

July 25, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Peace and all Good to you on this day that the Roman Catholic Church offers the life of the Apostle, Saint James the Greater to us for our reflection and growth as Christians. James, and his brother John, were the sons of the fisherman, Zebedee, who, after catching nothing all night, took a chance on Jesus, and cast their nets on the other side of the boat, reaping enough fish as to break the nets. This school year, at **Damien Memorial School** may we constantly **take a chance on Jesus** and know the abundance of peace, love and joy that **He** brings to our lives.

My letter today contains information on four important issues:

- > modification to the start of the school year for students;
- > the amount of the per student eBook fee for the 2019-2020 School Year (that will be paid directly to the school);
- > the listing of the new Faculty and Staff at the school and some internal changes for next year;
- > a 'hold-the-date' announcement for the parents and students of the Class of 2021.

1) Nothing is ever easy! The number and the complexity of some of the changes we are making to increase health, safety and the learning environment have not meshed resulting in the irony that were we to have students in the building on August 6th that we are improving to increase the health and safety of the students, we would place the students in several potential health and safety risks.

Thus the ORIENTATION Day for students will be on Monday, August 12, 2019.

The same schedule as on August 6 will be followed: Grades 6,7,8,9,10,11 in the morning and Grade 12 in the afternoon.

For instance to install the 50, 65 inch LG TVs in each classroom has required working with three suppliers: Amazon(wall mounting units); APPLE (for APPLE TVs to stream what is on the teacher’s computer onto the TV); Best Buy (for the TVs) and two specialized worker groups: electricians to move outlets in each room; the Geek Squad to install the TV and the APPLE TVs.

2) **eBOOK fee** We switched from having textbooks for several reasons: some of which were a) the cost to families of hardcover books (and the stress when the teacher did not use the text enough), and b) the fact that an eBook is not just a digital edition of the text: an eBook is text, workbook, video loop, reference tool all in one.

I apologize for the lateness of the information I am about to share. Except for Theology (Religion in Middle School) from the McGraw-Hill Book Company we will buy a “use license” for each eBook every student will use during the course of this year.

We are calling the “use license” **the eBook Fee**, which is a per student fee that will be paid **directly to Damien Memorial School** (according to a schedule that will be provided to you). **For the 2019-2020 school year the per student eBook Fee is:**

\$115.00.

3) We welcome the following to our Community:

Ms. Katie Adams	Middle School Faculty
Mrs. Deanna Arrechi	Middle School Faculty
Mrs. Karen Curry	Director of Information Systems
Ms. Karen Dixon	Middle School Science and Math
Mr. Stephen Guzman	Yearbook, Digital Photography, Magazine
Brother Christopher Hall	Vice President for Administration
Mr. Conor Lane	Social Studies
Mr. Andy Llamedo	Maintenance Staff
Mr. Jeffrey McGivern	Campus Ministry/ Advancement
Ms. Nicole Paishon	Assistant Principal for Student Life
Dr. Sonia Maria Rivas Roblin	World Language:Spanish

Ms. Gail Vannatta

Assistant Principal for Academics

4) We have had some Internal Appointments:

Mr. Rudy Alejo has been appointed the Interim Athletic Director.

Mr. Eddie Klaneski has been Appointed the Director Of Advancement
and Alumni Relations

5) Upcoming Event:

> **Heads up Parents and Students of the CLASS OF 2021:** DMS Ohana Day picnic is going to be held on the school field on **Sunday, AUGUST 18 from 11:00 -3:00 pm. The delayed start of the school year is an obstacle to the success of this event.**

If you and your family will attend... if you and your family are willing to help...are willing to donate to help launch this class tradition of families getting together... please send how you can help the committee and your **favorite address to receive email to:**

brian5845@icloud.com

As always I thank you for the trust you place in Damien Memorial School to work with you in helping your student grow to adulthood in the presence of God.

Sincerely,

Brother Brian M. Walsh