



September 12, 2017

Parents/Guardians,

The school has been buzzing with activity the past few weeks and in those moments it can be challenging to find time for reflection. On Monday afternoon, the staff and I had some deep and meaningful conversations about what it means to be a part of St. Cecilia Cathedral school. Specifically we went through our strategic plan and started to break down the big ideas: what are we doing, what did we put on the shelf for later, and where do we want to end up?

Fr. Grewe and I will be presenting to the Board of Education these exact same questions in a different format: what are our strengths, where do we see areas for growth, and what type of school do we want to be in 5-10 years? The school board, along with Fr. Grewe and myself, will be tasked with putting together a new strategic plan as a blueprint for the next few years. A strategic plan is a living and breathing document that we use to drive the mission of the school and it gives focus and clarity to all stakeholders. The first step involves finding our strengths and weaknesses by looking at our Terra Nova, STAR Math, and STAR Reading data from the past 3-5 years. This week our students in grades 2-8 will be taking the STAR Math and Reading assessments. In two weeks, our students will be taking the Terra Nova Norm-Referenced test. Please encourage your child/children to do their best so we can get an accurate account of where our students are at academically.

**Here are some things going on this week in school:**

- There will be NO CHESS CLUB on Wednesday after school this week.
- Students in Grades 2-8 will be completing their STAR Math and Reading assessments this week. This is a computer-based assessment/benchmarking program that allows teachers to have a better understanding of where your child is at academically. It is a computer adaptive test - if they answer a question correctly, their questions become more challenging (and vice-versa).
- Duchesne Academy and Creighton Preparatory High School will be visiting the 7th and 8th grade students on Wednesday, September 13th.
- School Night Out at Popeyes (Dodge Location) from 4-8 PM on Wednesday, September 12th. Grab the kids and let Popeyes do the cooking for you.
- Home and School is putting on the Outdoor Movie Night on Saturday, September 16th after the 5:30 PM Mass. Bring your favorite pillow and blanket and relax with the family on our soccer fields. Please see the attachment for more information.

**Here are some other items to think/know about:**

- There is still room for your Pre-K and Kindergarten children to sign up to play micro soccer. Please see the attachment for information about that activity. Practices and games will begin on September 17. Contact Drew Gerken ([dwg76@yahoo.com](mailto:dwg76@yahoo.com)) with any questions.
- Please see the attachment of "Do Your Stuff" for Cathedralfest. It truly takes a village to make this fundraiser work so please consider volunteering your time, talent, or treasure for this event.
- I have attached the Cathedralfest Agenda as well so you can start planning now!
- We are still in need of a volunteer to serve as the contact person for HyVee Cash Rewards for our school. Please call the school office if you are interested.

Many Blessings,

Mrs. Julia Pick  
Principal

**Upcoming Events:**

- ★ September 19 - Picture Day! All students are to wear their school uniforms on this day.
- ★ September 19 - St. Peffer's Night from 11 AM - 10 PM (See flyer)
- ★ September 25 - 19 - Terra Nova Testing Week
- ★ October 6 - NO SCHOOL
- ★ October 7 & 8 - Cathedralfest

**Happenings this Week:**

Tuesday, 9/12	Wednesday, 9/13	Thursday, 9/14	Friday, 9/15	Saturday, 9/16
<p>STAR Math/Rdg Testing</p> <p>Mrs. Pick Administrator Meeting @ 8:30 - 2 PM (CSO)</p> <p>Prize Day for Cathedralfest</p> <p>Volleyball Practice @ 3:15 - 8 PM (Gym)</p>	<p>STAR Math/Rdg Testing</p> <p>Duchesne &amp; Creighton Prep HS Visits for MS @ 2:30 - 3 (St. B Hall; Classrooms)</p> <p>Volleyball Practice @ 3:15 - 8 PM (Gym)</p> <p>School Night Out at Popeyes @4-8 PM (4524 Dodge St Location)</p> <p>BOE Meeting @ 7:00 (Parish Center)</p>	<p>STAR Math/Rdg Testing</p> <p>Child Care Policy Meeting 11:30-1:30; 5-6:30 PM (St. B Hall)</p> <p>Student Council Speeches @ 2:45 - 3:10 PM (St. B Hall)</p> <p>Volleyball Practice @ 3:15 - 8 PM (Gym)</p>	<p>STAR Math/Rdg Testing</p> <p>All School Mass @ 10 AM (Cathedral)</p> <p>Volleyball Practice @ 3:15 - 8 PM (Gym)</p> <p>U10 Girls Flames Soccer Game @ 5:30 PM (Soccer Fields)</p>	<p>U7/8 Boys Soccer @ 10 AM (Soccer Fields)</p> <p>U10 Boys Strikers Soccer Game @ 10:15 AM (Soccer Fields)</p> <p>Mass @ 5:30 PM (Cathedral)</p> <p>Home and School Outdoor Movie Night @ 6:30 PM (Soccer Fields)</p>

**Faculty Focus:**

Crystal Gerken is our PreKindergarten teacher and our faculty focus this week. This is Mrs. Gerken's 12th year teaching at St. Cecilia Cathedral school. She has five children, four in the school/daycare and one at Creighton Prep. She is a certified children's yoga teacher. We are so fortunate to have Mrs. Gerken at St. Cecilia Cathedral and be able to offer two sessions of PreKindergarten to our families. This picture is showing just one example of how she engages students in hands-on learning with an apple-stacking STEM activity.



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