



March 21, 2019

Dear Families,

Our Advisory School Board took part in a beneficial and productive retreat on Saturday. One of the exercises was to review our mission and vision statements. The time was well spent and I am pleased to share the Saint John the Baptist's School Mission:

In union with the parents and the Church, the mission of St. John the Baptist Catholic School is to prepare young people to impact the world for Christ.

The vision that the Board adopted at the meeting is as follows:

At Saint John the Baptist Catholic School, we are committed to preparing our students in a school that is steeped in faith, embraced by community, and educated in excellence to joyfully proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

Please join me in living out the mission and vision of our school. Many thanks to our School Board who dedicated their afternoon to the retreat: Mike Cabrera, Alice LaCroix, Gretchen Le May, Sunshine Silver, and Jon Starmach. Andrew Burnette, a Board candidate, also joined us. Special thanks to Teri Hardesty for recording notes for the retreat and to Deacon Dave Ritter for providing us with the financial picture of the school. Father Matt was present and a true asset to the team. Chip Humes is also a member of the Board but was unable to attend the retreat.

As a Lenten service project and as an act of almsgiving, our third through eighth grade students will be going to Feed My Starving Children in Aurora on Tuesday, April 9. If you have never had the opportunity to take part in a Feed My Starving Children visit, it is indeed an inspiring and moving experience packing meals to send to children so in need. Please watch for the permission form.

I marvel at the learning that takes place at Saint John the Baptist School. It is such a blessing to be here and witness the instruction and learning that takes place on a daily basis. For example, our seventh grade students have worked so hard on their Manifest Destiny projects....detailed scrapbooks, Mormonopoly game, etc. I have also seen students in sixth grade social studies present their technology projects demonstrating negative and positive media pieces about the Chicago mayoral campaign. Projects included the creation of a candidate's website, a news brief with an interview with a man on the street, and the like. In an 8th grade social studies class, students created storyboards with our

Chromebooks that depicted an event during the Civil Rights Movement. I missed the virtual reality 6th grade space experience in science today, but know that they were going to use it to explore the solar system, follow Juno on its mission to Jupiter, and explore the Kennedy Space Center. In Technology classes, I have seen most of our students coding. Upper grades are working in an App Lab and are adding features like buttons, text, images, and sounds while our younger students are learning the basics and having so much fun with it. I saw the Smart Board in action in second grade as they were playing a matching game with rhyming words. As you can see, Spring Break is well deserved. When we return, much more learning is sure to take place.

Please remember that there will be no school next week, March 25 – March 29. School will resume on Monday, April 1.

Blessings to you for a wonderful spring break,

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Joanne