



St. Angela Merici Parish School Welcome Newsletter

August 21, 2011

The Feast of Saint Pius X

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

Contents with this Family Mail

One per student:

1. **Emergency Medical Form**
2. **Child Custody Form**
3. **Emergency Hotline**
4. **Acceptable Use Policy**
5. **Cafeteria Order form**

One per family:

1. **Student-Parent Handbook 2011-12**
2. **Handbook Agreement**
3. **ProgressBook Login Credentials and Instructions**
4. **Free or Reduced Lunch Application**
5. **Media Consent form**
6. *Arrival and Dismissal Map*
7. *Cafeteria Procedures*
8. *Bookstore List*
9. *Children's Choir*
10. *Extended Care*
11. *Market Day*
12. *Family Mail Sign-Up*
13. *Sunshine Committee*
14. *Family Mass Schedule*
15. *Café Volunteer Request*

Please return all forms to the school office in your Family Mail packet by no later than September 2nd.

Dear Families,

"How does St. Angela Merici School compare with the local public schools?" is a common question potential new families ask of me to which my answer is "There is no comparison." Of course, many of the public schools in the area provide an excellent educational experience for their students and St. Angela's academic experiences for our students meet or exceed the local schools; how we at St. Angela's are unique is rooted in our Catholic mission and culture. No public school, regardless of how excellent their academics are, provides a rich Catholic experience for their students as we do at St. Angela.

"The glory of God is the human person fully alive" (St. Irenaeus of Lyons) encapsulates our holistic view in fostering the development of the student. God is incarnate or present in all of our programs at St. Angela – there are no secular subjects since our faith formation is gently woven throughout the curriculum and throughout the school day.

A focus on the Fruits of the Holy Spirit – *charity (love), joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, modesty, and chastity* – is a continuation of our initiative to root our code of conduct in our Catholic values. Rather than just providing a list of don'ts, our efforts will continue to focus on Catholic virtue development on the presence of good virtues or habits. Students will have opportunities this year to grow in awareness of these habits with their multi-age prayer partners.

Our initiative to celebrate the uniqueness of each student through differentiated instruction provided the foundation for continuation of this program into this year. During second semester, our students will be provided the opportunity to demonstrate their learning through self-selected project-based learning.

Do This in Memory of Me is this year's catechetical theme. Our school, in concert with our parish, will provide the faith formation opportunities for parents, students and faculty to explore the changes to the Liturgy, which will begin during Advent this year. In addition, our teachers, in partnership with the teachers at Lakewood Catholic Academy, will participate in four workshops to deepen their knowledge on the four strands of the religion curriculum.

The partnership of our parish, our pastor, our parish staff, our parents, our school staff and our students provides a "fully alive" Catholic school community. An attitude of gratitude goes out to all who make sacrifices and commitment to our school!

May God bless our school community for a wonderful school year!

In Christ,

Mrs. Urban

Mrs. Denise Modic Urban, M.A.Ed.

School News and Updates

Congratulations to our Master Teachers: Mrs. Close and Mrs. Horner

A shout out goes out to **Mrs. Lindsey Close (Grade 3)** and **Mrs. Patti Horner (Grade 2)** who have received the **Master Teacher designation from the Ohio Department of Education!** Mrs. Close and Mrs. Horner spent many hours compiling and narrating a professional portfolio demonstrating “excellence inside and outside of the classroom through consistent leadership and focused collaboration to maximize student learning . . . A master teacher strives for distinguished teaching and continued professional growth as specified by The Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession.” (Source: Ohio Department of Education)

To be designated as a Master Teacher in Ohio, eligible educators must clearly demonstrate exemplary scores in four out of the five following criteria categories: consistent leadership, focused collaboration, distinguished teaching with focus on students and environment, distinguished teaching with focus on content, instruction and assessment, and continued professional growth.

Welcome to our new staff members

Welcome to our newest members of our teaching team at **St. Angela Merici Parish School!**

- **Miss Elizabeth Cirillo (Grade 1)** joins our Early Childhood Team as our new first grade teacher. As product of K – 16 Catholic Education, Miss Cirillo earned her Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education from Xavier University and has an Ohio Department of Education teaching license in Early Childhood (P – 3) with a Reading endorsement.
- **Mrs. LeAnn Smith (Gifted and Readers Theater – PSI)** joins our Special Services team to work with our gifted students and to coordinate Readers Theater. Mrs. Smith earned her Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction in Gifted Education from Cleveland State University and her Bachelor of Education from the University of Toledo.
- **Ms. Megan Tabaj (Title I Reading – PSI)** joins our Intervention Assistance Team as the Title I Reading Specialist. Ms. Tabaj is currently working on her Masters of Education in Special Education at Notre Dame College of Ohio and has experience in working with at-risk students.

At this time, St. Angela Merici School is in the process of hiring a highly qualified Middle School Social Studies teacher (grade 8 homeroom) due to a teacher resignation on August 15th.

A special thanks goes out to Mrs. Lisa Whelan, Mrs. Patti Horner and Miss Caroline Gallagher who assisted with the faculty search process.

