



St. Angela Merici Parish School Family Monthly Newsletter

June 5, 2009
The Feast of Saint Boniface

20830 Lorain Road, Fairview Park, Ohio 44126 - Phone: 440-333-2126 - www.samparish.org/school_index.html

Dear St. Angela Families,

As the school year comes to a close, I would like to extend my gratitude to all in our school community who make St. Angela's such a wonderful Catholic school.

- ✓ To our students -- thank you for your enthusiasm and your diligence that you show each and every day at St. Angela School.
- ✓ To our parents -- thank you for sharing your delightful children with us; we are so honored and humbled to be able to guide and teach your children.
- ✓ To our faculty and staff -- thank you for your dedication to and sacrifices for Catholic education.
- ✓ To our pastor, Fr. Lanning -- thank you for your continual commitment and dedication to our parish's Catholic elementary school and the mission of Catholic education.
- ✓ To our parish and pastoral staff -- thank you for your support of our school.

It is through the cooperative efforts of all in our school community that creates a Catholic school community rooted in faith and academic excellence. Thank you to all for all you do!

May God bless you and your family for a safe and rest-filled summer!

In Christ,

Mrs. Urban

*Congratulations to the
Class of 2009*

*Katherine Adler
Rachel Anderson
Brian Arnold
Kevin Arnold
Grace Arroyo
Hayley Austria
Edward Beirne
Douglas Buchs
Robert Burkhart
Patrick Carney
Allison Corrigan
Melissa Dautas
Bianca DiVita
Elena Donofrio
Timothy Dziak
Taylor Ewashinka
Matthew Fagan
Patrick Fayen
Leah Finley
Erin Gallagher
Michael Gibbons
Brandan Given
Mary Kate Healey
Gregory Jakubisin
Katherine Jeziorowski
Zachary Jones
Connor Kiesner
Kaitlin Lally
Teresa Larchian
Jackson Lempke
Matthew Mahmet
Rebecca Mainger
Megan McBride
Meghan McManamon
John Miles
Mitchell Moran
Sava Ortiz
Brendan Palker
Rachel Passick
Elizabeth Pipak
Benjamin Raisanen
Christopher Raisanen
Alyson Roth
Jacob Roth
Caitlin Somerville
John Tanis
Emily Velten
Joseph Velten
Shannon Walton
Caroline Weaver*

Parent Teacher Connection Officers 2009 - 2010

Congratulations to the following parents who were elected as the officer of the PTC for the upcoming school year.

**Eric Grelson, President
Lisa O'Rourke, Vice President
Jen Kelsch, Treasurer
Ellen Matisko, Secretary**

Other PTC Charipersons include: Karey Infante, Sunshine; Tricia Schultz, Homeroom Parents; Mary Sponseller and Michelle Moll, Family Mail; Sarah Lorek, Candy Cane Shoppe; Cara Wilson, Market Day; Mary Molnar, Ice Skating Event; Patty Smith, Chuck E. Cheese; Marie Rodstrom, Spiritwear; Maureen Ashdown, Box Tops; Dawn Kelly, Campbells; Dina Picha, Label Incentives; Laura Urbanek, Giant Eagle; Heidi DiGennaro, Tyson/Paper Recycling

Thank you to all parents who give of their time and talents for our PTC!

Curriculum Update

New Reading and Language Arts Curriculum Implementation planned for 2009-10

St. Angela Merici School will be implementing the diocese's new Language Arts and Reading graded course of study with new textbook adoptions next school year. Although the diocese's curriculum was strong and effective, the Diocese of Cleveland revised the Language Arts and Reading curriculum as part of the revision cycle as required by the Ohio Department of Education to include new state standards while integrating current best practices.

Reading and Language Arts teachers collectively spent hundreds of hours in evaluating, discussing and building consensus on the textbook adoptions in order to determine what series would best meet the needs of our students. Funding for the new series was provided by the State of Ohio Auxiliary Services.

