

August 18, 2023

Hello St. Gregory School Families,

I want to welcome you to the 2023-2024 school year. The teachers and staff are excited and look forward to the beginning of the new year. I look forward to the opportunities that await your child this year; as I have found out already, you are attending a school with a tradition of excellence.

This year we are thrilled to welcome these individuals to the St. Gregory family! These individuals include teachers aides Jeannie VonHofen and Maureen Houlihan. They will primarily serve as teachers aides in the kindergarten classroom. I would also like to introduce Christina McCarthy who will be our AM before school care helper and will also help with PM after school care as well. I can say that me being new to this school family, I have been welcomed and made to feel like I am already part of this wonderful community. I know you will do the same for these new faces!

Being that I am new to the St. Gregory family, I have spent the summer updating and revising different aspects of the school in all different components. We have continued to look into more safety and security measures to make sure that your child is in the safest environment we can create here at St. Gregory. Like every year, we are continuing to team up with the Zelinople Police Department to help us with our safety measures. Almost daily, a Zelinople police officer will make a visit to the school. We want to continue with this great partnership and I am grateful for the support the department gives to our school. If you could contribute to this program, please send your donation (made out to St. Gregory School) in an envelope labeled "Adopt a Cop". Also our parish is looking into areas where we will incorporate a safety committee to look at aspects of the school and its safety.

I have also looked into upgrading aspects of technology for the upcoming school year that will allow your child the opportunity to have the technology they need in the classroom. This technology is something that is needed as we continue to push for our children to be best equipped for the real world and all of the necessities it places on technology. Upgrading these avenues in technology within our school allows us to continue to offer the same great education we have.

St. Gregory's focus for this year is on the idea of family, community, and participation. Being new to this school, I have been reminded almost consistently of what a great family and community St. Gregory truly is. Everything I have witnessed this summer with St. Gregory's involved in, there is a tremendous sense of this community. This is an aspect of our faith that we want to pass along to our children and get them to understand that being part of a community is part of the idea of being a Catholic. Throughout the year we will continue the "fish program", but I am going to rename it to give us a better sense of this community within St. Gregory. The "Wolf Pack" will be what the incentive program is going forward. This is a way to reward our students for the good deeds he/she does.

Finally, for those that have been part of the school for a long time, you have told me you know of the hidden gem that St. Gregory's is. I want the people of our communities to see what a tremendous school we have right in their backyards. This school is an example of Christ at work and I look forward to everyone experiencing what I have experienced in the short time I have been here.

Thank you and God Bless,



Nathan Rossman