SAM Parish Raffle Proceeds Seen in School Improvements

A special thanks to all families who sold SAM Parish Raffle Tickets and supported the Carnivale since the proceeds from these fundraisers can be seen in the improvements made in the school building over this summer.

As you are aware, maintenance and repairs are a costly, but necessary, expense to the parish and school. Over this summer, special projects in the school included the following, in addition to the thorough cleaning and general maintenance of the building:

- Replaced the windows on the east side of the building with new carpeting and lighting,
- Resurfaced front parking lot
- Installed new floor in staff lunch room
- Updated Café office
- Updated one preschool classroom with new carpeting and lighting

A special thanks goes out to Fr. Lanning, Parish Finance Council and the parish for their support of the school update projects and to Mrs. Eva Ungureanu and her staff for their hard work this summer.

Introducing ProgressBook at SAMS



St. Angela Merici School is pleased to announce the launching of a new school-home communication tool, ProgressBook. In addition to cloud-based password-protected access to your student's grades, parents and students will be able to access forms, school/class calendars, class web pages and many more capabilities.

ProgressBook has many more capabilities than our previous system. With the increased capabilities comes increased number of components which increases the amount of time to launch all of the capabilities. As with all new systems and programs, there is a learning curve with the implementation – please be patient as we rollout all the components.

Each family should receive the login credentials for each SAMS student in this Family Mail packet. We are asking that each family login to ProgressBook during the first week of school. Instructions are included behind your letter for on how to:

- *Login,*
- *Link multiple students to one login,*
- *Change your profile or login username or password.*

If you have any questions with your ProgressBook account, please contact Mrs. D at mrsd@samparish.org in the school office. If you need a second parent login credential for your student, contact Mrs. D.

A big Bruin thank you goes out to the Technology Integration Team – Mrs. Jessica May, Mrs. Tammy Dobrzeneicki, Mrs. Kathleen Harding, Mrs. Amy Lally, Mrs. Erin Lesher, and Mrs. Patti Horner for attending training, compiling data for the transition, and verifying data for the ProgressBook launch over this summer break.

Shout Out for our Ohio Writing Proficiency Results!

In April, St. Angela students in grades 3, 5 and 7 participated in the Ohio Proficiency Writing Test. The purpose of this assessment is to assess our students' capabilities to write effectively and fluently at grade level state standards. We are very proud of our students and extremely pleased with the testing results as you can see by the scores below. The percentage of students who scored either proficient (which is at grade level) or advanced (which is above grade level) is as follows:

- **Grade 3 ~ 100 percent proficient or above *with 65 percent at advanced proficiency***
- **Grade 5 ~ 94 percent proficient or above *16 percent at advanced proficiency***
- **Grade 7 ~ 100 percent proficient or above *50 percent at advanced proficiency***



iPad K-2 Literacy Pilot Program

As part of our commitment to providing the resources for 21st century learning, St. Angela has purchased a cart of iPads (using state funding) as part of a pilot program to utilize iPads in K-2 classrooms for literacy development. During the late spring and summer, many of our K-2 and specials teachers participated in training in integrating iPads. The iPads should be delivered within the next month to our school.

Upcoming school events for the first two weeks of school include:

- Sunday
August 21st
- **Welcome Back Day (Cafeteria: 10 am – Noon)**
If a family cannot attend Welcome Back Day, arrangements for the first Family Mail and homeroom assignments may be made beginning Monday, August 22nd by contacting the school office at 440.333.2126 or school@samparish.org.
 - **Parish Picnic (Rini Center: 12:30 – 3:30 pm)**
Join other parish families after Welcome Back Day to enjoy food, friends (new and old) and family!
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- Tuesday
August 23rd
- **Open House, K – 8 with a parent (Noon – 2 pm)**
Students, along with a parent, may come into the school from noon to 2 pm to meet their new teacher and drop off supplies during Open House.
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- Wednesday
August 24th
- **First Day of School, grades 1 – 8**
Welcome to a new school year! School begins at 7:45 am with drop-off beginning at 7:30 am. Students are to be dressed in school uniforms or school summer uniforms beginning on the first day and should have all supplies.
 - **Kindergarten Orientation, 9 am – 11 am**
Both the kindergartener and one parent are to attend this two-hour session which begins at 9 am.
 - **All students to pack a lunch today** – Milk is available for \$0.50.
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- August 25th thru
August 31st
- **Plate lunches** (*see Café menu*) available for **\$2.75 daily**
(Exact change or small bills in a clearly marked envelope)
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- Thursday
August 25th
- **First Full - Day of Kindergarten**
Kindergarteners are to report to school with the other students in grades 1 – 8 using normal arrival procedures.
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- Friday
August 26th
- **No Family Mail Today**
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- Thursday
September 1st
- **Normal Café selections and menus begin today** (*See menu and ordering procedures in this Family Mail*)
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- Friday
September 2nd
- **Opening School Mass, All School (Church: 1 pm)**
Family and friends are most cordially invited to attend our first school mass of the year!
 - **All forms are due into the School Office today**
Lost a form and need a copy? Go to the "Forms" section on the ProgressBook home page and click on the school form you need and print.
 - **First Family Mail to go home today**
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- Monday
September 5th
- **No School – Labor Day**
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For a complete listing of school events, check the ProgressBook calendar regularly.