Grades K – 5: Macmillan McGraw Hill's 2009 Treasures Reading Series

The 2009 Treasures Reading and Language Arts series provides our teachers and students with the best practices outlined in the National Reading Panel's recommendations, which is the current "gold standard" in reading instruction. Other key highlights on the series include:

- Assessments (unit tests and weekly quizzes) focus on the vocabulary and skills learned rather than memorization and recall of story facts. Also, there will be one assessment rather than individual assessments for each language arts "subject" (i.e. fewer tests for students).
- Rather than learning the language arts (reading, phonics, spelling, grammar and writing) as separate subjects, the students will explore and learn reading and language arts skills in an integrated manner (i.e. *the phonics skills learned in phonics will be used in reading, spelling and English*).
- Resources to meet the needs of all learners, including special education and gifted, are available with this series.
- In addition to the textbook, leveled reader small books and large trade books (i.e. novels) are a part of this series.
- Development of a full-range of genres is included along with reading skill development for the content subjects of science and social studies.
- An online full textbook will be available for students and families.

Grades 6 – 8: Prentice Hall's Writing and Grammar Series

The Prentice Hall Writing and Grammar series for grades 6 – 8 will be used in Language Arts (English) next year. This series provides current best practice resources to develop students' skills in both writing and grammar through integration of these key skills in English. Highlights of this series include:

- Rubrics for writing assignments, in addition to examples of student writing samples, are included in this series.
- Grammar and writing conventions are explored throughout the text with ample practice and examples, in addition to correlations to the writing segment.
- An online full textbook will be available for students and families.

Online textbooks and resources options increase for 2009 – 10

Concerned about the weight of students' bookbags and what to do when a textbook is forgotten for a homework assignment? St. Angela Merici has been acquiring online textbooks and resources with our new textbook adoptions to help ease these concerns over time.

Online Interactive Textbooks

- Treasures Reading (K – 5) **NEW!**
- Prentice Hall Mathematics (6 – 8) **NEW!**
- Prentice Hall Writing and Grammar (6 – 8) **NEW!**
- Social Studies Grade 5
- Social Studies Grades 6 – 8 **NEW!**

Student Express CD Rom

- Civics (grade 8)
- Music (K – 8)

Online Audio

- Vocabulary Workshop (6 – 8)

Online Resources

- Mathematics (K – 5)
- Treasures Reading Activities and Leveled Reader Database (K – 5) **NEW!**
- Social Studies companion web site (6 – 8)

Online Technology Sites

- Brain POP
- United Streaming
- Enchanted Learning
- PBS Kids
- Maps 101

Universal Algebra I Progress Update

To meet the needs of our students and meeting the recommendations of the National Mathematics Advisory Panel (2008) for universal Algebra I for all students by the end of 8th grade, our students in grades K through 7 will be on target to meet this goal. For the 2009 -10, our students in grades 6 – 8 will study the following in mathematics: Pre Algebra in grade 6, Algebra I-A (the 1st half of Algebra I) in grade 7, and our 8th graders will be split into two groups with one group completing Algebra I this year and one group beginning Algebra I this year. Our students in grades K – 5 are already aligned for universal Algebra I by the end of 8th grade.

In order to meet the diverse learning needs of all students while providing challenging learning opportunities, several strategies will be in place for grades 6 and 7 in math. First, students will be cluster grouped rather than ability tracked. This type of grouping of students allows for clustering of students of like abilities and motivation while meeting high expectations for all students rather than having the "high group" and the "low group". In addition, the needs of the "highs" will be met with our gifted teacher coming into the classroom to challenge the gifted and talented students and the special education teacher will work with the students in the classroom who have math goals, while the mathematics teacher works in small groups with the students who may need more support.

Mrs. Amy Lally, who has a Masters in Mathematics Education from Kent State University, will be our middle school math teacher.

