



SAINT CECILIA CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

"Higher education starts here"

October 22, 2019

Feast of St. John Paul II

Dear Parents and Guardians:

On **Thursday, October 24, from 2-8 PM**, we will be hosting Parent-Teacher Conferences. This is our favorite time of year because we get to talk about all of the amazing things your child has been doing this school year.

One of the many things we love about Catholic education is that we not only strive to teach academics, but we also nurture the whole child. Of course we come together to look over and discuss report cards and STAR testing results, but your child's teacher will also be sharing with you some suggestions for social and emotional learning (SEL) that could be done at home to help support the learning in the classroom. You may be hearing some language that sounds new to you, but is commonplace in our halls: self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, relationship skills, and social awareness. Feel free to ask your child's teacher how they are incorporating SEL into their everyday teaching.

I wanted to share some information from our social and emotional learning (SEL) framework guide that offers suggestions for productive dialogue with your child's teacher. Some of these are more geared towards tough conversations in isolated situations, but many of them can be applied overall.

- **Assume the best intentions on the teacher's part.**

Assume competence and caring. Assume that the teacher is trying to do what is good and fair. But of course, teachers are human and make mistakes like all of us. If you are upset or emotional about a certain situation, first do some journaling, walking, or other means of getting out some of your frustrations. Try not to go into the conversation highly charged and emotional if possible.

- **Ask yourself: What are your desired outcomes for the conversation?**

Think about it. If you raise this issue, are there a number of outcomes that might be acceptable to you? Involve your child in thinking through what solutions might be acceptable. If there is only one solution that is acceptable and you do not believe that the teacher will either a.) understand or b.) accept that solution, then it sounds like it is not worth having the conversation unless you are only planning to focus on the future. In other words, “What can he/she do in the future to avoid this problem from happening again?”

- **Initiating the conversation.**

Whether you call or email to set up a conversation, let the teacher know that you would like to discuss your child in general and specifically the problem at hand. Be sure to find the time to go in person. Email and phone conversations seem easier, but real solutions in which all parties feel better can best be reached in person.

- **The conversation itself.**

Begin with the positive strengths of the school year and the teacher’s influence on your child. What do you like about her, or what he is learning? Then, ask about the problem at hand. When you leave the conversation, be sure to thank the teacher for his/her time and care with your child. Go through the conversation with your child carefully to ensure that he/she follows through with those agreements.

- **Follow up on the conversation.**

Because you want to continue a good and growing relationship with your child’s teacher, follow up. After your child has followed through on making up a test, for example, check back in with your child’s teacher in a few weeks just to see if things have been moving along. If you focus on your partnership with the teacher as an important investment in your child’s future success, then there is a higher chance of a successful relationship.

(Parent-Teacher Conversations Tip Sheet from CASEL//PARENT & CAREGIVER DISCUSSION SERIES)

As we begin Quarter 2, this is a good time to remind everyone of the uniform requirements at St. Cecilia Cathedral Grade School. I have also attached a copy of the Family Handbook to this

email so you can see the full uniform policy. There are a lot of items to every Catholic school's uniform policy, but for brevity sake, I will only point out just a few of them:

- **Boy's Hair** - This long weekend (no school on Friday) is the perfect opportunity to get your little man in for a haircut. Starting Monday, I will be making calls home for any infractions in the following: "Hair must be natural color, clean, well-groomed, above the collar, above the eyebrows, and halfway above the bottom of the earlobe...cannot be combed to one side to disguise the actual length." We have a good number of kids who have hair down across their eyebrows and are sweeping it to the side.

- **Girl's Hair** - No JoJo bows or headbands with attachments (unicorn horns, animal ears, etc.).

- **Girl's Leggings or Tights** - Girls are allowed to wear leggings or tights underneath their jumpers, skirts, or skorts. These must be a solid color with no designs. Acceptable colors are blue, white, red, or black.

- **All Students Sweatshirts** - Two years ago we incorporated the $\frac{3}{4}$ zip sweatshirt with our school's logo into the uniform code. All students have the option of wearing either the gray (PreK-8), red (PreK-5), or blue (6-8) $\frac{3}{4}$ zip St. Cecilia sweatshirt during the school day. Any other sweatshirts are not allowed during the school day.

If you have old/used wrestling shoes that could fit a middle school or high school student, please consider dropping them off in the school office by Thursday. Mrs. Pick is looking to donate any and all shoes to a school that she used to work at. They would go to a good home!

Veteran's Day is on November 11th

We are asking for students and parents to bring in pictures of any and all family/friends who have served in the military to help create our Veteran's Wall. Requirements for the pictures include:

- Student's Name
- Veteran's Name
- Branch of Military and/or War Served (if applicable)
- Pictures without student's full name will not be returned

We will be making a "Tribute to Veteran's Day" wall in the entryway of the school and we would love to help honor your loved ones. You can drop your pictures off in the main office or to your child's teacher. Please see this example that Mrs. Heimerman submitted.



Dates for Marian Tutors (grades 3 & UP):

- October 23
- October 30
- November 6
- November 13
- November 20
- November 27
- December 4

Important Items to Know:

- Picture Retake Day is November 5th. Students will wear uniforms with red sweaters. You can still order online [Order Pictures](#) The school code is BN20978Q1 If you are getting retakes, you will need to return your original package on retake day.
- If you ordered classroom photos, they will not be available until after retakes.

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>

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 - Check out the new box tops app! [Box Tops Registration](#)

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 <https://togetheragreatergood.com/>

Dates to Know:

October 21-25: Red Ribbon Week

October 23: All School Mass 8:30

October 24: Noon Dismissal ~ No lunch served

October 24: Parent/Teacher Conferences 2-8pm - Report cards will go home at Conferences.

October 25: No School

October 31: PK & K Halloween parties

Blessings,
Mrs. Pick