



St. Dorothy

ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Spiritual, Academic, Moral Preparation for the 21st Century

Principal's Newsletter

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September 1, 2016

Dear Families,



This Sunday, September 4, Mother Teresa will be canonized a saint by Pope Francis. Whenever we saw pictures of Mother Teresa, she always had a smile on her face, especially if she was holding a child.

As we learned after her death, Mother Teresa suffered from *Dark Night of the Soul* in which she felt no consolation from God and felt abandoned by Him. Many of us were surprised to learn this about her but we did not know the spiritual significance of her experience. In order to keep her humble because of the world-wide success of her ministry, God allowed her to experience the *Dark Night*. If you want to learn more about this, google Mother Teresa Dark Night of the Soul.

If you are feeling abandoned by God consider praying to Mother Teresa to help you through your period of spiritual dryness. It's important to

remain faithful to your prayer because God might be calling you to a deeper relationship with Him. In Mother Teresa's words, "We are called to be faithful, not successful."



The faculty and I are looking forward to welcoming all families – both new and returning, and we are all looking forward to a joyful and productive school year.

School for students in grades 1-8 will begin on Tuesday, September 6 at 7:50 and will dismiss at 2:45. Tuesday through Friday will be full days. The first full day of school for our Kindergarten students will be on Wednesday, September 7. An orientation day will be held for them on Tuesday, September 6.

Since the hot lunch program will not start until Monday, October 3, the children will need to bring a lunch and beverage to school. Our 8th grade will be offering lunch on certain days of the week until the lunch program begins. Please see the attached information. Also, please have a snack for your child for recess.

When packing lunch for your child/children, please include 2 napkins – one that can be used as a placemat.

Our opening liturgy will be held on Friday, September 9 at 9:00 a.m. Please join us as we come together to celebrate a new school year. Our new Student Council members will be installed at the liturgy. Those members are: Trey Albanese, Billy DiRita, Alexis Eagan, Kevin Farren, Julia Flatley, Marikate Kilker, Natalie Liberatore, Casey McCullough, and Daniel Teti.

Faculty Changes

The following teachers will not be returning to St. Dorothy School: Mrs. Marilyn Long and Mrs. Emily Monastra have left to pursue other avenues, and Mrs. Shari Lazarus will be caring for an elderly family member.

Miss Megan McNamee and Miss Mollie Durkin will be teaching 3rd grade. They are new graduates and both come highly recommended. Mrs. Patricia Pardini will be teaching 7th grade ELA and religion. She spent the past year and one half as a long term substitute teacher at Cardinal O'Hara High School and Penn Wood High School, respectively. Mrs. Andrea Taggart will be teaching 6th grade ELA and religion. She is an experienced teacher who taught for several years in Archdiocesan schools. She left teaching to remain at home with her daughter.

Mrs. Erzsebet Monsanto will be teaching Advanced Math to students in grades 5-8. She comes to us with 21 years of experience teaching regular as well as advanced math. She currently tutors students as they prepare for high school and college admission.

All of the above teachers are certified.

I am in the process of looking for a Technology teacher, and as soon as one is hired, I will inform you.

All teachers new to the profession are required to attend a full-day Archdiocesan induction program. When new teachers come to St. Dorothy School, they are assigned a mentor who, along with me, works with them throughout the school year. Mrs. Jaeger will mentor Miss Durkin and Mrs. Bilski will mentor Miss McNamee.

Experienced teachers who are new to our school are also assigned mentors. They are matched according to subjects taught.

Scholarship Winners

When I published the names of 8th grade scholarship winners in my newsletter last year, I omitted 3 students. Those students are: Katie Shallow, Cardinal O'Hara High School, Michael Standen, McGuire Scholarship to Msgr. Bonner/Arch. Prendergast High School, and Emma Toner, St. Thomas Moore Scholarship. I apologize for the oversight and congratulate these students on their fine work. All in all, 17 students from last year's graduating class were awarded scholarships to private and Archdiocesan high schools. We are proud of those students and their achievement.

Drop-Off & Pick-Up Procedures

In the morning, please drop your child/children off using the lane closest to the school. It is important that you drive all the way down the lane to the teacher who will stop traffic to unload. Students who exit the vehicle via the driver's side, may go directly into the gym. For safety reasons and expediency, it would be helpful if the majority of students exited the vehicle from the driver's side.

Those students who must exit via the passenger side must walk directly to the teacher who will safely cross the students. No student may cross himself/herself.

Drivers using the drop off lane may not exit the vehicle to unload their child/children, as this causes excessive delays.

For pick-up at the end of the school day, please park in the designated areas. Students in grades 1-4 must wait for an adult to walk them to the vehicle.

Survey

Thank you to the families who completed the school survey. I will share the results at a meeting on September 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the gym. At that meeting, last year's Terra Nova results will also be shared. I have invited Sr. Edward William, IHM from the Office of Catholic Education to explain the scores to you.



Calling All Veterans

On Friday, November 11, St. Dorothy School will hold a special celebration for our veterans. If you have a family member or friend who has served, please ask them to keep the date open. More information will follow.

My Students Progress (MSP)

For those families new to school, MSP is an online system whereby parents of students in grades 1-8 can access their child/children's grades. In order to enter the system, parents need a password. On Friday of this week, I will e-mail the password to all new families.

If any returning family needs a password, please e-mail me at principal@stdots.org and I will resend yours.



. . . . to the following students who came to school today and worked very hard to deliver newly- arrived textbooks to various classrooms: Julie Funchion, Mya McGann, Marikate Kilker, Ryan Matthews, Trey Albanese, Gianna Esposito, Nicole Bello, and Ally Albanese. We appreciate your commitment to service.

We shall never know all the good
that a simple smile can do.

-
Mother Teresa