Happenings and News

Last Day of School On our last day of school, students grades 1 – 7 will be dismissed at 1 pm. In addition, students in grade 8 will be dismissed after the 9:45 am All School Mass if 8th grade parents have sent in the parent permission form by Monday.

School Summer Projects Summer maintenance projects for the school building include:

- **Windows on the south side of the school building** -- The windows on the south side of the school building will be replaced this summer. The Parish Raffle proceeds were earmarked for this project and provided the funding for these new windows. *A Bruin thank you to all of our parents and our parishioners who sold raffle tickets this year!*
- **Bathroom in Health Clinic and sink in Art Room** – New health regulations require a separate bathroom in a school clinic and a sink in the art room. This summer a bathroom will be installed in our Health Clinic and a sink will be installed in room 201, which will become the new Art Room on the first floor and room 214 will become a Kindergarten room.

Gifted and Talented Program St. Angela Merici School provides Gifted and Talented Programs for our students with exceptional academic gifts and high achieving academic talents. Gifted and talented children learn differently because they have the ability to absorb abstract concepts, organize them more effectively and apply them more appropriately. These differences will be the defining foundation for Project Challenge, Academic Challenge, along with inclusion opportunities for the classroom. St. Angela Merici School offers two gifted and talented programs: Project Challenge and Academic Challenge which are aligned with the State of Ohio's revision in operating standards for gifted education.

- ✓ **Project Challenge** is St. Angela's gifted program for students who have demonstrated superior cognitive ability (full scale IQ of 128 or higher on the most recent CogAt) or exceptional academic talent (99th percentile in two or more content areas on most recent ITBS). Once a student has qualified for gifted services based on the full-scale IQ criteria, the students need not re-qualify annually. Students in our gifted program will have an annual Gifted Written Education Plan (WEP) outlining the gifted services provided for the student.
 - ✓ **Academic Challenge** is St. Angela's talented program for students who have demonstrated high academic achievement with ITBS scores at the 95th percentile or higher in two or more core content academic areas on the most recent ITBS. Students must re-qualify for the program on an annual basis.
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NEW! Web Based Accelerated Reader for 2009 – 10 Beginning next school year, St. Angela Merici will be using the web-based version of Accelerated Reader. Benefits of the web-based version of Accelerated Reader (AR) include:

- ✓ *Access to all AR tests available rather than a limited number of individually purchased tests.*
- ✓ *Online listing of all available books can be viewed at home or at the library through Internet access.*
- ✓ *Online parental access to your child's AR account in order to monitor your child's progress (what tests were taken and test scores).*
- ✓ *Students will be able to take AR tests in their classroom in addition to the technology lab and library.*

A special thanks to our PTC for funding the initial set-up and first year fees for this program.

NEW! New Family Mentoring Program SAMS New Family Mentoring Program is in the planning stages to begin this fall with our new families. Mrs. Proctor is coordinating the planning team which includes Mr. and Mrs. DeVenney, Mrs. Schultz, Mrs. Prcela, Mrs. Jira, Mrs. Nieberding and Mrs. Picha. Once the final plans are completed, the parents who have volunteered to act as mentors will receive information on "how to mentor a new family" early this summer.

Wellness Update: Recess Play Zones Our PTC approved at their last meeting funding for recess equipment as part of the recess initiative, Play Zones, organized by Mrs. Jean Strippoli, our Physical Education/Wellness Teacher. The goal of Play Zones is to increase safe physical activity opportunities for our students with choices of activities in four zones: Game Zone, Discovery Zone, Walking Zone and Free Play Zone.

