

December 1, 2020

Merry Christmas St. Gregory School Families!

It is hard to believe that the Christmas season is here. Although it has been a strange year, I can tell already that the students are filled with the Christmas spirit. Typically we would have a very busy month filled with many events, but we will still do what we can to make it special for everyone.

Santa's Workshop is happening virtually this year, so please do not forget to shop. Please note that our last day of school is now Friday, December 18, 2020. This gives us two full weeks of vacation to allow for much needed rest and relaxation.

Although we will not be hosting our annual Our Open House this year, please share that school registration for parishioners (St. Gregory, St. Ferdinand, and Holy Redeemer) begins on January 19th. Open enrollment for the public begins on the 25th. We will also begin St. Gregory School preschool registration at this time. Please be on the lookout for additional information. I am hoping for a big increase in enrollment, so I ask that all of you share something positive about our school to a new family. We need to work together to keep our enrollment strong.

Thank you for choosing St. Gregory School. Not only are we an embodiment of prayer, but we also have a rigorous curriculum, Christ as our model, a safe and supportive environment, and high expectations for all of our students. You are sending your child/ren to a place full of love where they are given the opportunity to grow spiritually, emotionally, socially, and academically. Below are some facts about Catholic Schools from the National Catholic Register:

- 99% of Catholic school students graduate from high school on time, and 86% of Catholic school graduates attend college. (McDonald & Schultz, 2016)
- Currently, more than half of the Supreme Court Justices went to Catholic school. (Boston.com)
- 17.4% of Catholic school students are not Catholic. (NCEA)
- Catholic schools provide over 24 billion dollars a year in savings for the nation. (NCEA)
- Catholic schools tend to operate as communities rather than bureaucracies, which links to higher levels of teacher commitment, student engagement, and student achievement.
- The Catholic school climate, mission, and purpose positively impact student achievement and attendance.
- A faith-based orientation builds coherence and integration of schools and school community. Catholic Schools help students achieve academically
- In Catholic schools, the student achievement gap is smaller than in public schools.
- In Catholic schools, overall academic achievement is higher.
- In Catholic schools, student math scores improve between sophomore and senior years.
- Latino and African American students in Catholic schools are more likely to graduate from high school and college.
- Catholic school students are more likely pray daily, attend church more often, retain a Catholic identity as an adult, and donate more to the Church. (Sander, 2001, p. 9)
- Students in Catholic schools demonstrate higher academic achievement than their public school

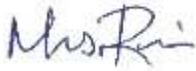
- peers from similar socioeconomic backgrounds. (Coleman & Hoffer, 1987; Greeley, 1982; Sander, 1996, p. 544)
- The more disadvantaged a child is, the greater the relative achievement gains he or she experiences in a Catholic school. (York, 1996)

The data shows that Catholic education is an excellent choice, and we are grateful that you have made the Catholic school choice for your child/ren.

Since it's the season of cold weather and snow, we may have more delays and/or cancellations. We will use OptionC to inform you of any changes to the school day.

On behalf of the teachers and staff at St. Gregory School, I'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mrs. Rice". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R".

Mrs. Rice
Principal