

June 21, 2018

Dear Parents,

Happy First Day of Summer! Hopefully everyone is enjoying the break from the daily routines of school. I wanted to share with you three important things:

1. **Safety** - I have named Mr. Dicker (2nd grade teacher) my Safety Coordinator. He and I will be working very closely on updating our crisis manual and working on many projects this summer to make our building safer. Last week, Mr. Dicker and I attended the ALICE Active Shooter Instruction Training. The ALICE program is a proactive options-based plan for civilian response to a violent critical incident. ALICE authorizes and empowers individuals to utilize human action, building infrastructure, and communication. Mr. Dicker and I will be training our faculty and staff on the ALICE response method in the coming year, and we will be practicing drills with the students in the Spring of 2019. In addition, I wanted to let everyone know that we are installing new steel doors at the entrance of the chapel the week of August 13, as well as replacing other doors throughout the school for safety purposes. A new phone system, additional alarm by-passes on doors, key fob entry with remote IP controls will be installed in the main building and in the Bennett Building, additional video surveillance cameras will be installed inside and outside of the school buildings, and a new fire alarm system will all be installed in the main school building in July. All work should be completed by the start of school. I want to thank everyone who has offered their assistance and support in making St. Jane School a safer school. I truly appreciate it!

2. Miss Rachel Harry has resigned and has taken a position at Palmerton Area School District (closer to home). We will miss Miss Harry very much. She was a such a joy to have on our faculty! We appreciate all she did for our students! Mrs. Kelton has requested to move up to Second Grade! She is very excited about preparing our students for their sacraments and we are excited too! We are now in need of a first grade teacher if you know of anyone who is looking for a teaching position. Our incoming first graders are prepared, so the teacher will have no trouble with the transition! I'm still searching for a Spanish teacher for next year as well.

3. **Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)** - On the last day of school, children in grades 2-7 received the results of the standardized tests they took in March. I want to share with you some valuable information that may help you understand the scores.

Your child's academic achievement is a high priority to you. You desire what is best for them, in order that they experience success in achieving their future goals. The Iowa Assessments guide teachers and schools in bringing about this possibility. It provides detailed information about your child in a variety of significant content areas including Reading, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. The schools take the opportunity to set goals and review strategies in order to improve curriculum and the delivery of instruction.

Information concerning the Iowa Assessment

- The assessments produce information that enable sound decision making and provide a focus for teachers to evaluate their instruction.
- The Iowa Assessments:
 - help determine how students are performing on the diocesan curriculum and PA Standards
 - measure student growth and progress from year to year
 - assist teachers to identify a student's strengths and areas that may need review
 - provide information about students' performance relative to local and national standards

The Iowa *Assessments* provide information that allows educators and parents to compare student performance to the most current representative educational samples available.

Using the results of the assessment, we encourage you to work together with your child's teacher to identify and address educational needs. The results will help prepare your child for the next step on their educational path.

The Diocese of Allentown is continuing with the goal of the schools work on improving math skills. This is an area where growth has happened, but consistent, Diocese wide focus will assure us of continued improvement, in this vital area of study. The parents are asked to assist their students learning, especially in this area.

If you have any questions, please contact me, I would be more than happy to meet with you to discuss. Thank you.

Enjoy your summer. I will send out updates periodically throughout the summer!

Send me pictures that I can post of our Janers doing awesome things over the summer!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Okula, Principal