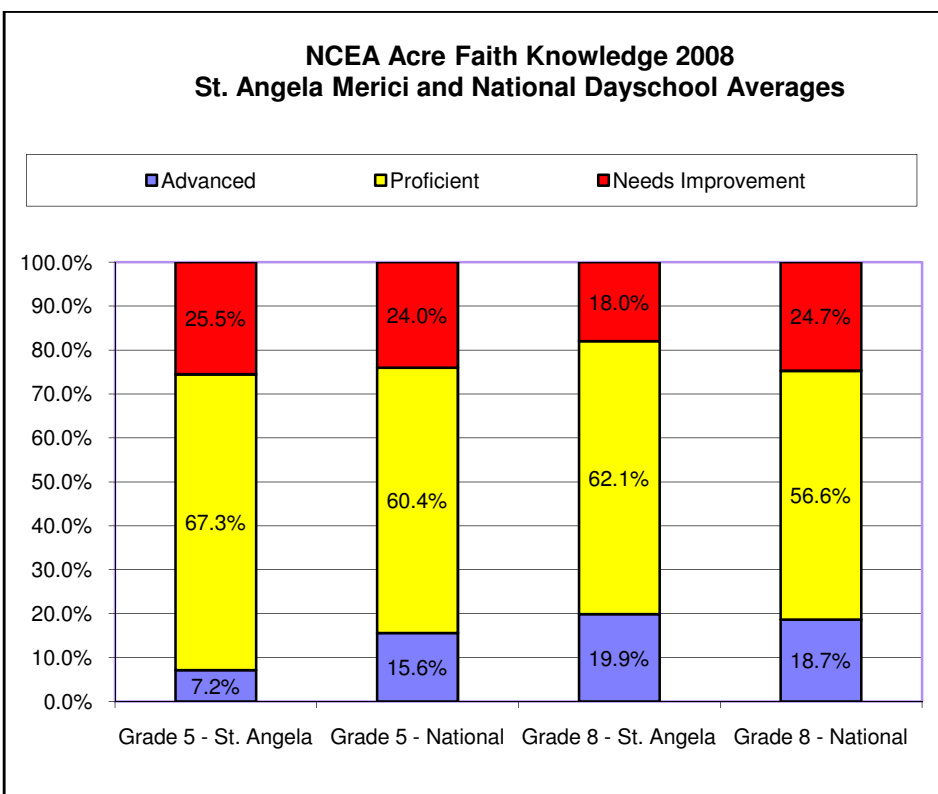
Volunteering and Virtus Compliance According to parish and diocesan policy, all volunteers in our school must be Virtus compliant, which includes: (1) Virtus training, (2) BCII Criminal Check, (3) Signed acceptance of safe environment policies. This applies to any and all school volunteers including homeroom parents, party helpers, field trip chaperones, classroom helpers, and cafeteria, library and technology helpers. Your cooperation with this policy is most appreciated.

Community of Faith

SAMS Students and staff demonstrate that “Christ Lives in Me”

In addition to daily religion instruction, St. Angela Merici’s religion program includes a variety of opportunities for service, prayer, sacraments, retreats, and other faith centered programs. Our programs allow students to learn and live our faith on a daily basis.

This year, St. Angela’s participated in the National Catholic Educators Association’s (NCEA) Acre testing in grades 5 and 8 for the first time. This year’s baseline assessment gives our school community information on our student’s faith knowledge, along with perceptions on various topics. Students’ test results were categorized into one of three categories: advanced, proficient and needs improvement.



Christ Lives in Me Programs

Service to Others

- West Side Catholic Center Halloween Candy Project
- Fairview Hunger Center Food Drive
- Christmas Giving Tree Project
- Easter Baskets for the Westside Catholic Center
- Lenten Shut In Project
- Operation Rice Bowl

Sacraments and Prayer

- Monthly All School Mass and Grade Level Masses
- Reconciliation
- Sacrament Preparation, grade 2 (First Reconciliation and Eucharist) and grade 8 (confirmation)
- Stations of the Cross

Retreats

- Fall Leadership Retreat, Grade 8
- Spirit Day, Grade 8
- Jesus Day, Grade 2
- Holy Thursday All School Retreat

Other Programs

- Honor and Harmony, Grade 6
- Choose Life, Grades 6 – 8
- Operation Keepsake, grades 6 – 8
- Internet Safety, K – 8 and parents education meeting
- Prayer Partners
- Peer Mediation

NCEA Acre (Grades 5 and 8) Affective Statements

The NCEA Acre provides information on both our students’ faith knowledge and information about personal beliefs and concerns. These affective statements provide us information on the top relative concerns and the relative highest and lowest statements with preferred responses. These are rankings of highs and lows rather than absolutes.

