

Dear Driver:

Unnecessary vehicle idling is a contributor to air pollution and increased health risk. One of the areas where unnecessary idling occurs the most is at schools by parents waiting to drop off and pick up their children and by delivery vehicles and buses. Just one vehicle dropping off and picking up one child at one school puts about 1 kilogram of pollution into the air per month. Much of this pollution seeps into the school building. In addition, idling consumes a liter of fuel per hour, and uses more fuel than turning off and on your engine. We have included a fact sheet with this letter to give you more information on the hazards of idling and to help illustrate just why this issue is so critical.



We ask that you become an active participant in improving air quality and reducing health risks by eliminating idling especially at Blessed Sacrament School but also at ATM machines, at drive-thru lanes, and while running in to a dry cleaner or other place of business for a "quick stop." This simple but critical change in behavior of idling your vehicle no longer than 30 seconds will drastically improve the air quality in and around the school, in your neighborhoods and in the air, your children breathe. Thank you for your support of this program.

## Did you know?

- \* Each of us takes 20,000 breaths each day.
- \* Children breathe 50 percent more air per pound than adults.
- \* Vehicle exhaust is a leading source of toxic air pollution.
- \* Diesel exhaust contains microscopic soot, particles that are about 200 times smaller than the period at the end of this sentence.
- \* Diesel exhaust contains both very small particles and 40 chemicals that are classified as "hazardous air pollutants."
- \* Idling buses tend to accumulate diesel exhaust, which may be retained during the ride depending upon bus ventilation rates.
- \* It is more efficient to turn off most warmed-up vehicles than to idle for more than 30 seconds.
- \* Carbon monoxide reduces the ability of blood to bring oxygen to body cells and tissues.
- \* Asthma is the third leading cause of hospitalization among children under the age of 15.
- \* Children's asthma symptoms increase as a result of car exhaust.
- \* Asthma is the most common chronic illness in children and the cause of most school absences.
- \* Exposure to vehicle exhaust increases the risk of death from heart and lung disease and lung cancer.