



Immaculate Conception School  
223 South 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901

March 28, 2021

A Commitment to Christ ... A Commitment to Excellence

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone enjoyed Spring Break and that you are excited about the last weeks of this school year! As always, the months have passed so quickly and even though there have been many challenges, together our school community has synergized and have overcome them successfully. I sincerely thank you for your cooperation and support during this difficult time of the Covid pandemic. Even though we are not finished with it, I feel positive that we are moving in an upward direction.

Easter is around the corner! Our faith in the resurrection of our Lord is always our salvation and our hope in today and tomorrow.

God bless you,

*Sharon Blentlinger*

Sharon Blentlinger  
Principal

**Habit 6: Synergize®** Innovate and problem solve with those who have a different point of view. To put it simply, **synergy** means “two heads are better than one.” **Synergize** is the **habit** of creative cooperation. It is teamwork, open-mindedness, and the adventure of finding new solutions to old problems.

### **Festival!!!**

Our annual Spring Festival is May 7-8 and everyone should have these dates on their calendar and be spreading the word to family, friends, and co-workers! Festival work shifts are coming soon. After schedules have been completed, it is each family's responsibility to arrange any needed changes. Please notify Heather Ketter (479-883-5575, [heather@bhca.com](mailto:heather@bhca.com)) if a change is made or you need assistance. Help is also needed the week before the Festival occurs for set-up and prep work, silent auction set-up and decoration, booth set-up, as well as clean-up on Friday night and Saturday evening. Booth “take-down” will be Saturday night at 11:00 and lots of help is needed! This is our largest fundraiser (about \$400/per student) and everyone's generous gift of time is essential!

Festival shifts are mandatory for ALL families and the entire shift must be covered. If you are not able to fulfill your festival shift assignment, you may find another to work your shift, pay for the buy-out (\$350), or have the amount taken from you FACTS account during May. I dislike the need to be so strict about working festival shifts, but it is SO important to the budget of our school and affects every family.

Raffle tickets will also be sent in Friday folders so sell, sell, sell! **Family** incentives to reach our school goal of \$25,000.00 are:

- Each family, preschool-6<sup>th</sup> grade, is asked to sell a minimum of **5 sheets of raffle tickets**. Children of families who reach this goal receive a free dress day and a special lunch from local restaurants will be brought to school for their enjoyment.
- Top selling family- \$2,000 tuition credit for 2021-2022
- Second place family- \$660 tuition or book/materials credit for 2021-2022
- Third place family- \$330 tuition or book/materials credit for 2021-2022

Extra sheets of raffle tickets are available in the school office. All raffle tickets and money are due in school office by Wednesday, May 5, by 5:30 pm.

**Silent Auction is going to be awesome once again! There are trips, parties, and lots of creative class projects and baskets. There will also be events, artwork, custom items, etc. Let us know if you can help with donations; all gifts are tax deductible.**

**Please note: We are optimistic that our Festival will take place and plans are being made for a successful weekend. HOWEVER, please understand that the Festival is contingent on the continued decrease of Covid cases and what our Bishop and governor will allow for large group events in the coming months.**

### **Kindergarten Visit Day**

Our school usually hosts a “visit time” for incoming kindergarten students to experience some fun activities and see our K classrooms. It is my hope that we will be able to arrange some way late in April or early May to make this happen. More later.

### **NWEA Spring Testing**

Our NWEA Spring Testing is scheduled for the week of April 26 for grades K-6. Students arriving after the beginning of school are not allowed to enter the classroom during testing time. Makeup times will be attempted for those children who are absent due to **illness**.

### **End of School/2021- 2022 Calendar/Graduation**

The last day of school will be Friday, May 28. Mass will be celebrated at 8:30a followed by Field Day for PS- 4<sup>th</sup> grades. Dismissal will be at 1:30 pm (grades K-4).

The last day for sixth grade students is Wednesday, May 19, and sixth grade graduation and reception are that evening at 6:30 pm.

The last school day for fifth grade students is Wednesday, May 26, and fifth grade graduation and reception are that evening at 6:30 pm.

A calendar for 2021-2022 is attached/enclosed.

### **SUMMER PROGRAM- 18 month/Preschool and K- 6**

We will once again have our summer program for students who are 18 months/preschool and kindergarten- fifth grade age for the 2021- 2022 school year. Registration brochures were sent home in student folders a couple of weeks ago. **Early deadline for registration is April 16**. After this date, registration fees increase for any openings that are left.

### **Covid Precautions**

Many parents have asked if any of the Covid precautions that have been in place since August 24 will be lifted or modified during the last two month of school. Our teachers, staff and I will determine what changes, if any, can be made after the governor and Bishop make their statements at end of March or early April. I sincerely hope that we are able to relax a few and I will let you know as soon as decisions have been made.

### **Structure of K-5 in 2021-2022**

As you are aware, in 2021- 2022 school year, our elementary grades will restructure from K-6 to K-5. A lot of changes are in the works to refit our school and classes to accommodate this change. A plan will be communicated in April about the modifications.

### **Staff Resignations**

Ms. Nhi Le has been a 6<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom and 5/6 science teacher the past two years at our school. Ms. Le has shared her plans with me that she will relocate to Northwest Arkansas this summer and seek a new teaching position in that area. Ms. Le has been a blessing to our school family and has shared new ideas and techniques with her knowledge and proficiency in science and technology! It has been a thrilling experience to watch her grow into a confident, engaging, and effective instructor and observe her positive interactions with students. All our prayers and best wishes travel with her as she approaches new challenges and opportunities.

For over 25 years, Mrs. Laurie Hindman has taught at I.C. in first and fourth grades. She began teaching as Ms. Reith before marrying her husband, Phillip, and rearing her children. Mrs. Hindman attended I.C. as a student as did all of her children. Now she is enjoying the blessings of grandchildren! Mrs. Hindman has always given over 100% effort to improve our school; never wavering in her love and dedication to our students and working diligently to blend her expertise with new learning to provide quality instruction. She is someone I can always count on to go "above and beyond" the expected and Mrs. Hindman will be greatly missed! She has made the decision that this is the right time in her life to have the freedom and time to devote to her parents, children, and grandchildren. Although, Mrs. Hindman may not be visible in a classroom next school year, she will remain a staunch supporter of our school and remain involved in our parish. Thank you, Mrs. Hindman, for all of your years of dedicated service to our school!