<u>Top Six Statements with Highest Percent of Students with Preferred Statements</u>	<u>Bottom Six Statements with Lowest Percent of Students with Preferred Statements</u>	<u>Top Five Student Concerns from the Grade 5 & 8 NCEA Acre Assessment</u>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God loves me even when I sin. 2. It is wrong to try drugs. 3. People in my parish care about helping others. 4. Jesus as my friend and savior. 5. Jesus cured the blind and raised the dead. 6. Being Catholic is important to me. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I attend Saturday evening/Sunday Mass. 2. Praying the rosary is important to me. 3. My family prays together at home. 4. My friends and I talk about God. 5. It is all right for a couple to live together before marriage. 6. I have thought about becoming a sister, brother or priest. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teasing, bullying, name calling 2. Cheating, lack of honesty 3. Cursing, blasphemy, swearing 4. Eating disorders (grade 8 only) 5. Fighting

2009-10 Educator Assignments

Early Childhood (K – 3) Team

Meeting the needs of the whole child in a safe environment while providing learning opportunities that are both child-centered and challenging is the objective of our early childhood team. Also, our team strives to provide support and guidance to encourage the emerging independent learner.

	<u>Homeroom</u>	<u>Teaching Specialty</u>
Mrs. Becky Arsena	Kindergarten	Science
Miss Caroline Gallagher	Kindergarten	Social Studies
Mrs. Sarah Bobko	Grade 1	Science
Miss Kara Johnston <i>(who will be Mrs. Blackburn in June)</i>	Grade 1	Social Studies
Mrs. Patti Horner	Grade 2	Science
Mrs. Sandy Corrigan	Grade 2	Social Studies
Miss Lindsey Pfahl	Grade 3	Social Studies
Mrs. Lisa Whelan	Grade 3	Science

Intermediate (Grades 4 and 5) Team

Providing continuity of care for our students ages nine through eleven over a two-year period is the goal of our new realignment of grades 4 and 5. During these two grades, the curriculum becomes more challenging for our students so our goal was to create a nurturing learning environment for the students to grow and learn with the same teachers over a two-year period.

	<u>Homeroom</u>	<u>Teaching Specialty</u>
Mrs. Eileen Augustin	Grade 4	Grade 4 Reading Grades 4 & 5 Science and Health
Mrs. Erin Leshner	Grade 4	Grade 4 Religion Grades 4 & 5 Mathematics
Mrs. Lennie Foster	Grade 5	Grade 5 Religion and Reading Grades 4 & 5 Language Arts (English)
Miss Eileen Matthews	Grade 5	Grade 5 Religion and Reading Grades 4 & 5 Social Studies

Middle School (Grades 6 – 8) Team

The challenges of our middle school curriculum, coupled with the challenges of meeting the dynamic needs of the emerging adolescent, were two key factors in the redesign of our middle school team. Our students in grade 6 will be given the opportunity to transition into grades 7 and 8 over the course of the year so ease the adjustment to the rigors of our college preparatory junior high program. In addition, Mrs. Lally's and Mrs. Volpi's rooms will be relocated so that our students in grades 6 – 8 have their "own area" in the school building.

