



ST. FRANCIS

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Office of the Principal

February 1, 2020

Dear Parents,

Catholic Schools Week was a week filled with school spirit, a parent appreciation lunch, grandparents' brunch, faculty and staff appreciation day, an amazing Geography Bee, and student appreciation day. The faculty and staff concluded Catholic Schools Week with a spiritual In-service for all Portland Archdiocesan Schools.

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped serve lunch, make lunch for the faculty and staff, and for volunteering throughout CSW. St. Francis Catholic School cannot do it without your dedication and support.

The students completed the second window of *STAR* testing in reading and mathematics. You should receive their results around the middle of February. If you do not receive them, please contact me. Our last testing window for the current school year is in May. Your child/children's teacher will notify you on their exact testing period.

A follow up on the first ST(R)EAM Leadership Meeting with Portland Public Schools was held on January 23, 2020. Mrs. Smith and I observed what a ST(R)EAM School looks like, learned about transformational science leadership skills, and identified that SFCS is exploring and initiating in the ST(R)EAM model in planning, leading, teaching, learning, and partnering. This partnership with PPS is a two year commitment and once finished our goal is to be a certified ST(R)EAM School where ELA, mathematics, project-based learning, and NGSS are integrated to reflect real-world, place-based phenomena. The next ST(R)EAM meeting is on February 27, 2020, and the topic to be covered is using data and evidence to guide efforts.

An update to 2019 Auction Paddle Bid funds used thus far is as follows:

- Installation of security and camera system (school)
- Security system for main building (school)
- Installation of fire alarm cell dialer and monitoring (school)
- Installation toggle switch and wiring for school office door
- Parish office security door installation (students use parish hall for music, art, lunch, extended care)

Installation starting in March and throughout the school year to be completed in the summer for grades K-8:

- Eight LCD interactive, short throw projectors installed
- Eight Chromecast Ultra Network Audio/Video Player installed
- Eight document cameras installed
- Seven Chromebook Tablets (8th grade has one)
- Telephone installed in the art and music room

Once the proposal has been approved and signed I will update you via *Wolf Post* or in the next Principal Newsletter on the remaining unused funds. I am very pleased that we were able to make the school and parish safer and that the technology updates will happen before next school year. This is very exciting as we teach to the 21st Century learners. Again, thank you for your generous paddle bid.

I would like to officially welcome Ms. DeJesus to St. Francis Catholic School’s Faculty for the 20-21 school year. For those of you that do not know Ms. DeJesus, she completed her student teaching in December in middle school science at St. Francis Catholic School. She is a graduate from the University of Portland and is endorsed in K-12 biology.

On another note, after many brainstorming meetings with the middle school faculty and Mr. Pinkstaff, SFCS is departmentalizing grades fifth – eighth for the 20-21 school year. This departmentalization will assist the fifth graders in making a smoother transition into middle school and all students will benefit from a more authentic and purposeful learning environment, an optimum utilization of resources, and teachers endorsed in their subject content.

The Departmentalization for 5th-8th is as Follows:

Mr. Pinkstaff	Ms. Gelao	Mrs. Smith	Ms. DeJesus
5th Grade	6th Homeroom	7th Homeroom	8th Homeroom
5 th Religion	6 th Religion	7 th Religion	8 th Religion
6 th Literature	6 th Social Studies	8 th Math	8 th Science
6 th English	7 th Social Studies	7 th Math	7 th Science
5 th Literature	8 th Social Studies	6 th Math	6 th Science
5 th English	8 th Literature	5 th Math	5 th Science
5 th Social Studies	8 th English	7 th Literature	7 th English

We currently have students from our PreK class and some new students enrolling in next year’s Kindergarten class. I am touring new families almost on a daily basis. Moreover, SFCS

welcomed a new second grader, Malachi Alexander-Jordan, and his family this week. Please welcome the family.

If you have not done so already, please complete your registration forms and all needed information in FACTS. **Tuition assistance deadline is February 5, please go online and apply if needed.**

On February 12th the faculty and staff will participate in a dyslexia simulation workshop. The simulation offers insight into the dyslexic experience in reading, writing, and processing. The simulation will be held in the library at 2:30 on February 12th. If you would like to attend the simulation, please let me know, the cost is \$5.00, which is donated to the International Dyslexia Association.

I feel very blessed to be a part of this wonderful, growing community. Enjoy the month of February as the months seem to be flying by.

I will be out of the office the first week of February for two days at a Principal Retreat and in the middle of February at my God-daughter's wedding.

If you need to contact me while I am away, please reach me via email. I will do my best to check emails on a daily basis.

Warm regards,
Ms. Gonzalez
Principal