

Mary Immaculate School

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Dear Mary Immaculate School Parents,

The year is coming to an end, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your help and support! It has been a blessing being part of such a wonderful school community the last two years. I am looking forward to a great 2019-2020 school year!

I also would like to thank our teachers and staff for their hard work and dedication to our students and for always going above and beyond. They are truly a blessing to Mary Immaculate.

As we get ready to close the year, I would like to wish two very special teachers, Mrs. Spoden and Mrs. Alexander, the best as they will be leaving us next school year! Thank you Mrs. Spoden and Mrs. Alexander for your three years of service to the Mary Immaculate School family, but above all, thank you for your love and dedication not only to our students, but each one of us as well. You will be truly missed. (We will continue seeing Mrs. Spoden as a school parent and Mrs. Alexander has promised to come back and visit). We wish you the best. May God bless you!

We would like to welcome Mrs. Amber Bigalbal as our new 4th grade teacher. Mrs. Bigalbal comes highly recommended from her past two principals. She has taught for over 10 years at two Catholic schools in New Mexico. Mrs. Bigalbal has a Teaching Credential and a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction. She is very excited to be joining our school community as a teacher and parent. We are looking forward to having Mrs. Bigalbal and her children join our school family. Welcome to MI Mrs. Bigalbal!

I also would like to inform you of a couple of changes in the middle school department. Mr. Maldonado will be our new 6th grade homeroom teacher. He will continue to teach Math and Science. In addition to 6th grade, we would like to welcome a familiar face to the middle school department, Ms. Lyanne Novales. She will be our new 8th grade homeroom teacher and will continue with her current assignment as Director of Curriculum and Instruction. She will also be leading Student Council. We are looking forward to having Ms. Novales work with our middle school students, parents, and teachers! Mrs. Romero will be joining the intermediate grade level as our new 3rd grade teacher. She taught 3rd grade at De La Salle and is familiar with the 3rd grade curriculum. We are looking forward to having Mrs. Romero as our new 3rd grade teacher.



Upcoming Events

June 7

8th grade Graduation Mass and Ceremony at 6pm; 12pm dismissal

June 13

Kindergarten Special Celebration at 9am; last day of school for kinder ONLY

June 18

Honors Assembly at 8:30am

Important Announcements

*June 3rd: All fees due for kinder only

*June 10th: All fees due for Pre-school, and grades 1-7

*June 18th: Last day of school

We have begun the hiring process of a new 7th grade homeroom teacher. We currently have two very strong candidates. Please keep us in your prayers as we make a final selection.

Our goal is to become a better Mary Immaculate each year in order to provide our students with a high quality education. We believe that college readiness begins the day your child enters our classrooms the first day of school. I know that if we continue working in partnership, the sky is the limit for our students. Thank you for trusting us with the education of your children! Have a blessed and safe summer! ☺



Many blessings,

Veronica Macias
Principal

Technology

As I had previously informed you, our school was awarded a technology grant through the C3: Ignite Program. God is good! We will receive 91 iPads. 11 for each homeroom teacher and 80 for our students. Teachers have already received their new iPads. The grant will allow us to bring in more technology into the classrooms without having to raise the general fee which includes technology. We will update our current and outdated iPads. Our school will now become a 1:1 iPads in grades 1-4 and 1:1 Chromebooks in grades 5-8. Pre-school, TK, and Kinder will share a technology cart with a set of iPads. Our goal is to become a 1:1 school in all grades. We are praying for another grant opportunity!

In addition to the iPads, the school will be working with the Department of Catholic Schools on developing a curriculum that incorporates more technology into daily teaching. Teachers will receive professional development throughout the school year and we will be working with the Ed-Tech team at the Department of Catholic Schools.

We live in a technological world and we strongly believe that if we want to prepare our students for the 21st Century, we need to provide them with the technological skills needed to succeed not only in college, but in their professional careers. We are very happy and feel very blessed to have our students benefit from a STEM and Coding Program! Our goal is to continue strengthening our technology with the incorporation of SmartBoards in every classroom, 1:1 technology devices in grades 1-8, STEM and Coding Programs, after school STEAM club, and professional development for all teachers. ☺

Religion Curriculum

The Department of Catholic Schools together with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles updated the Religion standards last year in order to better prepare students spiritually. The school is currently looking into the possibility of purchasing a new Religion program that will be aligned with the new Religion standards. We will also be working with the Department of Catholic Schools (DCS) on providing professional development for our teachers. We will be attending several in-services throughout the school year which will allow us to work and collaborate with other Catholic school teachers and principals. Our school will have 12pm dismissal those Fridays in order for us to attend the trainings. The DCS will also work with our school on developing a new Religion curriculum. They will be visiting our school three times during the course of the year and will be conducting classroom observations. I will then meet with the DCS to develop a curriculum plan and set new objectives and goals for our school. We are looking forward to strengthening our Religion curriculum!

SUMMER SCHOOL

To succeed in school children need ongoing opportunities to learn and practice essential skills. This is especially true during the summer months.

DID YOU KNOW?

Children experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer. If they are not practicing and reinforcing what they have learned, children can forget those skills. According to research, most students lose about two months of grade level equivalency in mathematical computation skills over the summer. Therefore, it is essential that children continue to practice and review the skills learned in class.

We will have a Summer School program to help our students practice and review the skills learned throughout the year.

Summer School begins Monday, June 24th and ends Friday, July 19th. Summer School will be from 8:00am-12pm and will focus on the core subjects: Math and Language Arts. If you have any questions about our summer school program or after school daycare, please contact Mrs. Cisneros, our Summer School Coordinator, or call the school office.

If your child will not be attending summer school, we recommend for you to allow your child the opportunity to practice the skills he/she learned in class. 15mins of review/practice work at home will help your child not lose the knowledge he/she gained during the course of the year. Teachers will NOT be sending/requiring summer homework as we have students attending summer school. However, we recommend the "Summer Bridge Activities" book for your child to work on at home. You can purchase them online on Amazon or Barnes & Noble or at Lakeshore (teacher store in Northridge on Devonshire St. and Balboa Blvd.). *Please note that this is only recommended; it is NOT mandatory.

It is also essential for your child to continue practicing his/her reading skills. According to research, children who do not read in the summer can lose two to three months of reading skills. Kids who do read tend to gain a month of reading proficiency. Teachers will be assigning a summer reading assignment for incoming 1st-8th grade students. This project or activity will be collected and graded by the next year teacher the first week of school. Teachers will be sending home more information.

NEW PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD

Thank you to all the parents who attended our mandatory general meeting and voted last month.

Congratulations to our new PTO Executive Board!

President: Alma Rojas-88%

Vice-President: Lindsay Martinez-54%

Treasurer: Rachel Pena-53%

Secretary: Ana Medina-100%

Press Relations: Crystal Valles-70%

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

If you have not signed the SMART form or need to re-register your child, the office will be open from 9am-1pm for the month of July. The office will be closed July 29th-Aug. 2nd and will re-open Monday, Aug. 5th.



Dates to remember

June 7th, 10th, and 11th: finals for grades 1-7

June 11th: last day of hot lunch

June 12th, 13th, 14th, 17th, and 18th: 12pm dismissal

June 17th: Student Fun Day (Class parties)

June 18th: last day of school and 12pm dismissal

June 18th: Report Cards and Summer Reading Assignments go home

June 24th: Summer School begins

Have a wonderful and safe summer break! ☺

***August 22nd: First day of school**