	<u>Homeroom</u>	<u>Teaching Specialty</u>
Mrs. Patty Ruccella	Grade 6	Grade 6 Language Arts and Reading Grade 6 Science
Mrs. Amy Lally	Grade 6	Grades 6 – 8 Mathematics
Mrs. Elaine Volpi	None	Grade 6 Theology General Music K – 8
Mrs. Kathleen Bouley	Grade 7	Grade 7 Language Arts and Reading Grade 7 Theology
Mrs. Bonnie Molchan	Grade 7	Grades 7 & 8 Science Grades 6 – 8 Health
Mr. Ken Knox	Grade 8	Grade 8 Language Arts and Reading Grade 8 Theology
Miss Colleen Randazzo	Grade 8	Grades 6 – 8 Social Studies

Special Subjects Team

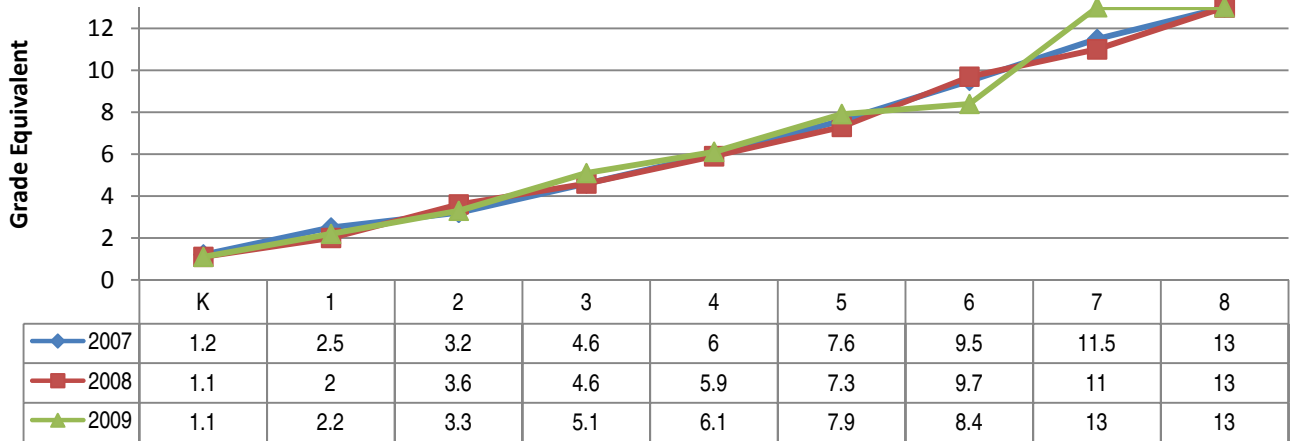
Complementing our core curriculum with a variety of course offerings to provide a well-rounded education meeting the needs of the whole child is the goal of our special subjects team.

	<u>Specialty</u>
Mrs. Jean Strippoli	Wellness Teacher <i>(Physical Education and Recess)</i>
Mrs. Elaine Volpi	General Music and Grade 6 Theology
Mrs. Judy Zell	Librarian
Mrs. Kate Ptak	Technology
Mrs. Erica Trapp	Visual Art
TBD*	Mandarin Chinese (K – 3)
TBD*	Spanish (4 – 8)

**PSI Associates will be our third party provider for our World Languages and is currently in the search process for these educators.*

***Congratulations to Miss Lindsey Pfahl and Mrs. Becky Arsena
for completing their Masters of Education this year!***

ITBS Grade Equivalents Trends (Core/Composite)
2007 - 2009



Grade equivalents are used for measuring growth from one year to the next. This decimal number describes performance in terms of years and months; for example, a grade equivalent of 2.1 would be read as "second grade and one month". Typical growth from one school year to the next is about 1.0. The average growth our St. Angela School students experienced in 2009 was:

- Kindergarten to Grade 1: 1 year, 1 month*
- Grade 1 to Grade 2: 1 year, 3 months*
- Grade 2 to Grade 3: 1 year, 5 months*
- Grade 3 to Grade 4: 1 year, 5 months*
- Grade 4 to Grade 5: 2 years*
- Grade 5 to Grade 6: 1 year, 1 month*
- Grade 6 to Grade 7: 3 years, 3 months*
- Grade 7 to Grade 8: 2 years*

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