



DELBARTON SCHOOL

Campus Ministry Program
ext. 3015

Dear Parents,

Your son is scheduled for his retreat on the weekend of _____. A team of students and faculty has been meeting in preparation for this weekend. The retreat is designed to help incoming students deepen their faith and become better acclimated to Delbarton life. The retreat is held on campus in the Abbey Retreat Center.

The retreat involves sharings (*talks*) given by members of the junior and senior classes with my assistance. These sharings serve as a catalyst for small group discussions in which each student has an opportunity to share his thoughts and life experiences.

There are also various activities and prayer experiences on the weekend. Occasions for private prayer, shared prayer in the morning and evening, and the celebration of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist are also part of every retreat.

A highlight of the weekend is the *letters of affirmation*, which they write to one another during the weekend. ***We request that you, and your family and friends also write your son letters of affirmation.*** So often we take each other for granted. An affirming letter during a retreat is always the turning point of the weekend. In your letter, communicate your love for your son, as well as your admiration for particular personal qualities he possesses. Please send your letters directly to me. ***Your son should not know that you are sending them.*** Due to the delays with the mail, I recommend that you bring them to me personally or send them to school with your son in a sealed envelope with the enclosed medical release form. If you get pressed for time, you can also e-mail them to me at dhajduk@delbarton.org. However, I would like to discourage you from sending these letters by e-mail – there is something quite different about receiving a handwritten letter! Every freshman should receive some letters from family and friends. It would be truly disappointing for your son if he were the only one without any letters from home.

In order that the retreat may run smoothly and to ensure that every boy has the opportunity to have a blessed experience, we ask that you discuss the following behavioral guidelines with your son:

- ✘ Even though the retreat will be fun and will include games, the retreat isn't "fun and games." It is a spiritual experience, and a time to take a good look at ourselves and our relationships with God and others. Our behavior should reflect this.
- ✘ It should go without saying that any illicit drugs or alcohol are strictly forbidden. Any prescription medications should be given to a faculty chaperone upon arrival for safe keeping and distribution.
- ✘ Computers, portable DVD players, or CD players are *not permitted* on the retreat.
- ✘ For school retreats, the Abbey Retreat Center is a food free and smoke free environment. Except for medical reasons which have been brought to the attention of the Director of Campus Ministry, no student is to have any food, candy, or drink in their rooms or common spaces at the retreat center at any time. There will be set snack times, and food and drink will be provided by us for the boys. Please help us to maintain a clean environment at the center, which welcomes over 46 groups and 2200 people each year, and impress upon your son the need to do the same.
- ✘ Any failure to comply with the Delbarton Code of Behavior or the behavioral guidelines discussed here may result in disciplinary action on the part of the school.

We cordially invite you to attend the closing liturgy on Sunday at 11:00 a.m. in the abbey church. A reception with continental breakfast will follow in the Estabrook Dining Hall at which we hope to share with you some of the great things the boys will have experienced during the retreat. Following this brief reception, you can pick up your son's bags in the retreat center and leave for home.

To cover the expenses for the weekend, you will be billed _____ by the business office. This cost is adjusted or dispensed upon request if it presents a problem in any way. No one will be excluded from this great Delbarton tradition because of financial difficulties.

Your son should bring along toiletries, recreation clothes, and casual clothes suitable for school or church. Sheets and towels will be provided. **We discourage the boys from taking their personal cell phones on the retreat.** The boys are inclined to play games, text-message one another, etc. (even during the sharings and small groups meetings), and I have found a number of them on the phone with friends after midnight when they really should be sleeping. If you need to be in touch with your son or me for emergency purposes during the retreat, you can call the **Campus Ministry cell phone, (973) 229-2261**. I will also be checking my messages (**ext. 3015**) frequently throughout the weekend. Thank you for your understanding.

Students are to arrive with their bags at the Abbey Retreat Center on Friday at 6:15p.m., where they will be greeted by the faculty chaperones and members of the Team, and then be directed to go to the cafeteria for a pizza dinner!

With every good wish and prayer for you and your family, I remain,

Sincerely in the Lord,



David C. Hajduk
Director of Campus Ministry

P.S. Please complete the medical release form [below] and indicate how many will attend the reception. As previously stated, this form can be submitted with the letters of affirmation.

"Let them prefer nothing whatever to Christ, and may He bring us all together to everlasting life." (RB 72:11-12)

DELBARTON SCHOOL FRESHMAN RETREAT PROGRAM

Delbarton School
230 Mendham Rd.
Morristown, NJ 07960

Location: **St. Mary's Abbey Retreat Center** Date of Trip: _____

Time and Place of Departure: **N/A**

Estimated Time of Arrival back at Delbarton: **N/A**

I, _____ parent or legal guardian of _____
give my permission for him to attend the above trip, and authorize any medical treatment in case of
an emergency. I agree to hold harmless Delbarton School, its employees and agents from any injury
or sickness occurring during this trip.

Medical Information

<i>Emergency Contact:</i>		<i>Insurance Information:</i>	
<i>Home Phone:</i>	<i>Work Phone:</i>		

Please list any special medical or physical needs or conditions the chaperones should be aware of:

Signature of parent or legal guardian: _____

Date: _____