



St. Angela Merici Parish School

20830 Lorain Road, Fairview Park, Ohio 44126
Phone: 440-333-2126

March 27, 2009

The Feast of Saint St. Matthew of Beauvais

Dear St. Angela Parents and Families,

As you read the letter from our Pastor, Fr. Lanning, outlining the staffing changes for the 2009 – 10 school year, you may have had the thought “*How will this impact the quality of education at St. Angela Merici School?*”

Our innovations for the upcoming school year are rooted in the 80 plus years of academic excellence in Catholic education infused with 21st Century learning best practices. Each initiative was examined with the central focus on how we, as a school community, can creatively meet the needs of students while keeping wise stewardship in mind by employing parish, school and governmental resources efficiently and wisely.

- ✓ **World Languages** – Our foreign language offerings will shift to a world language emphasis: Mandarin Chinese for students in grades K - 3 and an expanded and revised Spanish program for grades 4 – 8. This decision was based on feedback from parent and student surveys coupled with research of best practices in world languages and emerging trends of other area schools (including area high schools). (*For more information on our new Mandarin Chinese program, check out http://www.wviz.org/index.php/education/newsdepth_topic/15532.)*
- ✓ **Wellness Program** – Mrs. Jean Strippolli has accepted the challenge as our Wellness Teacher and will continue to teach physical education while coordinating our school wellness initiatives, which includes transforming recess to a positive experience of physical activity. Requests for improvements to our students’ recess experience was heard clearly in both the student and parent surveys from the fall while fostering our Catholic belief of the respect of the dignity of human life through wellness.
- ✓ **Technology, Library, Visual Art and General Music** -- As part of our commitment to the education of the whole child – spiritual, emotional, cognitive and physical – our special subject offerings will continue at the same level of quality our students currently receive. In this area, we will begin collaborating with our cluster partner and other Catholic schools to ensure high quality special subject offerings which are fiscally responsible.
- ✓ **Middle School (grades 6 – 8)** – Continuing to prepare our students for a rigorous college preparatory high school curriculum while responding to the changing developmental needs of the young adolescent is an objective for our realignment of grades 6 – 8. In the near future, our middle school teaching team will engage in dialogue and collaboration to chart a course while best employing the individual strengths and talents of our teaching team in grades 6 - 8.
- ✓ **New Reading and Language Arts Series (K – 5)** -- After over a hundred hours of research and collaboration, our K – 5 teachers have selected a new reading and language arts series (Treasures by Macmillian/McGraw Hill) to be implemented next year. This series blends best practices in reading and language arts based on the recommendations of the National Reading Panel with the new Diocese of Cleveland’s Reading/Language Arts curriculum. Watch for specific details on this new series in a future newsletter.
- ✓ **New Writing and Grammar Series (grades 6 – 8)** -- As part of the implementation of the new Language Arts Curriculum, we will adopt a new English series (Prentice Hall’s Writing and Grammar series) for our students in grades 6 – 8. Also, an on-line version of the new textbook will be included in the adoption as a first step in responding to parent requests to minimize the weight of student backpacks while providing learning experiences with technology.

As we continue our journey together as a school community, it is my hope and prayer that you are as excited as I am about the 21st century enhancements to our students’ learning opportunities to our 80 plus year tradition of Catholic excellence in education.

In Christ,

Mrs. Urban

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

Principal

Our mission is to provide an atmosphere for students to grow in their Roman Catholic faith, to achieve their academic potential, and to be of service to others.

Good News: Ohio Music Educators Association Ratings

Congratulations to the following students who were successful at the Ohio Music Educators Association adjudication today last weekend:

- ✓ Brian Patton & Rebecca Mainger earned superior ratings,
- ✓ Emmy Ernst & Mitch Moran earned excellent ratings

A special thanks to Mrs. Tammy Kuntz for her commitment to our instrumental music program.

This Week's Family Mail: *(Reminder: Deadline for submission for Friday's Family Mail is Monday at Noon.)*

This week's Family Mail packet contains:

- *Letter from our Pastor, Fr. Lanning*
- *COSI Volunteer Flyer*
- *Malley's Reminder*
- *West Side Catholic Center (with revised dates)*

Upcoming school events for this week include:

Weekly Lenten Theme: Forgiveness and Apology

Sunday March 29 th	• Confirmation, 2 pm
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Monday March 30 th	• Great Lakes Theater Residency Program for all this week • Kindergarten Field Trip to Malley's <i>(as part of the Chocolate Economics grant)</i> • Math Lab, 2:45 to 3:15
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Tuesday March 31 st	• Grade 1 Field Trip to Malley's <i>(as part of the Chocolate Economics grant)</i> • Math Lab, 2:45 – 3:15 pm • Living Stations Rehearsal, 3 – 4 pm • Choose Life! Parent Information Meeting (grades 6 – 8), 7 pm in the Social Hall
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Wednesday April 1 st	• Credit Union • Grade 2 Field Trip to Malley's <i>(as part of the Chocolate Economics grant)</i>
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Thursday April 2 nd	• Malley's Candy Sale Pick Up, 2:45 – 6:00 pm • Grade 3 Field Trip to Malley's <i>(as part of the Chocolate Economics grant)</i> • Grade 8 Washington DC Parent Meeting, 7 pm, Social Hall • DARE (Grade 5) • Living Stations Rehearsal, 3 – 4 pm • St. Angela's Night at Tony G's
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Friday April 3 rd	• Reconciliation, Grades 4 & 5 • Living Stations of the Cross, 7 pm in the Church ~ <i>Our 6th graders will be presenting the Living Stations of the Cross</i>
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