



ST. FRANCIS

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Office of the Principal

November 2, 2020

Dear Parents,

Where did October go? St. Francis Catholic School's (SFCS) Virtual Auction was a success during these trying times. Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Cordell, Mrs. Cowan, and all of you for your commitment to Catholic education and the ability to navigate many moving parts this year. The paddle bid this year raised approximately \$24,975.00. This money will be used to improve our science curriculum by purchasing FOSS kits, online textbooks, and technology. In the coming weeks, the auction committee will let us know the final numbers.

Thank you to all of the parents that attended virtual conferences. This is a time to reflect on students' academic, social, and emotional well-being. Thank you for acknowledging how wonderful the teachers at St. Francis are. These teachers work hard each day and have welcomed the growth, challenges, and changes this school year has brought. The faculty, staff, and administration thank you as well for your continued support and understanding.

Since my last principal letter, we welcome four new families to St. Francis Catholic School and community. The new families are the Laursen family (K), von Hagen family (PreK), Morrissey family (K) and Storm family (K). Please welcome each family. Additionally, third grade will be attending Limited In-School instruction for two hours per day starting today, November 2, 2020. We are looking forward to seeing new faces in the building.

It is ever important to emphasize a positive, collaborative faith community in the school. With continued social distancing and remote learning for some, our students, teachers, staff, and families are in our daily prayers to best serve our mission, students, and families in these circumstances.

Recently, I spoke with Mrs. Carroll from the Sherwood School District to submit a plan for our Title II Funds for professional development. St. Francis Catholic School will receive \$1,590.00 in Title II funding to be used this school year for professional development in technology, occupational therapy, and psychologist workshops to serve all learners.

As the holiday season is approaching, the faculty and I are working on our first virtual Christmas program. The theme is a "Traditional Christmas". We will keep you posted on practicing dates and how we plan to manage each classroom and theme.

Regarding St. Francis Catholic School's In-Depth Study and Self-Study, the visiting team will do a virtual evaluation on November 4th, with faculty, staff and administration. The virtual visit is February, 10-12, 2021. After reviewing SFCS Self-Study the faculty and administration have added two new action plan goals. At this time the action goals for the next six years are as follows:

- **Review and revise the SLE indicators to interface as appropriate the revised mission and philosophy statements, integrate into school community, and ways to assess the integration of the SLEs**
- **Improve reading comprehension through professional development, tracking of students, and the integration of a variety of strategies in the Kindergarten through eighth grade ELA curriculum to promote the proficiency and the high achievement of all learners**
- **Provide professional development to faculty in assessment tracking, goal setting, and strategies**
- **Explore, develop, and implement new ways of differentiating instruction to enhance student learning**
- **Develop and implement the science curriculum into the ST(R)EAM program to qualify for the two-year certification to meet the 21st Century Standards**

The 2020 school year has posed many unique challenges regarding *STAR* Renaissance testing. Please note this a small picture into your child's learning performance. SFCS will be adding a fourth testing windowing, mandated by the Superintendent, starting November 2 – November 22. After each testing window you will receive results.

Starting in November, the faculty, staff, and administration will commence on a monthly Faith Formation Retreat with Father Amal. The outline is designed by the Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon, regarding personal prayer, community prayer, and liturgical prayer. The teachers and I look forward to these monthly retreats with Father Amal to enhance our faith.

As our day-to-day life at SFCS looks different, there is so much that remains the same: our commitment to the high achievement of all learners and our desire to live out the Gospel.

God bless and stay well,

Ms. Gonzalez
Principal