 ext. 204  
(269) 429-4428 fax  
mlhstitans@hotmail.com  
www.michiganlutheran.org

Dear Titans and Titan Parents:

July 5, 2011

As always, summer is zipping by (or perhaps floating by because of all the rainy weather). The ML faculty is hard at work preparing for the start of the 2011-12 school year. The chapel theme for coming year is *God Cares for You* based on 1 Peter 5:7. Truly, even in challenging times, the Lord shows his deep love by blessing, protecting, and guiding us in every aspect of life. May he refresh each of you with rest, relaxation, and family time during these summer months, and may you stay close to the Lord and his Word of hope!

In this letter you'll find important information about the beginning of the school year and updates that have taken place over the summer. As always, feel free to contact the school office if you have questions. It's an exciting time to be a part of the Titan Nation!

- **Opening service:** Because we are not celebrating faculty anniversaries or welcoming a new teacher, the opening service will be held during chapel on Tuesday, August 23, from about 8:20 to 8:40. Parents and friends of MLHS are welcome to attend!
- **Power School:** Power School allows parents and students to check their grades and attendance in real time. You may also direct the program to send a weekly grade check directly to your email. Early in the school year, you will be sent a password with instructions on accessing your account. *Parents are required to set up a Power School account. You are able to access multiple children from this one account. You will also be sent a copy of the information we have on file with instructions on how to send updated information to the school.*
- **Weekly email newsletter:** We will again send the electronic copy of the weekly newsletter using Constant Contact. You can enroll by going to the school website at [www.michiganlutheran.org](http://www.michiganlutheran.org), and clicking on the "Email Newsletter" button on the left of the home screen. Simply add your email and you're on the list. You can also email your address and a request to be added to [mlhstitans@hotmail.com](mailto:mlhstitans@hotmail.com). The newsletter is sent every Friday at 9:00 a.m.
- **Golf outing:** Please note that **Saturday, July 30**, is the annual golf outing. *This is a significant date change from previous years.* Funds raised at this event are used directly for tuition assistance. Contact Mr. Kruck at the school office for more information, to make a donation, or to sign up your team of golfers. The golf outing is the primary source of funds for tuition assistance requests.
- **Enrollment:** Presently, our enrollment stands between 115 and 120, with an incoming freshman class between 25 and 30. To date, we will welcome one international student from Beijing, China. *If you are interested in hosting an international student, which offers \$3000 in tuition assistance to host families, please contact Mr. Butzow immediately.*
- **Freshman orientation day:** Freshmen will report for their first day on Monday, August 22, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. for orientation. Parents may want to send \$20 along with their freshman student to purchase the required physical education shirts (\$10) and shorts (\$10).
- **First full day of school:** All students report for a full day of school (8:00 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.) on Tuesday, August 23. There will be a long homeroom that day during which upperclassmen will receive their lockers and handbooks. Students are to report to their advisor's homeroom to receive class schedules, locker forms, calendars, and other information.

- **Parent orientation night:** On Monday evening, August 22, orientation for the parents of new students will be held from 7:00 to 8:30. The ML teachers will familiarize parents with their student's schedule and highlight a number of policies and procedures. Student Handbooks will be available with changes underlined. Students do not need to attend, but we do encourage at least one parent of each freshman or new student to be there.
- **School hours / secure entrance:** The school day begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 3:10 p.m. The front doors will be open from 7:30 to 8:00, at which time they will be locked and the intercom activated. Classes begin at 8:40 on Wednesdays. The late start gives the faculty time for meetings without conflicting with after-school activities. Special arrangements will have to be made should you need to drop off before 7:30. After 3:30, students may study in Room 106, participate in the *After School Assisting Peers* program, or wait outside the building. In cold weather, they may wait in the entryway. As our handbook states, students are not to congregate in the parking lot either before or after school. Student safety is our chief concern.
- **Concerns / Complaints:** The MLHS faculty are servants called to partner in love with families in sharing God's truth and preparing students for a lifetime of service to him. In this endeavor, occasionally concerns or conflicts will arise among brothers and sisters in Christ. As is outlined in the school's handbook, "A concern or complaint on the part of a student or parent(s) ... should be addressed in accordance with God's Word as directed in Matthew 18: 15-17, therefore: The concern is to be expressed directly to the teacher, coach, or advisor of the class, sport or activity... Only after the above (three-step) procedure... should the matter be brought to the attention of the Board of Regents. As followers of Christ, Christian parents and students are to regard the Word of God and refrain from speaking of concerns or complaints to others. The MLHS Board of Regents congregation representatives are *not* the persons to whom the concern or complaint is to be addressed."
- **NIV Bible Update:** The 1984 copyright of the New International Version Bible has been used at MLHS since its initial publication. A 2010 copyright is currently under study by our church body, though it has not yet been formally adopted for use by the synod. Until this issue is decided, please be advised that ML will continue to use the 1984 version of the NIV. Please carefully check before purchasing a Bible for your student. You will be provided with additional information as it becomes available regarding the "New" NIV Bible.
- **Dress requirements:** Enclosed you will find the school dress code policy. Please overview these guidelines before purchasing school clothes for your student. Keep in mind that our attire is a reflection of who we are as Christian people. Should you be concerned about a particular article of clothing, ask yourself, "How will this build up the family of believers and bring attention to my Savior?" Use *Christian modesty and moderation as a guideline*. If you think an article of clothing is unacceptable, it probably is. Dress code issues should not distract us from the spiritual and academic work that takes place at MLHS.
- **Social networking:** Parents – though our students are fine young Christians, take a moment to ask your child to show you his / her My Space or Facebook account. If he or she hesitates, there may be cause for concern. Remember that according to ML policy, bullying, threats, name calling, or harassment that takes place on the Internet is treated as if it occurred at school.
- **Cell phones / secure lockers:** Students are required to keep their cell phones in their lockers on the *silent* or *off* setting. Cell phones not stored in lockers will be confiscated. Students are strongly encouraged to keep their hallway and locker room lockers secure at all times. Locker combinations should *not* be shared with others. DO NOT share your locker with friends.
- **Don't Cheat Yourself:** Students – your teachers trust you, but remember that plagiarism is cheating. It can include cutting and pasting entire papers or just sentences and passages that are not your own words. Take the time to do your own work. If you're getting stressed for time, speak to your teachers and ask for an extension. Better to be a bit late with your work than to risk consequences. Remember that your spiritual well being goes hand-in-hand with your academic growth.

