



February 1, 2021

Dear Parents:

Happy Catholic Schools Week! The faculty, staff, Father Amal, and I appreciate you all so much! Your dedication to Catholic education and the support of the teachers and administration is commendable. You work to support your child's/children's education on a daily basis and have remained hopeful, supportive, and faithful, from all of us, thank you!

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week this month, we also celebrate Black History Month. This month is a time to highlight the many accomplishments and contributions that African Americans have made to the scientific, educational, and social justice of our country. A quote from Pope Francis "Education is above all a matter of love and responsibility handed down from one generation to another.... Today, there is need for a renewed commitment to an education that engages society at every level.... We believe that it is time to subscribe to a global pact on education for and with future generations. This call for a commitment on the part of families, communities, schools, universities, institutions, religions, governments, and the entire human family to the training of mature men and women.... May we be sustained by the conviction that education bears within itself a seed of hope: the hope for peace and justice; the hope for beauty and goodness; the hope of social harmony." Amen!

It is wonderful to see the fifth – eighth grade students back in the classroom. All students are being mindful of the policies and procedures put in place and we all appreciate it.

Round one of the COVID vaccination is in place and many teachers have already had their first shot. Round two begins today at noon for teachers in grades second through fifth.

On Wednesday, February 10, we welcome our Visiting Committee for the three-day virtual visit portion of our accreditation process. Prior to the arrival, the accreditation team spent time reading and rereading our *Self-Study*. Throughout their visit, the five-person Visiting Committee will virtually visit classes and meet with students and Fr. Amal. During the day, they will virtually meet with parents from SAC, Finance, and committee chairs. Thursday and Friday, they will continue with virtual visits as they write their report, which will be completed on Friday. The School Leadership Team, Ms. Gonzalez and Ms. Gelao, will review the report, along with Fr. Amal and the Associate Superintendent, Kim Shields. It will be presented to the faculty and staff Friday afternoon. The final copy of the report will arrive within a few weeks, and we will be honored to post it for the school community to review.

A really huge thank-you goes to all the faculty and staff for 15 months of hard work in preparing the *Self-Study* and for preparing for the upcoming virtual visit. Through this *Self-Study* we continued teaching all students during a pandemic, performing a Christmas program, pivoting on every new recommendation presented by Governor Brown, maintaining enrollment, continuing the STEAM certification process, and much more!

If you have not yet registered for the 2021-2022 school year, please do so. Registration form and fee are due March 1, 2021. We have many new applicants for next school year, so please get your registration forms in as soon as possible.

The Oregon Federation of Independent Schools announced that Oregon Governor Kate Brown has proclaimed February 4, 2021, as Oregon Private Schools Appreciation Day! Equally exciting, Colt Gill, Director of the Oregon Department of Education, has joined in honoring Oregon's private schools! St. Francis Catholic School is thrilled to be recognized for our outstanding commitment to Catholic education and to all learners.

Enjoy the month of February and the virtue for February is 'Kindness.'

Kind regards,
Ms. Gonzalez
Principal