

July 9, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Orientation Day for students to start the 2019-2020 Academic Year, which I described in my letter yesterday as:

A new day coming to Damien Memorial School is just four weeks from today.

In this letter I would like to update you on two major areas:

- > Safety and Security
- > Physical Improvements to the facilities.

## **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

### **Entering the Building**

Our Campus was designed during a simpler time when you did not have to worry about individuals disregarding boundaries and wandering private property at will. After 7 instances of non-Damien individuals being on-campus, one even pulling the fire alarm, there was no choice but to take actions to secure the safety of the students and school personnel.

The most obvious step we took, to secure the campus, was to build a wall, increase the height of another wall and order electronically controlled gates for non-student areas of the campus.

The main entrance to the school for visitors and parents, at all times on a school day, is through the double doors of the Welcome Center that enter from the parking lot.

The exit from the school for parents and visitors, at all times on a school day, is through the Main Office and out the double doors of the Welcome Center to the parking lot.

**Students arriving in the morning, prior to the bell to start first period (7:45 on letter days And B; 9:05 on letter day C)** will enter by the gate at either end of the building. Students arriving late may **only enter** by the gate at the Welcome Center end of the 200 Building. (This is because all lates will be recorded by the student swiping the ID badge across a digital reader, the reader will communicate with a system known as LobbyGuard which will print the late pass [issue a detention if warranted] and record the lateness right in PowerSchool.)

As seen from the above paragraph all attendance will be done electronically which necessitates that all requests for **EARLY DISMISSAL** be done in a timely manner and online at [earlydismissal@damien.edu](mailto:earlydismissal@damien.edu). When the student is meeting you in the Main Office to leave early, the scanned ID on the LobbyGuard system will match the request you made earlier in the day and the student will be allowed to leave.

During the school day students leaving early/ returning do so through the double doors of the Welcome Center from the parking lot.

### **ELECTRONIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

Upon my arrival in January the decision was made to insure that all of our systems : Fire, Bell, PA, Telephone, Surveillance Cameras, broadband were improved (some were not functioning at the time).

All our Cameras are functioning and we have added 22 new cameras to the system. To improve communication in an emergency, when you can not use a Public

Address System, every teacher and staff member has a Verizon phone with push-to-talk. On main access doors we have installed Bluetooth digital locks as we move to be a keyless school. We have replaced major doors, particularly in the gym with modern doors that have windows so that observation is a normal. And we have raised our Broadband to **1G**.

## **PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE FACILITIES**

Both the Cafeteria and the Gym are in the process of being air-conditioned. This required not only the usual duct work but major renovation work since a major portion of the wall space in each facility has been open to the environment thus requiring the construction of walls. In each area new lighting is being installed that will be able to be dimmed for non-athletic, non-student events held in them. (In the cafeteria the ceiling and grid will be removed, insulation added and all painted black.)

Every classroom:

- > has had a 65inch TV installed (to replace the PowerPoint projectors)
- > has an APPLE TV to stream what is on the Teacher's Laptop on to the TV
- > has been fully repainted not just touched up (three colors were selected to move away the one color fits all) a 'whiter' shade of tan, yellow, green

New Chairs were purchased:

- > 175 for classrooms
- > 100 for the cafeteria
- > 200 more folding chairs for seating on the floor in the gym during Mass (bringing the total that can sit on the floor to 500)

Fifteen classrooms have received new air-conditioners. The Faculty Lounge and the Innovation Lab (both on the Welcome Center ) were air-conditioned for the first time.

The Main Office has been completely redesigned to go from early 19th Century Post Office/Bank with its keep on your side of the counter message to a counterless open space saying welcome to our school and fostering interaction between people. The Main Office will be staffed by Mrs. Lota, Mrs. Fox and Brother Nolan.

All these changes and the changes in Expectations that I mentioned in my letter yesterday:

- > Exemplary Behavior is expected at all times,
- > Good enough is never good enough,
- > Phones, ear phones, earbuds during the day and you will have to retrieve,
- > Parents are the first line of defense for proper dress,
- > Parents will bring the Laptop to Service Center for repair,

are all designed to help keep our **MISSION STATEMENT** a document that gives meaning and shown to be real:

**Damien Memorial School guides young men and women  
from all walks of life to become:  
responsible, respectful and community-minded  
citizens who are prepared to excel in higher education  
and are ready for the challenges in their future.**

**As a community of faith missioned by the Roman Catholic  
Church, we espouse the message of the Gospel of  
Jesus Christ as exemplified in the Essential Elements  
of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education and  
through the selfless service of Saint Damien of Moloka'i.**

Sincerely,

**Brother Brian M. Walsh**  
**President**

