

November 8, 2019

Dear St. Therese parents, friends, and supporters,

As you all know, Computer Science has really expanded at St. Therese Catholic School this year!

Just a few short months ago, we asked for your prayers, to consider being a guest speaker, and also for your financial support.

We have to say, as a community, you all came through in SPADES! The level of love, generosity, and financial support has been deeply humbling.

We had twin goals of bringing 3D printing and robotics to St. Therese and we're happy to report that thanks to you--we've met that goal!

For the last several weeks, middle school students have been modeling in Sketchup (a CAD program) and just the other day they printed their first 3D prints on *both* of our 3D printers!

Our first **10 BRAND NEW ROBOTS** arrived yesterday and 5th grade students opened them up just TODAY!

Computer Science is DEFINITELY UP AND RUNNING at St. Therese--thanks to YOU!!

There are a few key ***donors, guest speakers and supporters*** who we'd like to **thank** for helping us meet our goals so far with Computer Science:

Wes Robbins came in as a guest speaker for our 3D printing classes and his son Joshua Robbins lent us his 3D printer while we awaited our own. They have been invaluable with technical support and very generous in lending us their equipment. *Thank you Robbins family!*

Justin Volbrecht also came in as a guest speaker for our 3D printing classes and his wife Erendida Volbrecht has been extremely helpful and supportive as well. They both have helped us out in so many ways. *Thank you Volbrecht family!*

Mr. and Mrs. Mondala also came in as guest speakers and helped us out with a *financial donation* to boot! *Thank you Mondala family!!*

An anonymous couple donated \$1,000 toward our 3D printing program and with that, we were able to purchase our brand new 3D printer! *Thank you both so much!!* The students have been learning so much thanks to your kind donation!

We received \$450 from MCA/SMACNA of NM for our robotics program! *Thank you!!!!*

We received **\$200** from Ms. Ann Lucero for our robotics program! *Thank you Ms. Lucero!*

A kind mother has been very helpful and supportive with **ideas and contacts**. She wishes to remain anonymous but we are so *grateful for her support!!*

A special thank you to Paul Herrera who has kindly helped us **find and identify grants** for our upcoming *Chromebook* purchase!

We received a **gently used 3D printer** donation from the Mirabal family! We have already begun to put it to good use. *Thank you Mirabal family!!*

Another anonymous couple donated **\$1,000** toward our robotics program. With that we were able to purchase our first 10 robots! They arrived yesterday and the students opened them up today! *Thank you both so much* for putting robots in the hands of students!!

I'd like to thank Donna Illerbrun for her **leadership** and her decision to make **Computer Science a reality** at this school and for hiring me. Without her leadership and support, none of this would have happened so far. *Thank you Ms. Illerbrun!*

Special thanks to Mary Giglio for being so supportive of Computer Science as well! She has done a lot including phone calls, suggestions, and other means of support. *Thank you Ms. Giglio!*

We'd also like to thank Fr. Vincent Sanchez for his **leadership and support** as well. *Thank you Fr. Vince!*

What a blessing and what a journey it's been so far! Quarter one is under our belt and 3D printing and robotics have only just begun!

We're looking forward to Quarter 2, next semester, next year...and to infinity AND BEYOND!!

And THANKS TO YOU--the St. Therese community--the students, parents, and families for *being so welcoming!* I've truly had the time of my life so far and plan to continue having fun building this program!

Thank you all.

Blessings,
Mario Ruiz
Computer Science Instructor

