

August 23, 2019

From the Headmaster



Thanks to all who attended the Back to School Picnic on Sunday, and to all who helped organize the event. The upbeat spirit at the picnic was a great kick-off for the year.

The school year is off to a smooth start, thanks to the hard work of all the teachers who put in time this summer to be ready to go on Day One.

School Handbook

A copy of the 2019-20 School Handbook is in the Friday folder today. If you have not already done so, please take some time to review it, and **please sign and return the last page of the handbook**. The handbook is also posted on the school web site.

Back-to-School Night Aug. 29

Please plan to attend Back-to-School Night, next Thursday, Aug. 29, at 7 pm. This is an opportunity for parents to meet their children's teachers and learn about procedures/expectations for the year.

New Grading System

Our long-time grading system, Engrade, has ceased operations, and we are transitioning to a new system called ThinkWave. As Mrs. Barnes will explain at Back-to-School Night, parents will receive information on how to set up an account to follow their children's academic progress.

Theology of the Body

In May, I reported that I had heard concerns from parents about protecting our students against bullying, abuse, and the growing threats to children's healthy development in purity and virtue. I said at that time that we were exploring the possibility of incorporating the Theology of the Body developed by St. John Paul II as part of our students' formation.

After reading more about TOB, talking with parents and teachers, and attending a conference at Ruah Woods this summer, I have decided to move forward.

First, TOB will form the basis for our monthly virtue program this year. The overall theme of the year is "Who Am I?" and the specific topic for September is "I am created in the image of God." Each month will

include a similar concept from TOB – for example, "I am a gift from God" – and a related quote from scripture or John Paul II.

Second, we will introduce TOB into the classroom, using the Ruah Woods Press curriculum. In grades K-2, the curriculum simply calls for the teacher to read two storybooks to the students – for example, *Blueberries for Sal* – over the course of the year and use them to highlight TOB concepts. In grades 4-5, and 6-8, Miss Welch will meet with boys and girls separately three or four times a month. Miss Welch is very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about TOB, and I am grateful for her willingness to build this program at Lumen Christi. Our expectation is that at times we will bring in a man to conduct sessions with the boys.

I want to stress that TOB is a broad understanding of who we are as human persons. It is a beautiful and uplifting antidote to the human degradation that is rampant in our society. It is not "sex ed." We cherish the innocence of our students. No student will be exposed to content inappropriate for their age, and we will keep parents informed of any sensitive topics that will be covered in the higher grades.

I will give a brief introduction at Back-to-School Night, including some suggestions for learning more about TOB. We will schedule a meeting for parents sometime during September to provide a fuller understanding of TOB and how it will be taught at Lumen Christi.

To date, TOB has received positive – even enthusiastic – support from our parents and board. I ask for your patience and trust as we work through this first year, and I pledge to keep you fully informed. I truly believe that this can be a great blessing to our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Checklist – Please make sure you've returned the following to the office:

- **Emergency Medical Form**
- **Last Page of School Handbook**
- **Pizza and Hot Dog order forms**

Thank you for your cooperation!