

OPEN HOUSE

AUGUST 10, 2011

- OPENING PRAYER Father Ray
- INTRODUCTORY /WELCOME REMARKS: Father Ray and Father Bill
- WELCOME Mrs. Cherry
 - Theme: Moving along the Train to our Eternal Destination: All Aboard
 - As Engineer—inviting all to join the train toward a positive, strong, loving and faith-filled year
 - No room for cars going in opposite directions
 - Happy to be here and work with everyone to help our students and each other live and love as God wants us to do

INTRODUCTION OF STAFF:

- Father Ray
- Father Bill
- Mrs. Nancy Esposito
- Mrs. Debbie Floyd
- Mrs. Louanna Sowa-PK
- Mrs. Anne Harris-K
- Mrs. Brenda Morris –K teacher Aide
- Mrs. Marla Marks-1
- Mrs. Donna Weiskircher-Grades 1 and 2-Teacher Aide
- Mrs. Veronica Damore-2
- Mrs. Joan Williams-3
- Mrs. Terry Poirier-4
- Mrs. Joanne Gaboriau-5th grade homeroom-SS-5-6-7-8
- Mrs., Kyle Myres-6th grade homeroom-Math-5-6-7-8/Religion 5-6
- Mr. Andy Thomas-7th grade homeroom-Religion 7-8 and Art PK-8
- Ms. Beth Romano-8th grade homeroom-Science 5-6-7-8 and Computer 5-6-7-8
- Mr. Juan Rojas-Spanish PK-8
- Mrs. Sarah Kelley-Music PK-8 and Latin 6-7-8
- Mrs. Marie Carpenter-Librarian and Computer PK-4
- Mrs. Jeri Himmelsbach-P.E. PK-8
- Mrs. Marianne Gill-L. Arts 6-7-8 and some Enrichment
- Mrs. Peg Peters-School Nurse
- Mrs. JoAnn Cordell-Cafeteria/Lunch Coordinator and After-School Program Director
- Mrs. Paige Stih-School Tutor
- Mr. Chip Blackmon-Maintenance Head Daily for School
- Mr. Jim Sheehy-Night Maintenance for School
- Mr. Joe Murphy-Head of all Physical Plant Operations/Maintenance for Parish and School
- Mr. Ed Pott-Director of Technology/Hardware/Software for School

Additional introductions:

School Board members:

- Mr. Laurence Bolchoz-President
- Mrs. Maura Utley-Marketing Director/Website Developer
- Mrs. Liz Attias, Secretary
- Mrs. Helene Gerrald
- Mrs. Amy Golden
- Mrs. Kathleen McDonnell, President of the PTO

PTO officers:

- Mr. Matt Strange, Vice-President
- Mrs. Lili Murphy, Secretary

Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes so many people to provide the best education to the children who attend Saint Michael School. I am blessed and grateful to the faculty/staff you have met; the school board; the PTO members; the parish staff; the parishioners who have stopped in—all wanting Saint Michael School to succeed and be an outstanding example of Catholic School Education in the Diocese of Charleston and we are on our way.

A couple of quick notes before I let you wander:

- Reminder that the teachers will not be giving presentations today-limited time for parents to have opportunity to visit all classrooms-just for introductions, etc.
- If you want to speak to a teacher at length about your child, feel free to e-mail them or leave a message in the office. This is the same throughout the year. It is so important for communications to be clear. Every teacher wants what is best for your child, just as you do. Communicating between each other is the first step in the success of your child.
- Substitute teacher applications have been coming in, as we have new guidelines from the State and Diocese. All substitute teachers must have at least a Bachelor's Degree in any area; have Protecting God's Children/Virtus training; have a Diocesan Background check completed and have either a one-on-one or group substitute training with me. A substitute teacher is just that-one who is taking the place of a teacher to keep education flowing in the classroom. Our substitutes will not be ones who just sit or play games, but ones who will educate your child in a confidential manner when called upon. We are blessed to have received several resumes from parishioners who had been former teachers and have recently retired to the area.
- We will be keeping all classroom doors locked during the day, for safety and security reasons. While the majority of visitors know the routine and stop at the office only to check in/drop off lunches, book bags, etc., we need to ensure a visitor doesn't just wander around. We also want to ensure the classes are not interrupted during the education/learning process. Students and teachers will always be able to get out at any time and those who need to get in will always have a key.

- I met with all of the teachers over the last month one-on-one and can let you know they all want to be the best they can be and provide an outstanding education for your children. As I met with them and reviewed the Diocesan Curriculum requirements, time requirements and the skills of our teachers, we worked on a rather unique scheduling of grades 5-6-7- and 8 core subjects. With our school currently being rather small (as we know it will continue to get larger as the days/years move on), working and talking with the teachers we have created a unique team to work with the students in grades 5-6-7 and 8. In checking with the Diocese, we are the only school with this unique scheduling and could become a pilot for other schools in the future.
 - Fifth grade will remain mostly self-contained with Mrs. Gaboriau as homeroom, Language Arts and Social Studies Teacher as well as Social Studies for grades 6-7-8
 - Sixth grade homeroom will be Mrs. Myres, who will teach Math to grades 5-6-7 and 8, as well as Religion to grades 5 and 6
 - Seventh grade homeroom will be Mr. Thomas, who will teach Religion to grades 7 and 8 as well as Art to all of the students in grades PK-8
 - Eighth grade homeroom will be Ms. Romano, who will teach Science to grades 5-6-7 and 8 as well as Computer and Technology to grades 5-6-7 and 8
 - Mrs. Sarah Kelly will teach all Music Classes PK-8 and Latin to part of the 6th-7th and 8th grade classes
 - Mrs. Carpenter will continue with Library/Media for all grades and Computer for grades PK-4
 - Mr. Rojas, who is part-time, will teach Spanish to grades PK-8
 - Mrs. Himmelsbach (Ms. Jeri), who is part-time, will teach PE to grades PK-8

Saint Michael students are blessed to have so many specialized programs and teachers, for the size of the school. This is only possible because of your tuition payments and parish subsidy provided by Saint Michael Parish. As we go through this year, we will fine-tune the best of the best and plan for any additions/deletions or changes we need to continue the train moving on the right path in future years.

May God bless you, your children and all involved in Saint Michael Catholic School.

Mrs. Cherry