



From the Desk of the St. Monica Catholic School

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

*There will not be a President's Corner for 4/12/22*

1. **Virtue for April Justice:** During the month of April, we will focus on the virtue of Justice and Peace. As we move forward this month is an important plan to address bullying we reflect on this bible verse:  
*“Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, and please the widow's cause,” (Isaiah 1:17)*
2. **Stations of the Cross:** Mrs. Abohosh and our 8th grade students will present living stations of the cross on Wednesday, April 13 at 1:30pm. Additionally, various grade levels go over to pray the Stations of the Cross throughout the week.
3. **Search for the new Principal:** You received the letter from Father Guadagnoli and me last week. We have broadened our search for the best candidate and continue to work with The Education Group. Additionally, we are starting our search for a second Assistant Principal, interviews begin next week and throughout April. The Lead Teacher team including administration will take an active role in this hiring process.
4. **OU Diocese Survey sent to all families:** Due date is this Friday, April 8, 2022. The input will help us plan for the Future.
5. **Moving forward after the talk of "Navigating Tough Social Situations as a Discerning Parent. With Drs. Avery Hoenig, Jamie Wilson, and Lucy Smith.**

I first want to thank the families who attended last Thursday night's presentation on bullying and the honest thoughts and concerns that were shared. I want to take this opportunity to reflect on these concerns and set a path forward. It is important to acknowledge that bullying has been an issue at St. Monica Catholic School, and respectfully at many other Catholic schools throughout the country. I want to make clear that neither violence against any student or member of the St. Monica staff nor bullying, even in its simplest of forms will be tolerated.

It is the commitment of St. Monica Catholic School to address all instances that are brought to our attention. It has become clear that the prior system that has been in

place for some time is not providing opportunities for parents and students to share instances in a timely manner. The current protocols in my opinion need to have a clear path for reporting and sharing of ideas and thoughts. We are here to enhance and expand our policies, ensuring that SMS has best in practice and current/relevant policies to handle serious matters.

In line with our school policies ([St. Monica Handbook](#)), Diocesan policies and Safe Environment protocols for the protection of all, especially children, disciplinary matters cannot and will not be discussed publicly. Rest assured, as things come to light, as they did on Thursday night, we investigate, research and discipline per policy.

Moving forward as we put a strong priority and emphasis on this matter:

- a. Through our virtue program, teachers will be working on lessons and conversations to help students have more strategies to deal with these issues. Teachers will have an in-service with our presenters in late April, early May
- b. A new email has been set up: [studentsafety@stmonicaschool.org](mailto:studentsafety@stmonicaschool.org). This email will be received by the lead teacher team and myself. This email is for our families to use to report incidents, concerns or ideas about student safety, bullying or physical altercations. The Administration team and lead teachers will receive these emails and respond promptly and appropriately.
- c. Grades 3-8 are working on age-appropriate safety forms through Google that will allow students to feel comfortable sharing their concerns, incidents they have witnessed and ideas for their classmates. We know that all students need to feel safe and comfortable sharing their thoughts, our teachers are finding the right/safe/careful method to allow children to feel comfortable to share, allowing anonymity as a part of the plan.
- d. Our primary teachers are meeting to discuss current behavior issues, positive reinforcement and appropriate age level consequences.
- e. Our presenters from Thursday night will be coming back right after Easter break to work with the administrators, lead teachers and counselor, followed by scheduled meetings with our teachers.
- f. A camera system for key areas of the campus where these incidents tend to happen is now being worked on for installation by our Facilities team over the next few weeks.

In closing, I want to address that there is no current lawsuit against St. Monica Catholic School for any issue, including any issues related to disciplinary matters. It is also the strict policy of the school to provide an environment for the students

that is free of drugs, weapons, or any other item or substance that may impair or impact the school's ability to implement its policies and procedures.

Our commitment to safety and well-being is a priority for our entire team and me. I encourage you to talk with your child(ren) regarding the importance of sharing any inappropriate or questionable behavior. Our partnership in helping your child(ren) grow into faith-filled, God-loving leaders will thrive as we continue to work together.

**6. Grandparents Day is back:** Basic plans for Grandparent day include

- a. 11am arrival for special lunch-Valet will be available.
- b. 11am-12pm Lunch in the Gym
- c. 12pm to 1:30pm
- d. 1:30pm Living Rosary in the Church
- e. Grandparents Day ends at 2pm, students may go home with their grandparents.

As a reminder, April 29 is an in-service day for teachers, a day off for students to enjoy their grandparents.

**7. Advisory House leading prayer this week:** Mrs. Newman's Advisory House-St. Catherine of Siena house.

**8. Let's celebrate accomplishments:**

- a. **Our New STEM lab has arrived:** Today is the first day of installation. Training for our STEM staff will be next week. We will have students in the upper grades using the lab the week of April 18, 2022. Pictures below are of the installation



***Save the date: May Crowning, May 6, 2022, at 9:45am.***

Blessings always,

Angie