



AVE MARIA ACADEMY

CATHOLIC VALUES • ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

July 14, 2020

Ave Maria Academy welcomes you...

My name is Mrs. Lynne Lynch, the Principal of Ave Maria Academy. I wanted to take a few moments to speak with you about the development of our Catholic Academy.

Philosophy:

My mission as Principal is to create an environment where our children can grow both spiritually and intellectually.

Prior to becoming a Principal, I took some time to reflect on the meaning of a Catholic Education. I brought it back to two principals, *Shared Values* and *Academic Excellence*.

Our faith is both our foundation and the fertile earth from which our values grow. Our children, teachers and I formally share our faith during our group prayers, religious instruction and masses together. Symbols and writings throughout our facilities allows for personal reflection and reinforcement. Beyond this, our school must reinforce the values you would expect in your own home, ones of respectful interactions, courtesy, teamwork and assistance to others. I am blessed to be able to witness this in our children each day in school, at spiritual, academic and athletic events, and in our communities. We all witness their developing values, our values, our shared values.

When you think of a Catholic School education, words like “challenge,” and “excellence” come to mind. Our Diocesan Leadership saw fit to utilize the word “Academy,” in titling Ave Maria, which reflects our goal of high academic standards.

Our current efforts:

While most schools have ended or curtailed their administrative functions for the summer, we have continued (and increased) our efforts unabated, as we stand up our two campuses.

We are (and have been) looking at possible challenges and solutions for the new school year. I am working directly with our Diocese, while we keep an eye on the changing conditions on the ground. Rest assured, Ave Maria Academy is building off of a foundation of success my team and I realized over this past school year.

At the beginning of the previous semester, I identified the possible effects that a pandemic would have on how we conducted our school's operations. I began requiring my teachers to familiarize themselves with technology and how to utilize it for potential remote learning. While my teachers and staff (true professionals all) were learning and adapting to this general model, I saw that this model (the one surrounding school districts settled on) would not be acceptable for our students and our families. Our children had to be fully prepared for the next grade, the next level. We quickly moved to live, interactive instruction, with my mandate that we make it as close to a normal school day as possible for our children.

Working with our new Assistant Principal, Amy O'Keefe, I conducted interviews of potential teacher candidates (notification of those selected will not be formally announced until contracts and scheduling are formalized). The candidates were asked about their experience in teaching in a Catholic School environment, why they wanted to be a part of and what they could bring to Ave Maria Academy, as well as their ability to adapt to a potentially changing environment and technology. We were quite pleased with the high quality, spirituality and experience these professionals brought to us.

We have also been working on the logistics for our new school year to include the identification, purchase and movement of text books and technology to our two locations, as we balance what will be presented at our two campuses. I have had weekly meetings with our Implementation Committee (composed of parents from all four schools), as well as weekly Principal and stakeholder meetings.

I appreciate the support and feedback you have given me through our meetings, phone calls and e-mails. Rest assured, my primary focus is the ongoing development of our Academy, which is being built on a foundation of faith, shared values and academic excellence. Welcome...

Lynne

Mrs. Lynne Lynch
Principal
Ave Maria Academy

