

## **Mr. Watters Message- September 2019**

I hope this message finds you all doing well and your children settling into regular routines for the school year. We started school with an all-time high enrollment this year with 121 K-8 students! Most of this is due to our wonderful families and their recommendation to others - for that we are so grateful! We know we aren't perfect, but we have an amazing thing going at St. Mary School and would love to share that with everyone we can! Remember, there is a \$100 tuition credit for any families you refer to us and you do not need to be Catholic to attend our school.

Speaking of higher enrollment, we would like to welcome the following families to our school this year: The Beck Family (Breighlee-3), the Dixon Family (Luke-3 and Victoria-K), The Goote Family (Hadley-4), The Lubahn Family (Mason-6), The Sell Family (Liam-6 and Logan-2), The Talaske Family (Brooke-4), the Wenger Family (Peyton-3 and Mason-2) and Several new Kindergarten Families. We also would like to introduce and welcome our new teachers: 1st grade - Mrs. Vos; music - Dr. Courtney Piercey; art - Ms. Jane DeJonge. Welcome back Mrs. Smith and congratulate her on the birth of her baby boy, Hudson! A big thank you to Mrs. Emily Theunick for substituting the first few weeks of school in her absence.

MAPS testing for 2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade started Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. We also will be testing again in January and April. See Mrs. Brejcha's daily bulletin for more information or contact us with any questions.

I'm sure most of you have already noticed our brand new and beautiful gym/parish center floor that was installed this summer. Thank you to Josh Theunick, Elsa Swanson, AshleyRose Watters, Kurt Dubowski, Brian and Cameron Miller for making this project a reality! Most of you are already aware of the huge amount of fundraising that must take place in order for our school to operate and maintain/improve itself. Your contract states specifically what you must volunteer for at a minimum. We have several families who do much more than that and we hope to get more of you involved to ease the burden of the ones who want to take a step back. The PTO is still looking for new members to help with all the great things that they do for our school. Please contact Mrs. Brejcha if you can contribute your time for the PTO. It's good to get a jump start on your volunteer hours now. Also, it won't be long before we begin sign-up for our annual Gala, which is a mandatory event to volunteer for (before, during or after). Our last Gala raised \$64,000 (net) and we hope to continue to grow that amount each year.

October is fast approaching and that means it's time for our pink shirt fundraiser. See the daily bulletin for details. Thank you to Tacia Wealth Management for their support of breast cancer awareness!

Our FTC Robotics program is under way. This year we have several new mentors, Dr. Ron and Karin McKean, Mr. and Mrs. Waczinsky and Sarah DeVos along with our existing mentors. The FLL teams are getting started and are working on their projects for this year. We are always looking for sponsors. If your company would like to sponsor our STEM Program call or email Mr. Watters directly.

Feel free to contact me directly should you have any questions or concerns: 231-796-6731 or [jbwatters@stmarybr.org](mailto:jbwatters@stmarybr.org).

Thank you!

JB Watters