

[use the school letterhead]

March 2009

Dear Parent (s)/Guardian(s):

The Catholic Bishops of New Jersey through the New Jersey Catholic Conference and The Catholic Healthcare Partnership of New Jersey are launching the “Healthy Kids in our Catholic Community” project during the “Cover the Uninsured Week” (March 22-March 29, 2009). These Catholic organizations have worked tirelessly to support and strengthen the State of New Jersey’s efforts to provide adequate and affordable health care, especially to the most vulnerable members of our society, our children.

I would like to make you aware that in June 2008 a new law was enacted in New Jersey to provide universal health insurance to children and affordable options for parents/guardians. This new law mandates that all children age 18 and under have health insurance. The requirement for health insurance coverage can be met in a variety of ways: (1) through a health insurance plan provided by your employer; (2) through a health insurance policy you purchase directly; and (3) through NJ FamilyCare which provides free or low cost insurance for children and their parents/guardians. Enrollment *only* in school insurance does not satisfy this new mandate. For more information about NJ FamilyCare or to apply, please call 1-800-701-0710 or visit www.njfamilycare.org.

Parents or guardians who earn too much to qualify for NJ FamilyCare can purchase health insurance for their children at reasonable rates through another program called the NJ FamilyCare Advantage program, which is administered by Horizon NJ Health. For more information about this program, please call NJ FamilyCare Advantage at 1-800-637-2997 or visit www.horizonNJhealth.com.

We are also assisting the New Jersey Department of Human Services to identify uninsured children and to help families access free or low cost health insurance. Please complete the attached Health Care Inquiry form and return to the School office. This information will enable us to identify families without health care coverage and provide them with the appropriate information and or assistance.

Healthy children make better students! Our goal is to assist all New Jersey families in securing no cost or affordable insurance which will provide access to quality healthcare. If you have any questions about this new requirement, please call 1-800-701-0710.

Sincerely,

[Signature of Chief School Administrator]