

May 1, 2021

Greetings St. Gregory School Families,

We are nearing the end of an incredible (or incredibly insane) school year, so this will be my last family folder letter! This month will go by quickly and before you know it everyone will be on summer vacation. We have a lot going on during this last month of school.

May is the month of Mary, so we will be celebrating May Crowning on the 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:15pm in the church; this is a beautiful event venerating the Blessed Mother. I want to say congratulations to all our graduates! I also want to congratulate all the kids who received their First Holy Communion this month, as well as our Confirmation candidates. Mrs. Garcia has been working hard with the drama club, and they will perform on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Please keep everyone in your prayers during this exciting time. Although these events may look differently this year, I am grateful that we can still have them.

Starting May 10<sup>th</sup>, students in grades 2 through 8 will be taking the *Iowa Assessments*. The *Iowa Assessments* help determine how students are performing based on nationwide standards. These assessments measure achievement in several important content areas including Vocabulary, Word Analysis, Reading, Listening, Language, Mathematics, Computation, Social Studies, and Science. The exact tests that your student takes will depend on his or her grade level. The *Iowa Assessments* also measure student growth and progress in the content areas assessed from year to year.

**How your child can prepare for test-taking and what you can do to help:**

A student who is well rested and well fed and has a positive attitude about testing is best prepared for testing. You can help your child do his or her best by considering these tips:

- Make sure your child is in school and on time on test days.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast before each day of testing.
- Remind your child that these tests are only one part of the school day.
- Remind your child to listen carefully to the directions and to each question as it is read aloud during testing. Encourage your child to ask the teacher for help if he or she does not understand the directions.

The school will receive test scores later. These scores will indicate how your child performed on the tests compared with students across the nation in the same grade. We will share the results with you, and we will use it as one piece of data to drive our instruction.

We have already begun the planning process as we look forward to the 2021-2022 school year. Teacher and class scheduling is underway and new textbooks are being ordered. One of the major changes is that I am expecting a bit of normalcy. I do not believe that we will have to follow the same COVID-19 procedures as this year. This also means that we will **NOT** be providing the virtual option. The Pennsylvania Department of Education has not approved the virtual option for Catholic Schools for the 21-22 school year. This would only change *if* COVID-19 is still a concern.

This past year proved to be remarkable. Thank you for sticking with us through these tumultuous times. A parent summed it up beautifully when she said, "After this year, how could you not choose St. Gregs?" Obviously, the word is getting around because we are getting more and more phone calls about registration. Please continue to share information about our school.

I want to especially thank the St. Gregory School staff. These men and women have gone above and beyond this year which proved their love and dedication for our school. I am so blessed to be surrounded by such wonderful people. They truly love each of your children. Please consider nominating one of them for the Golden Apple Award. Information is in this month's family folder.

Please double check your FACTS account because your final tuition statement should be reflected in May. If you have any questions, please contact the school office. For those of you who applied for aid through the Bishop's Fund or SOS, you should receive notice by mid-June regarding how much you may be receiving.

I would like to wish everyone a wonderful summer! I hope you have time to relax and enjoy your family, and we will see you in August.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Rice". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and "R".

Mrs. Rice