

## Principal Report

January 28, 2021, 6 p.m.

1. Despite the pandemic, it's been a pretty amazing 30-45 days for the school: We began two new scholarships for future students of the school, on the basis of gifts from two families just before Christmas, Baldwin County completed the new extension of Higbee Road to Highway 181, then allowed us to rename this road "St. Michael Way," and Philip Rivers announced his retirement and his intention to coach our team for their upcoming spring practice. God continues to bless this school!
2. Regarding "Coach Rivers," the stories of his retirement and intention to coach at St. Michael have been carried by news outlets all around the country. We've curated some of those stories, if you're interested in reading them. Just go to our web page and click on the news story about Rivers. I believe his presence here will go well beyond the impact he makes on our football team. He is a genuinely good man, a good father and husband, a devout Catholic, full of optimism and enthusiasm for life. He truly has an infectious positive personality that will be a blessing for our entire school community.
3. The field house will be substantially complete, minus punch list items, on February 1. It's looking really nice. We'll spend February 1 through 23 installing lockers, weight equipment, furniture, etc. to be ready for the February 24 dedication at approximately 11:30. Archbishop Rodi will be here to say Mass with half the student body, then we'll walk out back at approx. 11:30 to do the dedication. We will then give tours of the facility in groups of 20 (for social distancing reasons), inviting those interested in a tour to wait in the gym. YOU ARE INVITED! Come at 11:20—ish.
4. I received an important letter from a parent regarding Nike and its support of Planned Parenthood, questioning why we would support Nike. Most of our spirit items, including all our team uniforms, are manufactured by Nike. I fully support our Church's strong condemnation of abortion, and our school has sponsored trips with 100+ kids during the March for Life in Washington. We speak strongly against abortion as a school. This is a far reaching, complex issue that involves many more companies than Nike. Corporations like Starbucks, AT&T, Frito-Lay, PepsiCo, Exxon, Shell, PayPal and many others sponsor matching gift programs for their employees. If an employee chooses Planned Parenthood as their charity of choice, they match it. Some of these companies may give additional support to PP directly, but it is difficult to determine who does so, as these corporations are not advertising that fact. Perhaps we should discuss it as a Council on Thursday, give ourselves some time to study the issue and invite other diocesan institutions to look at it with us, if they choose to do so. In that way, we are looking at the matter in a more comprehensive, deliberative way.
5. I submitted our two budgets to the Archdiocesan Finance Council, one with our hoped for 3, 6, 9 year bumps of 1500, one with the archdiocesan mandated \$500 bump to begin year 4, \$1000 year for year 7, \$1500 for year 10, both with the archdiocesan required 2% raise in salaries. The Council discussed both budgets, but decided not to vote on either until the superintendent and I were speaking in unison. In the mean time, we are publishing a 2% increase in tuition, "pending archdiocesan approval." Tuition for tithing Catholic families will increase from 9100 to 9300/child, whereas "others' will increase for 11,100 to 11,300.
6. We have two faculty openings for next year: Amy Smith, who teaches Spanish, is leaving. Mark Laird, our band director is leaving. We've begun advertising for both.

7. We hope to begin a “Christian Service” program next year, “commissioning” our kids at an age appropriate level to do “internships” with local charities and Churches. I believe this will be a very positive, mission-centric opportunity for our kids.