



Making Learning Visible

YOU'LL WANT TO BE A PART OF THIS!

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! The faculty and staff at Ascension are preparing for the upcoming school year through professional development in technology, differentiation, curriculum, critical thinking, teaching strategies, Project-Based Learning (PBL) and faith formation. With the exponential acceleration of technology as well as globalization and environmental concerns, it is imperative that education keep pace; the faculty and staff at Ascension work so hard to make sure our students have opportunities to explore, develop, think and prepare for a future with unlimited possibilities.

We remain committed to Making Learning Visible through the many hands-on and cross-curricular projects students were involved in during the past year: “No idle Campaign,” addressing our growing CO2 emissions - For every 10 minutes of idling you cut from your life, you’ll save one pound of CO2 from being released into the atmosphere. “Fraction Quilts,” and “Birdhouses” both products from math classes. “Civil Rights,” where students learned directly from civil rights activist and friend of Martin Luther King Jr. “Refugee Simulation,” where students experienced a day in the life of a refugee. “Belmont Senior Living,” students made many visits to present or spend time with the seniors as well as the many visits from them to Ascension. “Sandwich Sunday’s,” providing sandwiches to the homeless. “Mock Trial,” competition where our students studied a real case file and served as prosecuting attorney, defendants and jury in front of a real judge. Multiple 3D designs using Tinkercad and our 3D printers and so much more.

Some exciting additions for 2019-2020 school year: addition of Merge Cubes, Raspberry Pi, Cue Robots, a new 3D printer (3 total) and Lego Mindstorm kits. This will be the first year that all Catholic elementary schools will NOT use the Terra Nova testing as we have made the move to MAP. The MAP test utilizes RIT score. This score represents a student’s achievement level at any given moment and helps measure their academic growth over time. The RIT scale is a stable scale, like feet and inches, that accurately measures student performance, regardless of age, grades, or grade level. Like marking height on a growth chart, and being able to see how tall your child is at various points in time, you can also see how much they have grown between tests. When your child takes the test in the fall, he receives a RIT score. The goal then is to improve the RIT score by 5 points when taking the test in the spring. Parents who keep the achievement test scores and compare them from test to test will see a legitimate record of student progress. The MAP results share specifically which concepts in each subject area were mastered and shows the level of mastery. This allows the parent and the teacher to focus specifically on areas of weakness.

We would like to welcome the following faculty and staff to our team: Nina Cornell (2nd homeroom, 4/5 LA and 2/3 Religion) Jahanna Harvey (6-8 LA) Kellie Hood (Learning Coordinator) Vilma Makram (K-5 Spanish) Mike Grimes (Chef). We are still interviewing for 6-8 Math and Kindergarten Assistant. All bios will be on website in July. We would also like to welcome Fr. Adam Carrico as our new Administrator, we are truly blessed to have him on our team and look forward to substantial growth under his leadership.

Please keep the following dates open in preparation for our first day of school on Wednesday, August 14:
Thursday, August 8 – Kindergarten and 1st grade Camp from 3-5 with parent meetings from 5-6.
Monday, August 12 – Back to school night grades 2-5 from 5:30-6:30pm and grades 6-8 from 6:30-7:30pm. Both will meet in the church before going to individual classrooms for teacher presentations.
Wednesday, August 14 – 1st day of school and school mass at 8:15am.
Saturday, August 24 – Back to school tailgate – details to come!

Communications from National Blue Ribbon have been promising - celebration would take place soon after official announcement in September. IF we win, this will be huge for Ascension! 55 years and the only Archdiocesan school under 300 students to achieve this recognition!

So many great things happening! Thank you all for being part of this!

Peace in Christ,

**Terrence Mullaney
Principal**