



Father McCartan Memorial School

September 2020



WELCOME

Who's New?

A warm welcome to Father Kelechi! All of us are looking forward to learning about Father and about Nigeria! However, we want to teach him how to play soccer and kickball with us!

Next on our welcome list is Mrs. Teresa Lockard, who taught many years at Northwestern in Mendon. Mrs. Lockard will teach First and Second Grade as well as Kindergarten Religion. She is excited and eager to begin her time with us!

Not new to us, but new as a pre-school teacher, we welcome back Ms. Kirkpatrick! Pre-school is her first love and she is very eager to move to this position.

We also welcome, Mrs. Deb Barnett, a retired teacher who has offered to be our librarian for grades PK-4 on Wednesday afternoons. We look forward to the many books she will share with us.

We bid fond farewell to Roberta Husky, our custodian. We are grateful for the many years she took care of our building. We welcome a familiar face, Mrs. Susan Cross to this position. We know our building will be spic and span!

What's New??

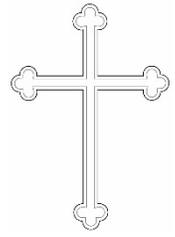


Over the summer, Grades 1/2 and Grades 3/4 received classroom makeovers! Thanks to Home and School, both classrooms received new paint, new blinds and new curtains! I'm also grateful to the volunteers who assisted in this project. A generous donor provided the 6th graders with a new Literature program; I know the students will enjoy the variety of literature that is in the new books. A special thanks to the Father McCartan Foundation, and the Dominican Sisters of Springfield, IL, for the new reading program in grades K-5.

The stories are well illustrated and the students will learn reading skills in a systematic way! Our CARES money, which we received from the federal government was used to purchase 30 new chrome books for students in Grades 3-8. The previous chrome books will be sent home with students who need them if we need to do on-line learning from home. The money was also used to purchase a new Junior High literature program which will be used by the 7th and 8th graders. The last new smartboard was installed in Ms. Akins room; so we are up to date with our technology needs. I am filled with deep gratitude for everyone who works so hard to give our students what they need to be successful learners.

Preparation for Sacraments

Beginning this year, the Second Graders will be preparing to receive their First Reconciliation and their First Communion as part of the Religion program. There will be a group First Reconciliation and a Group First Communion. I know many of you requested this; Father Kelechi and I both believe this will benefit our students. Beginning in the 2021/2022 school year, the 7th and 8th graders will be prepared for Confirmation as part of the Religion program. Every other year, Confirmation will be celebrated by the 7th and 8th Graders.



7th and 8th Grade Religion Curriculum



During this first semester, the 7th and 8th graders are reading and discussing Matthew Kelly's book, *Resisting Happiness*. Father Mike Schmitz' videos supplement our discussion. Currently, we had an energetic discussion comparing happiness and joy. Students were surprised that these words were not interchangeable. Happiness is situational, while deep joy is not.

On-line Learning

Currently, we are staying well and following the COVID protocols we established at the beginning of the year. If we need to go on-line, we are much more prepared. Students are practicing how to access their assignments and turn them in. Students are using Google Classroom as the framework for receiving assignments and turning them in. Teachers will meet with students using either Google Meets or Zoom on a regular basis. Every day we pray that we can remain in school!!



Self-Study and Evaluation

Every 5 years, we extensively study all of our programs and create goals for the next five years. The diocese provides a visiting team, who affirms what we do well and makes recommendations for the future. This year we are preparing for a spring visit. Ashley Rowe, the president of the school board will chair the self-study. Several subcommittees will be formed as well as a steering committee. More information will follow in the next newsletter.



Easy Ways to Give



There are several simple ways family and friends can earn money for our school through their daily purchases. **Prengers receipts, Best Choice UPC labels, & Prairie Farms milk caps** may all be delivered to the school foyer or back of church. **Box Tops for Education** and **Coca-Cola product codes** can all be entered from your phone or online – sign up for an account and begin earning! Register for **AmazonSmile: Father McCartan Memorial School Foundation** to earn every time you make a purchase on Amazon. A special thanks to Prengers Grocery for their continued support, and to Mrs. Tricia Sayre and Mrs. Rosemary Linebaugh, who have volunteered countless hours collecting, counting, and submitting earnings for our school!