

Assumption School: Christ-Centered and Child-focused

"Be it known to all who enter here that CHRIST is the reason for this school. He is the unseen but ever present teacher in its classes. He is the model of its faculty and the inspiration of its students."

Assumption Messages From the Principal 9-1-10

Celebrating Success

A First Grader's Example

This is an email that Mrs. Feichtinger sent to me after I made a PA announcement canceling what would have been our first fire drill: "I have to brag on _____. When you announced that we wouldn't be having the fire drill due to the burial, she walked over to our window, silently made the Sign of the Cross and started praying for the family."

This is just one of the many reasons we send our children to Catholic school. Your children are truly a gift to all of us.

Our Graduates Shine!

Lauren Ritchie graduated with 1st honors, a very high 4-year cumulative grade point average at John F. Kennedy Catholic High School in May, 2010. She also received a certificate of academic achievement. Way to go, Lauren!

Did You Know?

*The archdiocese has an academic program to certify religion teachers? Mrs. Feichtinger received her catechist certification this past June. Congratulations on your coursework, Mrs. Feichtinger. **Read our faculty bios from the last column of links on the**

faculty webpage. I hope to have all of them posted by Labor Day.

*We have word from one of the girls' high schools (which many Assumption graduates attend) that **our school** is one of four that produces the **best entering math students.**

***Vianney continually praises** us on the quality of our school's graduates.

*Over the last two years **our graduates have tripled the number of scholarships** they have received from high schools and community agencies.

Our 8th Graders are Leading the Way

Under the leadership of **Shane B.** and **John K.** our patrol members have been doing very responsible jobs at Ambs, the front lot, and the back lot. All traffic patterns are running smoothly. **Thank you to all our motorists who are moving at a safe pace and watching for the children.**

Events

Why Are We Off School This Friday, Sept. 3rd?

We are hosting our archdiocesan region, Region 5, which includes

Assumption, Our Lady of Providence, Queen of All Saints, St. Catherine Laboure, St. Dominic Savio, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Justin Martyr, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, St. Mark, St. Simon the Apostle, and Seven Holy Founders. There will be about 240 teachers and 11 principals participating. We'll be using our gym and many of our classrooms.

The principals have collaboratively planned the content of the day. We'll review our five years of regional work on differentiated instruction and its importance. In the morning each faculty will work together in one of our classrooms utilizing a SmartBoard and some Internet connections according to each faculty's individual needs.

After a box lunch we will break into groups by grade levels and/or subjects to do an exercise in differentiating. We'll end the day going over our own wiki site which we hope to use in professional networking and lesson sharing in our region.

Thursday after our brief faculty meeting, our teachers will help set up the tables with nametags, agendas, maps, and put up organizational signs. We'll all wear our blue shirts Friday and offer hospitality. We will let Assumption shine!

Home & School Meeting/Bring Your Parents to School Night—Sept. 14th

Don't miss it! Tuesday, September 14th. See you then. More details on the night will be in the Sept. 8th newsletter. Please mark your

calendars, if you have not already done so.

Cafeteria Worker Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 9th

In the Multipurpose Room

2:00 – 2:30 PM

We'll review cafeteria health safety practices and students with allergies and epipens.

Recess Supervisor Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 7th

In the Multipurpose Room

2:00 – 2:30 PM

We'll view a safety video and understand emergency response to any incident involving blood or other body fluids as well as review our procedures, including the transfer of epipens. I'll also talk about my new facet of the Habits of the Heart program for recess.

Archdiocesan Program for all Kindergarten Parents

Reminder: We have a **meeting for our Kindergarten parents:**

Wednesday, Sept. 8th

7:00 PM

in the Multipurpose Room

Archdiocesan administrators sponsor a program for kindergarten parents in which all Catholic elementary schools in the St. Louis Archdiocese participate. The program was developed by the elementary school principals (Catholic Elementary Schools Coalition) and focuses on providing parents with information on behaviors associated with the transitions in child development and key changing points in school life.

Wrapping Paper Sale

This sale gives 5th and 8th graders opportunities to raise funds for the 6th grade camp program and the 8th grade end-of-the-year events. It and the Entertainment Book sales, also kick off general fund raising.

Procedures

Communication Pathways

Pony Express envelopes with current information are sent home with students on Wednesdays.

Our web pages have the calendar, supply lists, schedules, forms and current information(www.assumptionstl.org). Please make sure all parent data is current in **Fast Direct**, including your email address.

Send flyers, etc., electronically to meyerm@assumptionstl.org. The school directory can also be accessed through Fast Direct

Lunchroom Respect and Courtesy—Please Follow this Handbook Procedure (p. 48)

Delivering lunches from restaurants to your children for a special treat **is not allowed** out of respect to our cafeteria food service and respect to other children whose parents are not able to do this for one reason or another. We like you to join your children on their special days, but please bring a sack lunch or buy from our food service. If you must share restaurant food with your children, please sign them out and drive to the restaurant. Students are not permitted to purchase or bring soft drinks (soda) for lunch.

Calling all Paper Work!

Hopefully all emergency cards are in the school office already.

Physical forms need to be turned in to Mrs. Knopf as soon as possible (Grs. K-3-6).

Special Learning Assessment Documents

We'll be getting ready for our standardized testing (ITBS) the third week of September. This is just a reminder to parents that Special School District and other professionals do not automatically send documents to the school. If you are not sure whether we have results from special tests or modifications for learning and/or testing, please check with Mrs. Meyer who can verify what we have on file.

Did you know that our school **standardized test scores have a long history of being well above average**, usually in the 70th percentiles on the scale where 50 is average. Our scores are often above archdiocesan averages.

In the last five years we **have significantly increased our math** standardized test scores. Many of our graduates test out of beginning levels of algebra and **qualify for honors** level coursework.

New Families

We hope you enjoyed having our welcome sign at your home. We ask you to please drop off at the school office any remaining "Welcome to Assumption" signs at your convenience. We appreciate that and hope you are feeling "at home" with us.

Faith Community
Habits of the Heart at Assumption

As part of our overall program **Habits of the Heart**, all classes are working with the SecondStep curriculum which takes about a half hour a week. SecondStep is a conflict resolution, anti-violence program that builds skills in empathy, impulse control, and anger management. We will work with BJC outreach programs to build social skills and emotional safety with programs in the odd-numbered grades. Our **Habits of the Heart** emphasis reflects the heart of Jesus.

Kindness at Recess

We know from our own observations and national statistics that most bullying type behaviors happen at recess when students are out of adult hearing range. One of my goals this year is to specifically work on that collaboratively with the students. I have returned as the head recess supervisor at the lunch recess. There are some days when principal activities keep me off site and we'll have that covered.

I am experimenting with ways to create random teams to eliminate some of the same people as captains, always being picked last and unfair sides. In a separate move, the middle school students are experimenting with a zoned recess where they choose activity areas rather than be assigned to an area by grade level.

I'm also experimenting with ways to give our middle school students more choices at recess by zoning

the play areas by activity locations rather than by grade levels.

We Had a Special Visit

Yesterday Dr. Geetha (MD), her husband Tom, and Sr. Lucy visited us. They are the founders of Foundation for Children in India. Last year we donated almost \$2000 from our Mission Carnival to help their mission work in India. They met separately with 6th-7th-8th and 3rd-4th-5th in the multipurpose room to share a DVD about their work and dialog with the students. We saw the tangible ways that our donation helps provide physical and educational help to God's precious children in need.

God bless all of us as we work to build His kingdom every day.
Mrs. Hasten