



St. Francis of Assisi Middle School

Principals' Report

Monday, October 2, 2023

Be Joyful----Be Loving----Be Humble----Be Forgiving

KUDOS

- Thank you to our parents who are volunteering to send snacks for our staff on our October 6th PD day.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOCUS

School Focus for the 2023-24 school year:

- FAITH: focusing on the word 'nurture' in our Faith Theme. Our focus will be to continue to nurture and foster faith in our staff and students throughout the year.
- SAFE AND CARING SCHOOL CULTURE:
 - collective caring for our students, staff, and families
 - academic caring- support each student in achieving success,
 - Knowing our learners
 - Implementing new curriculum
 - Assessment and reporting practices
 - logical consequences & interventions to support our students with their learning, and
 - establishing strong connections and relationships with our students.

October Learning Focus:

- Student Support Model Planning: Know, Understand and Respond to our learners
- School Culture: Safe and Caring Schools BIG IDEAS Follow Up from session with Dr. Scott Morrison
- School Improvement Planning: Two Priorities (Faith and Student Learning) - Link to SIP.
- Faith: focus on Thanksgiving and use of the chapel.

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

2023-2024 Student Population

- 718 students Grade 6 to Grade 9

Grade 6 (6 classes)	Grade 7 (6 classes)	Grade 8 (6 classes)	Grade 9 (7 classes)
152	182	187	197

Staffing Update

- 55 staff members in total for this school year
- Please join us in welcoming new staff member Richard Zimmerman, who is teaching in grade 6. Covering for Mr. Jansen, who is recovering from shoulder replacement surgery.
- Mrs. Daniel has returned back to work on a gradual basis post her motor vehicle accident. We are thankful her recovery has been going well and is able to return.

Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi and School Wide Thanksgiving Liturgy

- As a school community we will be recognizing and celebrating our Patron Saint on Wednesday, Oct. 4th as a school community. Details are shared in the October Monthly Newsletter
- Our school Thanksgiving Liturgy is on Thursday, October 5th at St. Francis School Gym (10:30 am). All parents are welcome to attend.

Inspired by Christ on a Journey to Encounter, Nurture and Serve.

Extracurricular activities are up and running in the school. Currently the following are being offered:

Extracurriculars

- Frozen Jr
- Volleyball - Senior / Junior / Sport Development teams
- Cross Country
- Dungeon and Dragons club will be starting in the next two weeks.

School Improvement Plan

This years plan has two focus areas. The division has identified that every school will include faith and students learning as their goals. St Francis will be focusing on:

- Faith -
- Student Learning -

ADVISORY QUESTION

We aim every year to support open communication with all staff, students and guardians/parents. One area of focus for our school is to increase parental engagement. Over the course of the year, as an admin team, we strive to reach out to parents as a check in and to seek feedback. We will strive to gather a good sample size of calls at each grade level.



We are seeking your feedback regarding parental engagement:

1. **How can we garner more parental involvement in our school?**

PARENT COMMUNICATION

We will be continuing with our week at a glance which is posted on our website, social media and emailed to parents. Parents are always welcome and encouraged to discuss questions or concerns with the classroom teacher or school administration. Teachers welcome parents to contact them directly by calling the school or sending them a message. Please note that if they are teaching, on supervision or unable to take your call we ask that you leave a message and they will get back to you by the next work day. In our commitment to honour family time we will work hard not to send messages after 6:00 PM unless there is an emergency.

SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Parents often ask how they can best support their child's classroom teacher and the school community. Asking your child specific questions at the end of the day that are framed in a positive manner that promotes a growth mindset. For example:

- What was your favourite part of the day today?
- What did you do during recess?
- What made your teacher smile today? What made him/her frown?
- Who is the friendliest person in your class?
- What are you looking forward to at school tomorrow?
- Tell me about something kind you did for someone today. Did someone do something nice for you?
- Who is someone at school that could use a friend?
- Tell me something that made you laugh today?
- What are you looking forward to tomorrow at school?

Thank you to all families for:

- Communicating respectfully and thoughtfully to teachers - in emails, on the phone and in face to face communications
- Supporting your child with their learning goals

Inspired by Christ on a Journey to Encounter, Nurture and Serve.

- Meeting your commitments with transportation & school fees and staying in touch with the office if you need extra time or consideration
- Supporting your child's social emotional growth: learning the value of: good manners, appreciating difference, contributing to the greater good, saying sorry, learning to forgive, working hard and playing hard too, being kind to ourselves and to one another, the power of prayer, giving service to others...

SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Council is a means for parents and community to work together to support and enhance student learning. School Council provides a venue for parents to reflect their wishes of the broader community of education of its students and to actively participate in giving advice and support to the principal.

Roles that are not to be taken on by a School council include:

- School governance
- Employment issues
- School management
- Listening to complaints.

Thank you to our parents for continuing to work in a team to meet the goals of School Council