



From the desk of Mr. Callahan...

Email me at principal@holyroarycatholic.com

Welcome to the Third Quarter. We are officially moving into the back half of the school year and gearing up for another amazing half. The second half of the year is starting off with a bang as our students prepare for the upcoming Catholic Schools Week and have the opportunity to experience a number of fun events. This past week, our students had a wonderful opportunity to experience classical music through the Troubadours presentation. What a great way to experience the lost art of instrumental music. This was the perfect lead into our K-5 Trip to the Orchestra that will take place in a few weeks. Additionally, we wrapped up all of our studies for the week and are prepared to start new topics on Monday. Most importantly, we gathered together to share in our faith and shared the importance of the prophets discussing the coming of Jesus. Below are some updates on the schools focus areas at the midway point of the school year.

Update on Technology: The Technology Committee has been meeting regularly once a month for the past four months to discuss, plan and improve the technology available to students at our school. The initial plan for implementation was to purchase a product and have it in the school by late January or early February. The budget has been set for this product to be around \$5000.00. However, during the last meeting, an idea was presented that may be very beneficial to our efforts. Mr. Callahan and Mrs. O'Brien will be attending the MACUL technology conference in Grand Rapids on March 8-9. This is made possible by the amazingly generous parents of our wonderful school. At this conference, all the major vendors will be present and this may be an opportunity to not only network but speak with them about their products. Thus, the committee has agreed to push back the purchase of new technology until after the completion of the conference with a hard deadline date of March 31 being set. The initial rollout of devices will focus on laptops with the school aiming to acquire 20-25 of these devices. Moving forward, the plan is that during the 2018-2019 school year, Holy Rosary will look to diversify the technology in the building by discussing the acquisition of tablets. Thank you for all your support and efforts put forward in making this goal possible.

Education in Virtue continues to be a focus of our school instruction. Along with continued recognition of students through the Virtue of the Week award, students also have critical conversations weekly about the Virtue of the Week. Students discuss and make connections to their own lives and develop a deeper understanding of each virtue. Our most recent step in Virtue education is the new "Student of the Month" award. The school is excited to have the opportunity to recognize students who demonstrate virtue in all three key areas: **Academic, Social, and Spiritual growth.**

Curriculum is continually moving in a positive direction for our school. Mrs. Somerville continues to be a part of the GCCS (Genesee County Catholic Schools) Writing team and is making great progress in terms of mapping, assessments, and instructional practice. **Faith integration** is not only in the school's physical environment and religion classes, but across all classrooms and subjects. It has been a talking point and focus areas during staff PLC's (Professional Learning Communities) as we look for ways to experience God in all subjects. We will continue to strive for implementing Faith components in all classrooms and subjects. The entire staff has decided that small group (Teams of 2 and 3) for Professional Learning Communities needed to have a slight change. Thus, the entire teaching team will be meeting twice monthly for roughly 2.5 hours to continue to develop, share and work through best practices for all grades in the various content areas. This is a great way that we can continue to collaborate and grow as instructors.

I hope everyone has a great weekend.

Mr. Callahan

January

22	Monday	NWEA/ACT Aspire Testing Middle School Science Corporal Work of Mercy: Help clean up your Kitchen!
23	Tuesday	NWEA Testing 2nd/3rd Grade
24	Wednesday	NWEA Testing 2nd/3rd Grade Spiritual Work of Mercy: Say a Prayer for Holy Rosary Church
25	Thursday	NWEA/ACT Aspire Testing (K-1 and 6-8)
26	Friday	All School Mass: 8:30 am Report Cards Come Home

Virtue of the Week:

Moderation

What is this Virtue?

Attention to balance in one's life

Ways to Cultivate this Virtue

Set limits for oneself; create a balance in one's life by limiting the use of media, consumption of additional food and drink, etc.

Catholic Quote on Moderation

There are two ways to get enough. One is to accumulate more and more. The other is to desire less.

~ G.K. Chesterton

Important Information

- The end of the 2nd quarter is **Friday, January 19**. Report Cards will be sent home the following Friday!
- Catholic Schools Week is quickly approaching. If you are interested in reading at Mass at your home parish, please email me at principal@holyroarycatholic.com.
- The Schools Scrapbooking Fundraiser is January 27. If you are able to help out, please sign up in the office.
- **January 27 is the 2nd grade Reconciliation Retreat 10-12.**
- The school will be hosting an open house and a Pasta dinner on **Tuesday, January 30**. **Open house is 3:30-4:30 and the Pasta dinner is from 4:00-7:00.**