- **Vehicle registration:** All students who drive onto campus need to obtain a Motor Vehicle Use Permit for EACH vehicle that is driven onto campus. An update to this policy is underlined in the latest edition of the handbook. Please contact Mr. Pappenfuss for stickers or with your questions.
- **Picture day:** Picture / I.D. day is Thursday, September 1. Come dressed appropriately for your school yearbook photo on that day. All Titans need a student I.D. for entrance into school events. Retakes will occur Wednesday, October 5.
- **Computer forms:** If you have a Computer & Internet Acceptable Use Form enclosed, it is because you are a freshman or a new student. **Returning students do not need to complete this form. However, the Web Site & Publication Permission Form must be resubmitted each year.** Please also note that the abbreviated calendar has been enclosed. Titan football will begin on Monday, August 8, though the other fall sports and Festival Singers begin on Wednesday, August 10. A change from previously-published versions of the calendar is that parent / teacher conferences have been moved to Wednesday, September 21, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. due to conflicts on the previous date.
- **ASAP:** As occurred last year, Monday through Thursday from after school until 4:00, Miss Sperle will supervise ASAP (**After School Assisting Peers**), a program in which MLHS students provide homework assistance to those who request it. Attendance is entirely voluntary, and students may attend either to receive homework assistance or to serve as a volunteer peer tutor. *Please speak to Miss Sperle if you would like to serve as an ASAP volunteer. It looks great on a college application.*
- **Adds / drops:** If you would like to add or drop a class, you will need an Add / Drop Form from your advisor. Get the signature of the teacher whose class is being dropped and the signature of the teacher whose class is being added. You'll also need a parent's signature. Then, return the form to your advisor, who will pass it on to the Registrar. If your requested changes fit ML requirements and your schedule, you will be notified within about three days. Please note that all adds and drops must be processed within five to ten school days after the semester begins. Specific dates for adds / drops will be published and announced well in advance of deadlines.
- **Non-traditional classes:** Several seniors (and a junior or two) spoke to Mr. Butzow regarding off-campus or online courses during registration last year. These requests must be finalized immediately upon the beginning of the 2011-12 school year. If you spoke to Mr. B. regarding these options, or if you have since become interested, please confirm your intentions by calling Mr. B. at 269-429-7861 ex. 204 or by emailing mlhstitans@hotmail.com .
- **testGEAR:** MLHS pays an annual subscription for all its students to have an account on testGEAR, an interactive online ACT / MME test preparation course. This year, testGEAR is available at MLHS for credit during ninth hour study hall or as an independent study. You will receive a document explaining this option early in the school year. Sophomores and juniors should especially consider this opportunity. Students can earn 0.25 credits by participating in online lessons, quizzes, and tutoring that helps them do their best on these essential standardized tests. Contact Mr. Butzow for additional information.
- **SMART boards:** Thanks to the Lighthouse Attic Resale Shop, ML has two additional SMART boards in the Media Center and in Room 103. Sincere thanks to the dedicated volunteers at the Lighthouse Attic for making this addition possible.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact the school office at 429-7861 ex. 201 or 204 with your questions. God's rich blessings on the remaining days of your summer. It's going to be a great school year!

God cares for you!

*Mr. B.*

Mr. Michael Butzow, Ed.S.  
Principal