

November 1, 2020

Happy Fall St. Gregory School Families,

We are a quarter of the way through the school year, and what a wonderful start it has been! The students and staff of St. Gregory School have quickly adapted to our new normal without any hiccups. Everyone seems happy and healthy, and the students are making remarkable progress already. In order to drive our instruction, we often use data based on the students' academic performance. For years, we have been using Acadience to make it easier to detect K-6 students who are at risk for early reading difficulties in order to provide timely instructional support and prevent the occurrence of later reading difficulties. As you may have seen on our website, the students at St. Gregory have shown extraordinary success.

It was especially important for us as educators to get a pulse on where each student is performing because of the chaos that came along with COVID-19 this year. Therefore, in addition to administering the Acadience assessment, the upper-grades will be taking Classroom Diagnostic Tools. This diagnostic assessment is divided by content areas (Literacy, Mathematics, and Science), and is designed to provide diagnostic information to guide instruction in order to support intervention and enrichment. The teachers and I are hoping to get a clear picture of where your child is so we can provide him/her with the exact support he/she needs.

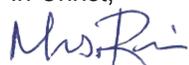
The marking period officially ended Wednesday, October 28th. On Wednesday, November 11th, we will hold parent-teacher conferences; the kids do not have school on this day. The teachers in grades 4 and 5 will be grouped together, and the middle school teachers (6, 7 & 8) will be grouped together during the Google Meets. Everyone is allotted 15 minutes, so please be mindful of your time. The next parent will show up at their scheduled time which will immediately end the conference. If you feel you need more time, feel free to schedule a separate Google Meet with your child's teacher on a different day. For parents in grades K through 3, please schedule with your child's homeroom teacher *only*. There is not enough time in the day to schedule conferences with all of the teachers of the special classes such as gym, computer, and art. Please log in to your child's HOMEROOM teacher's Google Meet. We will be sending those out in an email closer to the time, and they will also be posted on the homeroom teacher's Google Classroom Stream.

I am hoping that your child has mentioned that we have been reading "Jesus Calling for Kids" every day. The students are like sponges, and they seem to be soaking up Scripture and important messages that I read. Please discuss it with them at home too; this is a great way to stay connected to each other and our Lord. I am so proud of them for getting so excited about their faith. In fact, the other day when I was reading it over the loudspeaker I saw a 4th grade boy standing in the hallway completely still with his hands folded as I read the reflection. My heart is full!

As a reminder, please monitor your child's OptionC gradebook on a regular basis. Although Google Classroom posts grades, Option C is more reliable.

I hope you all have a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving. These next few months are filled with joy, and I wish you blessings and happiness during this holiday season!

In Christ,



Mrs. Rice