

Dear Parents,

Now that the long weekend has passed, the teachers and students are ready to get down to business! Next week will mark our first full week of school with student going through their complete weekly schedule.

You may have noted that our calendar indicates Scantron testing for students in grades 3-7 from Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> until Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. That 3 week period is simply the testing window that is open for Diocesan schools to complete their first session of testing. Students will actually only spend 2-3 days testing (not even full days). Once we have the schedule ready, we will let you know. For this first testing session, results will be shared at parent teacher conferences in November. Why the delay, you might ask? Well, the Diocesan Professional Development Day on October 28<sup>th</sup> is specifically for teacher training with regard to how to decipher the results, create reports, etc. The teachers will have the raw data and will be able to address any areas of concern, right away. But reporting results to parents will not happen until there is an opportunity for this teacher training to occur and for parents and teachers to have the time to sit down and discuss the results.

We are trying to get the directory out by mid to late September. I know Mrs. Karinshak has included reminders in the newsletter for parents to go to the Parent Portal in Powerschool and check which fields they would like included in the directory. The deadline for that is September 12<sup>th</sup>. We understand some new parents and are having difficulty with this process and we are working to resolve any ongoing issues as quickly as possible. Rest assured, we will not pull the data until all of these issues have been addressed. Ms. Chapman has some students working on the cover art for the directory and we have asked Room Parents to send out reminders for parents to verify their data.

Next week, teachers will spend some time teaching the lessons from the Formation in Christian Chastity Program. This is a diocesan requirement for all schools. A letter about this program was sent home today. Your letter will include information about the program and will explain how you can access the lesson plans for each grade level on the diocesan website. An opt-out form will be included in your packet, should you decide you do not want your child(ren) to participate. Please be sure to look at the material that will be presented in order to make an informed decision.

I am looking forward to seeing our Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents on September 14<sup>th</sup> for Back-to-School Night. In the past, we started that evening with a PTO General Meeting, but will not be doing that, this year. Our focus will be entirely on Back-to-School Night with a short presentation from me and an introduction of our teachers in Fr. Beattie Hall (the gym). Then I will send you off to the classrooms to hear from your child's teacher. This is always an enjoyable and informative evening!

Have a blessed weekend!

In Christ,

Mary Therrell