



SAINT CECILIA CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

“Higher education starts here”

August 20, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome back to school! It was so great seeing all of the students back for full days this week and it sure is nice to get back to routine and schedules. The teachers were busy before the students arrived working in their classrooms, learning about social-emotional learning and what it looks like in the classroom, and working with [Prairie STEM](#) educators to implement the new STEAM program.

The staff also spent time with our new social-emotional learning coach, Mrs. Laura Rowley. Some of you met Mrs. Rowley at Meet the Teacher Night and she will also be at Curriculum Night tomorrow to give a brief introduction. What is social emotional learning? Social-emotional learning (also known as SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. Mrs. Rowley helped the staff come up with building-wide expectations so we can achieve our goals using common language.

Throughout the year we'll be working on the following skills: impulse control, stress management, self-discipline, self-motivation, goal setting, organizational skills, self-efficacy, emotional regulation, empathy, communication, relationship building, ethical responsibility, identifying emotions, and self-confidence.

The staff also established building-wide expectations designed around the theme for the 2019-2020 school year: Honor Code. For example:

H - Honesty

O - Open to Learning

N - Never Quit

O - Offer Service to God and Others

R - Respect Myself and Others

We will spend this year focusing on “What does it mean to show HONOR?” One of our goals is to use the same language at school as what parents use at home. Feel free to use the acronym above to have conversations with your child. For example, “How can we offer service to God this weekend at Mass” or “Are you showing honor by arguing with your

sister?" We look forward to listening to Mrs. Rowley at Curriculum Night tomorrow night. You are welcome to speak to her after the opening session in St. Bernadette Hall. Here is to a great year filled with honor!

Important Items to Know:

- Change in milk distribution during lunch. Students who have a lunch from home and would like to purchase a milk do NOT need to bring in \$.35 each day. Simply send in a check to the front office marked lunch/milk and the amount will be applied to the family lunch account. Students will order milk when the teachers order lunches. Payments currently can not be made online. You can view your account balances by logging into your Sycamore account.
- If you could take a few moments and complete a short feedback survey regarding Meet the Teacher Night, we would greatly appreciate it. Each year we try to make that night as fun and efficient as possible for families and your comments are helpful in making that happen. Please click [here](#) to access the survey and complete it by the end of the week. Thank you in advance!
- This morning we completed our first fire drill and the kids did so well. We practice "quick feet and quiet mouths" to have all 300+ students out of the building in under three minutes. Not only that, but the Child Care staff also evacuates their kids out at the same time. We are required to have at least ten fire drills, one lockdown drill, and one evacuation drill each year. If you have any questions or want more information on our drills, please contact Mrs. Pick.
- Looking for a volunteer activity? Join the Casserole Brigade to cook for the Siena Francis House! A group of folks from St. Cecilia's used to provide a very tasty chicken casserole dish to the Dorothy Day House once a month. When the Day House closed, the group simply stopped. Eight years ago we resurrected the "Brigade." The group now prepares the Chicken Casserole to take to the Francis House on the fourth Monday of every month from September through May. We would love for you to join us! All the information, including the recipe and the sign-up, is posted [here](#). If you are interested or have questions, please call Joyce at 402-558-5207.

Weekly News:

Curriculum Night will take place tomorrow night, Wednesday, August 21, starting at 6:30 PM in St. Bernadette Hall (basement of the school). For new parents/families, for school events like this, you are welcome to park on the street or in the parking lot. Please enter through the main school doors, walk past the school office, turn left down the hallway, and go down the stairs to St. Bernadette Hall.

There will be chairs set up for the first part of the night for presentations from myself, Home and School Association, and Activities Booster Club. This will only last around 25

minutes and you will then spend the night with your child(ren)'s teachers. Here is the setup for the night:

6:30 PM: - Opening Prayer Fr. Grewe

6:40 PM: - Greeting Mrs. Pick & group presentations

7:20 PM: - Session #1 (8th grade parents please stay in St. Bernadette Hall)

8:15 PM: - Conclusion of the evening.

I will announce over the intercom when the session has ended and there are five minutes for "passing period" so you can move to the next room of your choosing.

Curriculum Night is one of my favorite nights because it allows you to get some one-on-one time with your child(ren)'s teachers before the school year really takes off. There will be a lot of information coming at you and some handouts to take home. It is a busy time of year with school and outside of school too. Thank you for choosing St. Cecilia Cathedral Grade School for your child(ren). I am blessed to have them here and I look forward to another great year with all of you.

For those in need of child care this evening, the St. Cecilia Child Care Center will be open from 6:30-8:30pm. The cost is \$5 per child cash only.

Volunteering:

As a reminder any parent who would like to volunteer in the school or be a room parent must be safe environment trained. For more information about this program and to sign up for a class please visit: <https://archomaha.org/safe-environment>

Volunteering opportunities will be listed each week in THT, on Sycamore's news section, and our website under the how can I help section. Please check regularly to see what events might interest you.

Fundraising:

Hy-Vee Cash for Students: Sept. 1- Dec. 31st

- You can start collecting your Hy-vee receipts beginning on September 1st and continue until December 31st. You can shop at any of the twelve Omaha stores. The receipts collected MUST have the date on them or they will not be counted. Hy-Vee will donate \$1.00 for every \$200.00 dollars spent. We can receive up to \$2000.00 dollars simply by keeping track and turning in your Hy-Vee receipts.

Family Fare: Year round receipt collections

- Drop off next to box tops by the office side door

Box Tops: Year round

- Drop off next to box tops by the office side door

Coke Rewards: Year round

- Drop off next to box tops by the office side door

TAGG: NOW AVAILABLE!

- Download the app, shop at select area locations, upload your receipt and the school will get 5% back

Monthly Dine Outs:

- Home and school will send out details of location and times.

Dates to Know:

August 21 - Curriculum Night @ 6:30 - 8:15 PM (St. Bernadette Hall)

August 26-September 20 - Fall STAR Testing

Sept 2 - No School - Labor Day

Sept 6 - Noon Dismissal, No lunch served

Sept 15 - Mass of the Holy Spirit @ 5:30 PM (Cathedral)

Sept 15 - Family Movie Night @ 6:30 PM (Soccer field)

Hand Outs Coming Home:

Complimentary calendars featuring artwork from local students provided by 102.7 Spirit Catholic Radio. Each calendar has a special calendar number on the inside of the back cover. Listen weekday mornings between 7:30 -8AM for your calendar number to be called for the "First Friday" giveaways. Listen online at www.spiritcatholicradio.com or download the free app to your phone.

Fliers Included:

St. Cecilia Cathedral bulletin, Scouts, Hamilton tickets, free and reduced lunch forms, Arts for All, and Mercy Basketball.

Blessings,
Mrs. Pick