



ST. FRANCIS

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Office of the Principal

Dear Parents,

Happy spring! The weather could not be better. There are many new and exciting changes and additions to our school for next year.

First of all, we hired a music teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. Lucy Neary has been teaching music in the Archdiocese of Portland for eleven years. She graduated from Gonzaga University in 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts in Vocal Performance and a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education, as well as a certification in Elementary Education and a minor in Conducting. During her time at Gonzaga, she sang in many choirs and performed in operas. She received her Masters in Choral Conducting from Portland State University in 2014 and since then, has conducted elementary, middle school, high school, collegiate, and adult choirs. Mrs. Neary lives in Tualatin with her husband and four children and she and her family are parishioners at St. Francis Catholic Church. Mrs. Neary loves teaching students how to read and compose music. Additionally, the students will investigate Music History through projects on composers, musical genres, and musical eras. The students will use their knowledge of Music Theory and History to explore all kinds of new music and performance opportunities. Mrs. Neary is looking forward to forming a choir, playing instruments, and instilling a love of music in the students.

Our long-term first grade substitute teacher, Jonathan Johannesen, will become our Kindergarten through eighth grade PE teacher and health teacher in grades 6th-8th. Mr. Johannesen earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Oregon and a Masters degree in Elementary Education from Pacific University. He has worked with the Portland Trail Blazers, Portland Winterhawks, and coaches and referee's youth basketball and baseball. In the meantime, I am interviewing many qualified applicants for the first-grade teaching position.

Mrs. Green, our beloved art and PE teacher, will be the full-time art teacher and assistant in multiple classrooms. Mrs. Green will have more time to dedicate to the arts and the wonderful projects she initiates.

St. Francis Catholic School was awarded a \$5,000.00 donation from an anonymous donor. With these funds St. Francis will be sending two teachers to be Orton-Gillingham trained this summer in reading literacy. Additional funds will be used to purchase more Chromebooks, as enrollment continues to increase, and the remaining funds will be applied to update our science program.

We are continuing with our STEAM certification with Portland Public Schools. At this time, we are working on unit plans at each grade level. Ms. DeJesus has been a real driving force for us, and we appreciate her guidance and knowledge as we seek to advance our science program at all grade levels.

We are looking forward to our second largest fundraiser the Jog-a-Thon. Please pay close attention to the Wolf Post for updates and due dates. This year's Jog-a-Thon is really exciting as

15643 SW Oregon St Sherwood, OR 97140 503-625-0497 www.stfrancissherwoodschool.org email: dgonzalez@sfsherwood.org

"Spiritual, moral and academic excellence under the patronage of St. Francis of Assisi."

we will be able to have volunteers on campus and the students will be allowed to run with their respective classes. Many thanks to Lynne Nanson and the PSO team for making this event possible.

Starting this week is the school's Bookfair. Thank you to Jill Biallas for organizing this online affair. The kids and the teachers are excited about the books offered and it is so awesome to see children's faces in a good book reading for the love of reading. You can find more information in the Wolf Post.

Each weekend I tour many families that are so eager to attend St. Francis Catholic School. It is very inspiring to share the school and curriculum with others. Thank you for continuing to be a part of this community. The faculty, staff, and I could not do it without your continued support.

We are looking forward to completing this school year on a great note and introducing many exciting curriculum updates, instructional materials, and new roles.

Have a blessed week and enjoy this beautiful weather!

God bless,

Ms. Gonzalez
Principal