

## Principal Report September, 2020

1. The school survived relatively in tact from the hurricane. Downspouts were destroyed on the north side of the building (courtyard side), a few courtyard lights were damaged, there were some shingles and tiles missing from the interior. No substantial exterior damage, and no damage in the interior. We will file a claim for reimbursement through diocesan property insurance, but at this writing, I don't know what the deductibility is for the insurance. Mobile Popcorn cannot supply us with a second tent, so unless I can find another, we may not be able to continue with dual Masses on Wednesday morning. But I am not giving up yet in finding an alternative.
2. Our annual report from last year is in the mail this week. We named it "Remarkably Blessed" because we think it's the best way to describe what God has done on behalf in our early years as a school. This will also be the first year we include a summary "income statement" (revenues vs. expenses) in the annual report. We held off the first three years because as a new school with deficit spending, the numbers didn't make sense without a lot of context that would be difficult to explain in a written document. They make much more sense now. Jenny has once again done an excellent job with the report.
3. I am including the final draft document for the Strategic Plan just before it goes to the "design" phase and to print. We've been working on this for two years. It's mostly the same as the document I sent you this summer, with some small edits. If you see anything in this that needs editing or reconsideration, please notify me immediately. I'd like make final revisions shortly. I've been working with the graphic designer, and I think it's going to be a beautiful piece as well as substantive. My original intent was to publish this on September 29, the "Feast of St. Michael," but the Hurricane happened, and our annual report was published, so I am going to delay printing and distribution until the Thanksgiving time frame.
4. As you can see from our Assistant Principal John Scimeca's report this month, the "View from the Hallways" is designed to give you a real sense of student life and what's going on in the hallways. Though the "day to day" is outside the scope of this Council, I think it's good to have an inside view of things, too, to help shape broader policy. John does a good job for us.
5. I've received some criticism, mostly questions really, about why we came back to school "so soon" after the Hurricane. A person whom I respect labeled it "insensitive" to the families without power. We started this Monday, along with Christ the King, because we both had power. St. Patrick and St. Benedict don't yet, so their start has been delayed. Baldwin County schools announced yesterday they are returning September 30. Though it's a diocesan decision, I think there are arguments both ways. We had already missed nearly a week of school, so we're behind in terms of course goals, and many of our families were eager to have their kids return to something "productive." But from the perspective of families without power, who still have significant cleaning up to do, coming back has created additional hardships. Finding the "just right" solution between these two strains is a difficult pastoral decision.
6. As you can see, we have three new Council members, representing different parishes. I have included a roster and term dates for each member of the Council. If I've made mistakes on the terms, please tell me—it's quite possible I am off a year. Council members serve 3 year terms, beginning when you are assigned, regardless of who you are replacing and how many years he or she has left.