



ALL SAINTS ACADEMY

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September 13, 2019

Dear Families,

When I awoke this morning to Friday, the 13th, in conjunction with the full moon – which incidentally we won't see again for twenty years – I was slightly apprehensive as to what to expect for the day. I am pleased to say that it has been just another regular day in the life of All Saints Academy!

As we come to a close on the second week of school for PreK and Kindergarten students, and the third week for everyone else, teachers are reporting that children have been adjusting to the change in routine and schedules. Touring the classrooms, I see many happy faces!

Coming up in the next few weeks, we will be beginning MAP Testing for all students in grades K-8. Testing in grades K-2 is new this year, and Ms. DiCola has been giving students an introduction to the testing format in each class to prepare them. For the families that are new to this, MAP Growth Testing is an adaptive test which we administer three times/year (fall, winter, spring) and is aimed to measure a child's academic progress in a particular subject area. At All Saints Academy, we test Reading, Language and Math, and each test lasts on average 45 minutes (less for the younger students). Every student begins in the fall at his/her grade level, and takes the test on a computer. The test is adaptive in that as a student begins to answer questions correctly, the questions become more challenging. Conversely, as incorrect answers are given, the questions become less challenging. This adaptive testing is designed to find each individual's zone of proximal development – where and what the student is ready to learn next. That means that the test is designed for students to test out between 40%-60% as opposed to traditional testing that measures accumulated knowledge. Testing begins the week of September 23.

Marks will be closing September 27 for the mid-term progress reports in grades 1-8, and parents will be locked out of EDGE for a short period to allow teachers to get all their grades in. EDGE will be unlocked when they are available for parents to view.

The weekend of September 28 and 29 is the annual Catholic Schools Appeal in our churches. We are looking for parents to speak at their local church about the benefits of a Catholic education, and in particular, their experiences at All Saints Academy. Please consider reaching out to your parish priest and asking if you could speak briefly after Mass on the weekend of September 21 and 22 (before the Appeal – so people will know about it happening the following weekend). Please let us know if you are able to volunteer to do this. Any time you can give in this service will be counted on your volunteer form!

Have a wonderful weekend.

Yours in Christ,

Joan E. Matys
Head of School