



November 4, 2019

Dear Parents,

What an exciting month October had been! To start the month, we enjoyed an evening in the school gym raising money at our school's auction. It was nice to sit amongst priests, alumni, parishioners, parents, families, and friends. This night would not have been possible without the dedicated hours of Mrs. Starnes and her auction team. Thank you to everyone that assisted with the auction and spent countless hours working and planning this special evening. Thank you to everyone that attended the auction to show your continued support. The paddle bid this year raised approximately \$38,000.00. This money will be used for document cameras, interactive projectors, teacher work stations, and school and parish door access control. In the coming week, the auction committee will let us know the final numbers.

The teachers are hard at work implementing adaptive digital programs to differentiate instruction. Students in all grades are using *Moby Max* which is an online research-based suite of learning solutions designed to provide K-8 teachers with CCSS-aligned content, assessments, and activities for all topics and subject areas. Kindergarten through fifth grade have incorporated *Think Central* into the Journey's reading series, and *Connect Ed* for mathematics. In grades three and four students are learning key boarding skills, Google docs, Google slides, and Google classroom.

Thank you to all of the parents that attended conferences. This is a time to reflect on student's academic, social, and emotional well-being. I received many compliments on St. Francis's teaching staff. These teachers work hard each day and have welcomed the growth this year. WE thank you as well for your continued support.

Halloween is always a huge event! The leadership team with the guidance of Ms. Gelao organized a Halloween Assembly. Thank you to the leadership team for working through their lunches. The evening was continued as Matthew Wiren, Jaden Will, Elli Will, Samantha Battilega, and Mikko Rosal helped me hand out 1500 pieces of candy in downtown Sherwood. What a wonderful representation of the St. Francis Catholic community these students exemplified.

This month I met with Marleen Carroll from the Sherwood School District to submit a plan for professional development to be used with St. Francis Catholic School teachers. St. Francis

Catholic School will receive \$1,596.00 in Title II funding to be used this school year for professional development. Our first professional development will be on Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, with Parkwood Clinic, speech and language pathologists. Parkwood Clinic's representatives will be presenting executive functions/cognitive control that activate, organize, integrate and manage other functions. These processes are necessary for the cognitive control of behavior: selecting and successfully monitoring behaviors (academically, emotionally, and socially).

It is with great excitement that two students from St. Francis Catholic School were accepted by the St. Mary's Academy Science Department into the TIES (Teaching, Integrating and Exploring Science) mentoring program that is designed to expose fifth grade girls to science. The two fifth grade students that were accepted are Avery Contreras and (Elizabeth) Lizzie Nanson. The girls had to apply and be accepted by St. Mary's Academy and will be involved in a variety of science topics in the fields of physics, chemistry, biology, environmental science, and engineering. The program hopes to inspire girls to continue to study science through high school and beyond as a viable career option. Avery and Lizzie will be attending meetings twice monthly from November through May. There are over thirty St. Mary's Academy science students excited to be mentors, and their science facility is ready to assist them. Congratulations ladies!

In continuing with our five-year marketing strategic plan with the Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon, the marketing team and I met with Partner's in Mission to create a marketing plan and strategies to deliver our plan. The ideas for this marketing plan will be shared and collaborated with St. Francis's marketing team on November 7<sup>th</sup>. In conjunction with the marketing plan the St. Francis Catholic School and Parish website will begin transformation this month. In January the filming of a video will take place. Once the marketing team has the finalized schedule we will share it with you.

As we move forward into the month of November our journey toward re-accreditation continues. St. Francis Catholic School is accredited by the Western Catholic Educational Association (WCEA) and North Central Association (NCA). Not every school or district can or does complete the accreditation process. The teachers have begun working diligently on various aspects of the *Improving Student Learning Self Study* process. The process involves looking at multiple measures of data. Input from will be asked from all shareholders – parents, staff, students, and parishioners- to gather the information and data needed to assess our strengths and identify our areas for growth. These surveys will help us gather the data needed to assess our overall school program. A primary focus of this process is the assessment of our Catholic Identity as a school and how effective we are at infusing this Catholic Identity into our entire curriculum and school culture so as to enhance the high achievement of all students. All of the shareholders have important perspectives to share that will provide the data necessary to accurately and effectively evaluate our school's progress. This is the first survey and additional surveys will follow to parents, students, staff, pastor, School Advisory Council, and to our Parent Service Organization. This survey is lengthy, please be prepared to take about 30 minutes to complete. If you do not know an answer, please skip it, as these questions are compiled by the WCEA and NCA. In order for me to complete a data driven report your input is necessary. **Please complete this survey by November 22, 2019.** To reward you for your time, please take a snap shot of the completed survey and send it to Gretchen and your child and/family will be given a free dress pass to be used on any day but Mass or Benediction days.

St. Francis Catholic School is a fantastic school with great teachers, students, parents, and support. Have a blessed Thanksgiving and remember our military this Veteran's Day.

Kind regards,  
Ms. Gonzalez  
Principal

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BWRQX29>