



January 12, 2020

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a blessed time with family and friends.

I am thankful to Mr. and Mrs. Cordell and Mrs. Cowan for stepping up to chair/co-chair next year's 2020 auction. We are meeting on Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup> with Mrs. Starnes to review expectations. I truly thank Mrs. Starnes and her committee for their hard work this year, and her willingness to assist in next year's auction.

We are actively working on the *Self-Study* in-depth. The results of our parent survey and Catholic Identity surveys are in, and we are grateful and appreciative for the families who participated. As we have begun reviewing this valuable input to our school *Self-Study* process, we are finding the highest reason parents send their children to our school is for faith formation and academic excellence. A rigorous academic curriculum infused with the solid, life-affirming values of our Catholic culture and spirituality is at the heart of St. Francis Catholic School. Our *Self-Study* is helping us to strengthen our school and renew our commitment to serving our students and families. Thank you to all who are contributing to this process toward our re-accreditation, which will take place on November 4 – 6, 2020.

I would like to welcome the Higby family to the St. Francis Catholic community. Liam is a wonderful addition to the fourth-grade class. Additionally, we have another wonderful addition to PreK, Alyson Headrick. Brady Headrick, in second grade, is her brother. We welcome Alyson as well.

The second window to *STAR* testing started January 6<sup>th</sup> – January 24<sup>th</sup>. Once *STAR* testing is completed, your child's results will be sent to you via the mail.

Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, is the kick off for Catholic Schools Week. Please join us, as teachers will be present for the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday. Any of our school children, who wear their uniform, to any of that weekend's Masses, will receive a free dress pass coupon. Make sure to collect your coupon from a teacher or me after the 10:30 Mass. All other students attending Saturday, January 25, evening or another Mass on Sunday, January 26, see Mrs. Brown on Monday to collect your free dress pass.

We have a great deal of fun activities planned for the students, parents, grandparents, and special friends that week. Please make sure to pay close attention to the January, *Wolf Post* for a list of activities.

For Wednesday's Mass on January 29<sup>th</sup> a hired videographer will be present to video the Mass, the Grandparents' Brunch, and activities throughout the day.

The videographer will return on February 11<sup>th</sup> for parent and student interviews. This is exciting news as we are updating the St. Francis Catholic School website for prospective families. With that said, **registration is now open for the following school year.**

- If you have friends who are interested in applying for St. Francis Catholic School, they may now get an application on the school website
- If you are a current PreK – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade family you will receive an email from SchoolSpeak so that you can indicate if you plan on returning next year
- **ALL** families must set up an account in FACTS for making payments next year
- Those who need financial aid, please complete the FACTS application process
- **All FACTS applications for tuition assistance must be completed and submitted by February 5, 2020**
- Contact the school office if you need assistance with completing your application on FACTS

On another note, I am sad to say, Mrs. Warren, third grade teacher, will not be returning to St. Francis Catholic School next year as she and her husband have a wonderful opportunity in Montana next year. Mrs. Warren and her husband will be running a family business and will be closer to family. This is a wonderful opportunity for Mrs. Warren to be closer to her family and to extend her own family. If you are ever in Hungry Horse, Montana, make sure to stop by and say hello to her. We will truly miss Mrs. Warren's kind-heart, teaching experience, and friendship. We wish you and your family the best, Mrs. Warren.

Mrs. Warren will be replaced with Mrs. Huber, who is currently our second-grade teacher. Mrs. Larsen will return to second grade in the fall. With that said, I will post the eighth grade ELA position on the Archdiocesan website this week.

We began our first-year STEAM partnership with Portland Public School on December 3, 2019. The topics to be covered during our first year is cultivating leadership, using data and evidence to guide efforts, identifying and building off strengths and assets, and building a culture for continuous improvement. We will complete an actionable plan that will guide our STEAM efforts for four plus years. We will be trained by highly experienced STEAM teachers.

We are looking forward to a great 2020.

Sincerely,

Ms. Gonzalez  
Principal