

November 15, 2019

Dear St. Chris families,

Upcoming Dates:

Friday, November 22nd- Report cards go home

Geography Bee

Saturday, November 30th- Breakfast w Santa

Monday, December 2nd- return to school from Thanksgiving break

Thursday, December 12th- Band Concert and Christmas Musical

News:

- St. Christopher 's school play this year, "Beauty and the Beast" will be performed this April. Many students have signed up to try out for this performance. We are happy to announce that the Vandalia Optimist Club provided the school a \$500 grant to assist in the expenses of the show.
- Facebook followers: One of my goals is to provide greater information on what is happening in our classrooms and school building. Starting in December we hope to feature a grade level each week on the St. Christopher Elementary School Facebook page. Stay tuned.
- St. Chris Scrip- Did you know we have gift cards for sale in the office through our Scrip program? If interested , please contact the school secretary- Kim Thompson
- Congratulations to our 2nd grade who will be making their First Reconciliation this Saturday.
- Had the pleasure of praying with our 1st grade as they were preparing for lunch. It seemed to me they all were able to say the special grace before eating.

Did You Know?:

- 27 out of 38 St. Chris alumni (class of 2015') graduated from either Vandalia- Butler or Chaminade-Julienne in 2019. 17 of these 27 were National Honor Society members , 17 were awarded some form of a college scholarship, 15 out of the 15 alums that graduated from CJ began college this Fall.
- From the Vandalia-Butler graduation class of 2018, St. Chris alums stats included, 8 out of 11 National Honor Society and 9 out of 11 receiving some form of a college scholarship.
- For four consecutive years, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 a St. Chris alum has been a Semi-finalist or Finalist for the National Merit Scholarship Program at their respective high school.
- 110 out of 179 St. Chris families (61%) are receiving some form of tuition assistance, such as The Monnin Grant, EdChoice Scholarship, EdChoice Expansion or the One Faith, One Hope, One Love grant from the Archdiocese. **Note: The application window is now open for the 2020-21 school year for the One Faith, One Hope, One Love grant. A grant up to \$1200 can be issued. This grant does NOT automatically renew, you must reapply. To do this apply to FACTS- <https://factsmtg.com/parents>.** Further information is on our website under the menu item- Tuition.

Special Note:

- When we come back from Thanksgiving break on Monday, December 2nd a new policy will be in place for dealing with morning tardies. The details will be spelled out next week.
- I will be tackling the uniform issue later in the year. I would like to make this a collaborative effort between parents, faculty and administration and have a new policy and phase-in program in place for the new principal for 2020-2021. Key questions to ask ourselves:
 - 1) How does our school's image compare to that of our competitors?
 - 2) What are the brand associations we want to emphasize, maintain or lose?
 - 3) Is our logo identifiable and is it the same logo on all spirit wear, athletic gear and school uniforms?
 - 4) What marketing tactics should we use to develop that image?

Update on Principal Search;

- The first meeting of the Principals Search Committee took place last night. It was a very productive meeting involving faculty members, parents and parishioners. One of our first tasks was to determine the attributes we want in the new principal. These characteristics came to the forefront- person of strong faith, great communicator and listener, relationship builder who is comfortable engaging with parents and kids, professional and experienced, and has a vision for the future of St. Chris School. We are on our way!