

November 8, 2019

Dear St. Chris Families,

My hope each week is to communicate with our families via the e-mail feature of One Call. Developing a school culture of strong relationships between parents/faculty, students/faculty and parents/administration is the foundation of a good school. Good communication can help in developing these relationships.

News:

- From the PTO- online orders for the “custom sock” fundraiser are due by Monday, November 11th.
- Virtue of the month is Courtesy. This is a great opportunity for parents at home to talk about, demonstrate and model acts of courtesy. At our Wednesday Mass, Fr. John spoke to the attributes of this virtue and how we as Catholics are called to act in such a way. The anti-thesis of courtesy is rudeness. Certainly, we have a great challenge in making sure our students treat each other in a courteous manner. It is a virtue that we strive to accomplish on how we treat each other at St. Chris School.
- The end of the first trimester is November 15th. Report cards will be distributed on Friday, Nov. 22nd and will also appear on Option C at this time. If you have concerns regarding the progress of your child, please contact your teacher or myself, so that we can begin taking corrective actions.
- Last Wednesday, the church was open for the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Later in the afternoon Fr. John held a Benediction service for the student body. I want to compliment your children on the reverence and respect presented to the Eucharist and their participation in the prayers and singing. It was a holy moment and one that most definitely pleased the Lord.
- I have established a Principals Search Committee comprised of two faculty members, two St. Chris school families and three parish members. Our first meeting is next Thursday night. I will be providing details from our meeting and keeping you informed of how things proceed.
- A second goal of mine is to stabilize and hopefully grow the enrollment of the school. There are two important aspects to managing enrollment- 1) retention and 2) recruitment. In the area of retention our biggest supporters and cheerleaders must be our “customer”- YOU. I hope your experience and the experience of your child has been positive at our school. Positive testimonials from our families is our number one and best endorsement of all the good things that happen at St. Chris. In the area of recruitment we have some work to do and the steps have begun. Updates in this area will also occur.
- Did you know? The Ohio Department of Education has posted a new list of Designated Public Schools that make their students eligible to receive the EdChoice scholarship. The criteria for EdChoice Designation is based on the schools’ Performance Index and Value- Added grade and if an elementary, the grade for Improving At-Risk K-3 Readers. Data can be found at- <https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/school>
Local schools on this list include: Vandalia—Morton Middle School – grades 6 to 8

DemmittElementary- grades K- 3

Tipp City- Tippecanoe Middle School- grades 6 to 8

Broadway Elementary- grades 2-3

- Additionally, beginning in 2020-21, St. Chris families currently enrolled at the school, irregardless of grade level, are now eligible to apply for the EdChoice Expansion scholarship if your gross annual income is at or below the 200% level of the federal poverty guidelines. For example, if you are a family of four this threshold is \$51,500, for a family of five- \$60,340, for a family of six- \$69,180. For the 31 families that currently receive the EdChoice Expansion scholarship please know that when renewing your scholarship for next year that you can still receive scholarship dollars even if your family income has risen up to 400% level of the federal poverty guidelines. For example, a family of four household members renewing the Expansion Scholarship can have a gross annual salary of \$103,000 and still receive a scholarship of 50% or a dollar amount of \$2325. If you ever have questions, please free feel to call me.

Principal Observations after One Week:

- I have now served as interim principal for six days and I can honestly say I have gone home with a smile on my face each and every day. St. Chris school has so many positive traits.
 - 1) Happy students who are focused on their education and treating others with dignity and respect.
 - 2) A hard working, dedicated and professional faculty committed to our students. I have observed nothing but respect and dignity between our faculty and our students.
 - 3) A parish priest who can relate to our students and makes himself visible to our students.
 - 4) On a humorous side- I forgot how difficult it is to open those “lunchable” packages at lunch time and how slow kindergartners are in eating.
 - 5) Did you know? Twenty of our thirty 8th grade students are taking either Algebra I or Geometry for high school credit.
 - 6) Unbelievable the family connections I have been able to make between our students, their parents and in some cases their grandparents due to my longtime residency in Vandalia and teaching, coaching and being a principal at Morton. This has been fun.

St. Chris Mission Statement: *Our mission is to provide a rigorous academic environment where every child may reach their fullest potential, live the Gospel values and prepare for a life of service and learning.* I have observed our mission statement in effect throughout my short tenure.

Concerns:

- I have always been a proponent of punctuality. It is one of the “soft skills” we need to teach our students. I need to emphasize that our school day starts promptly at 7:50 AM with students in their classroom at this time. We need to cut down on our number of lates that I have observed on a daily basis.
- Dress Code- A sign of a good dress code is that a visitor can leave the building and identify what constitutes the school’s uniform. I will tell you that I am having a difficult time on identifying what the school dress code is from what I see in the hallways. I will be addressing this with our student body, as I hope for us to improve in this area, according to the rules in the handbook.