



Lourdes Catholic School

Academics ♦ Faith ♦ Community

Lourdes Catholic School is dedicated to providing an outstanding foundation for the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, technological, and physical needs of all individuals, preparing students for the future, while fostering a challenging environment of educational excellence.

Principal's Post
September 29, 2011

Dear Lourdes Catholic School Families,

It was nice to welcome the K-8 parents into the building this week for conferences. This is the second year where we have held Fall Conferences six weeks into the school year compared to the traditional nine weeks. This gives our parents and teachers a chance to connect about a child's progress at a point in the school year before poor habits become habits and before it's "too late" to improve 1st quarter scores.

As we work our way into the month of October, I think most would say we are very settled into the school year. One goal that I have this year is to improve my communication as your principal. One of the ways to do this will be the "Principal's Post" which will share with you information over the course of a month that helps makes Lourdes Catholic School a great place.

I have enjoyed visiting the classrooms. Just this week I joined Mrs. Mesick's 3rd graders in making a rosary I also observed a discussion about Liturgy and Mass preparation with the 6th graders during religion class.

There's lots of talk about enrollment....so where are we? Compared to where we ended last school year, K-8 is down by three students. We are happy to report that our Kindergarten class is our largest class with 40 students. We also still have room in our PreKindergarten—which is the 'free preschool'. Our numbers total 253 (K-8 students) and 106 (preschool students).

I would also like to share with you some information about the Faith Formation Board. This is what we call our school board. The Faith Formation Board (FFB) meets monthly and the meetings are open to the community. The volunteers on the FFB are parents of Lourdes Catholic School students. They come with varied backgrounds and professions. The overall purpose of the FFB is to provide unity, direction, and stability for our educational programs. If you are interested in being a part of the FFB, please contact me. We are still looking for an alternate member. Contact the school office if you are interested or would like more information.

During the September Faith Formation Board meeting, the board set goals for the school year. Suggestions and input were taken from Board Members. FFB decided on four goals for the school year:

1. Set School Marketing Goals and Benchmarks for completion date.
2. Update the Strategic Plan
3. More in-depth involvement in establishing school budget by Finance Committee and communicating to FFB in a more timely manner
4. More regular communication of Board actions to the school community

For more information about the FFB, please see the website under "Organizations".

Have you read or heard about the 1:1 Initiative? Are you wondering where Lourdes Catholic School is headed in terms of technology? We have written a couple of grants to local organizations with the plan to continue to increase the accessibility our students have to computers and technology resources. It is important to have a clear direction for moving forward with our plans for technology.

I have had conversations with several parents and fellow administrators regarding the direction Lourdes will head with technology. We are assessing the needs of our students and the curriculum while also looking at what we are capable of offering with current or improved infrastructure. Currently the AEA provides our Internet and assists us with our planning for Internet usage amount and speed. Part of adding to the technology resources at our school also means evaluating if we need to make changes to the lines that provide the Internet and the speed at which information can be passed through these lines.

We also need to look at the whiteboards in our classrooms and library. These whiteboards were purchased about six years ago and many need to be replaced. Believe it or not, there is a 'life expectancy' to a whiteboard and once a certain period goes by, they no longer erase well and therefore, they are limited with use. We are to that point with a few of our whiteboards and nearing that point with others. When we talk about putting a projector into each classroom, the whiteboard is what will show the image from the computer and projector. For this reason, we need to assess the whiteboards as they serve an important role in improving technology resources in the classroom and the library. There is no doubt that our students need to engage in and experience technology in our ever-changing world. I am excited to develop a plan that will enrich the students' school experience and fit the needs of our school community. Stay tuned!

Please mark your calendar for the 4th Annual Bean Bag Tournament on November 19th! The focus this year will be on assisting the Lourdes Catholic Community with Faith and Academics. It's my hope that a successful fall with grants and our fundraiser will allow the addition of a classroom set of iPads to our school resources. I also hope to increase our SRA Reading program, add a SRA Mathematics lab program, and I am researching "Junior Great Books" as a program to offer students to bridge the gap between SRA and "Battle Books". Also, with the changes that the New Roman Missal will bring to Mass, we have purchased curriculum and supplemental materials to assist our students in learning the new prayers and changes to the Liturgy.

We will be praying the rosary each Monday during the month of October. If you are able to join us, please do. Dates and times are listed on the online school calendar. Parents In Prayer have started meeting on Monday mornings and have begun their work towards praying for all of the students in our building. If you have time on Monday mornings (8:30 a.m.), I encourage you to stop in the Church to pray. You don't have to stay long, and it is a powerful way to start the new week. This coming Monday, the Parents In Prayer group will also participate in the all-school rosary starting at 8:45 a.m.

Congratulations to the following students who were nominated this month for showing the fruit of love (caring for others unselfishly): Isabella Hernandez, Brennen Walzer, Charlie Leinart, Maria Laughlin, Lily VanSeveren, Brenden Heil, Sydney Strief, Katie Ripley, Carmen Urquiza, Clayton Adrian, James Cravero, John Molyneaux, Parker Foley, Marian Camacho, Olivia Wardlow, Josh VanSeveren, Hannah Lerch, Tony Broggini, Joey Courtney, Jacob Ewen, Rian Lamarque, Olivia Lansing, Elias Verduzco, Matthew Packard, Benny Flannigan, Max Lunardi, Sean Finnegan, Brock Grenier, Parker Davis, Joseph Rapp, Matt Halligan, Cole Finnegan, and Mike Leabo. The month of October is "Joy" – a happy delightful state that results from knowing and serving God.

I am looking for help with the School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC). This is a group that works with the Faith Formation Board to "study any issue deemed appropriate by the Faith Formation Board". Last year the SIAC assisted with the evaluating of several discipline policies. The commitment is minimal as we will probably meet only 2-3 times during the course of this school year. Contact me if you would like more information. Thank you for your consideration.

Enjoy the day off tomorrow!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Katie Selden
Principal