



Principal Epistle

August 30th, 2019



ANCHORED in HOPE

"We have this
HOPE
as an
ANCHOR
for the Soul.
Firm & Secure."
--Hebrews 6:19

Hello Parents,

The 2019-2020 School year has taken off and we are ready to roll right into September. The classrooms are abuzz with teaching, learning, and fun. In my short time at St. George it is already clear to me how extraordinarily dedicated the staff are to ensuring your dragons grow in their faith and academics. To help with this growth, we at St. George have incorporated this year the slogan of, "Anchored in Hope! Linked by Virtues!". It is our outer-chant and inner-reminder that we are a school and **COMMUNITY of HOPE** that trusts in our God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

For me personally, it is such a relief to have the school year finally started. I had been anxiously waiting for the classrooms to be full for quite a while, and was elated standing outside on August 15th, welcoming our 166 students into the building with Traffic Tom! Thank you all for the well wishes, and prayers as we ALL (including myself) get accustomed to a new Principal! I am eager to make sure St. George continues its strong tradition of being a faith-based community which fosters Catholic values while empowering students with strong academics.

"ANCHORED in HOPE"

"Anchored in Hope, Linked by Virtues", our motto for the year, is a focal point in the school and is being embraced. This year the staff has chosen the Virtues of Hope, Studiousness, Humility, Patience, Fidelity, Cheerfulness, Temperance, Obedience, and Diligence. Each Virtue can be seen as a link in the chain that connects us to our faith, while also assisting us in learning for ourselves what it means to be a follower of Christ's teachings. I encourage all families to fully embrace our 2nd year of the VBRD program by welcoming the virtues into your homes. Ask your students about them! What do they mean? How do you live that virtue in your daily lives? How can we show others that we have that Virtue?

To assist all of us in our journey, the students will be in charge of VIRTUE Weekends for the parish. They will not only do the ministries at all the Masses that weekend they will educate the parishioners on the virtue for the month and then encourage them to practice in their own life. We have faith that becoming a more virtuous person, other people will notice, and want to be around us because our life inspires them to become better! We kick off these VIRTUE Weekends, on September 7th and 8th! Come celebrate mass with the students and learn about the Theological Virtue of HOPE!

"LINKED by VIRTUES"

Parent Information Night

Parents of students in our Early Childhood Center (Pre-School 3yr olds, Pre-kindergarten, and Kindergarten) are welcomed to attend our Parent Night on [Wednesday, Sept. 4th 6:00-7:00](#)

We understand that we are in the midst of soccer and volleyball season and often times parents are hesitant to miss a game or practice of their child. However, we want to reassure you that these 60 minutes of your time will benefit your child and you for the rest of the year. We want to help your child to succeed on every level: academic, behavior and spiritual and we know that working together is the best way to achieve that. Thank you in advance for rearranging your families schedules to make this meeting a priority.

Cost of Education

St. George School is a tuition FREE school for Catholic families if they are *TITHING* to the parish. What is a tithe? Why can't the school tell us what the "tuition" is?

St. George is a non-tuition school, because under the direction of the diocese, Bishop McKnight believes the education of the parish children is a *MISSION* of that parish. Therefore the children of the parish may attend the Catholic school because their parents are supporting the mission of the church by educating their child in the ways of the faith. There is no tuition as long as the family is *ACTIVE PARISHONERS*. The definition of **an active parishioner is a person who *TITHES* faithfully and justly to the church and *PARTICIPATES* in the sacramental and community life of the parish.**

You are probably wondering what is a tithe and how much do I tithe so my child can attend St. George? A tithe is one tenth (10%) of your annual earnings given as support of the parish. There are many scripture passages about tithing. St. Paul writes in the second book of Corinthians 9:7 *Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* Also in Proverbs 11:24 *One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withhold what he should give, and only suffers want*

If you are still confused maybe a **JUST** tithe might be considered this way:

- If it costs your parish \$6,000 to educate one child a year.
- If you divide that by 12 the monthly cost is \$500.
- If your family would split the cost (divide that in half) it would be \$250 per child. To split the cost, a just tithe for your family to give to the church would be \$250 per child per month. *So if you have two children in school multiply $\$250 \times 2 = \500 , 3 children... $\$209 \times 3 = \750*
- The parish would pay the other half of the cost as its mission to help you educate your child.

Of course you will make your tithe directly to your parish and not the school. Remember a tithe is 10% of your annual income. The above is only an example of one definition of a **JUST** tithe for a parishioner who has a student in school.

Dismissal:

Children who wait for their ride on the front steps need to be picked up by 3:05. Any student who is not picked up by this time will be sent downstairs to After School Care for cost. I understand that with the dismissal times at the public school this might run the high school students who pick-up their siblings late. Please pass on this information so they will know where to find their brother/sister after 3:05.

The City is putting up the signage for our streets. Please remember that 4th Street is a One Way street from 7am to 3:30pm. You cannot go, 'down 4th street' during these times, you will have to turn down Mozart street to 3rd street if you want to get to Market. Thank you all for your patience as we try to keep our students safe.

SCRIP Program

Do you have any questions on how to use the program? Have you signed up to use SCRIP wallet or SCRIP on-line? If you have any questions you may call the school office.

Thank you to everyone who uses the program already ☺ we made over \$6,800 profit on this program last year. This number is down from years past so remember to help out the school and get your SCRIP!

Recycling

Thank you to everyone who saved obsolete paper, Best Choice labels, aluminum cans, printer cartridges or recycled shoes and clothing over the summer. All of these things help the school. If your company allows you to recycle paper we will be glad to put it to use or if they just throw their printer cartridges away we will recycle those for them. Every little bit of “trash” helps. Our recycling efforts have earned us some prestigious accolades this year, the school earned a mini-iPad from the U’SAGAIN for our recycled clothing bin behind the gym! We also were awarded more recycling bins from the Meramec Regional Planning Commission since we were declared a “Model School” for our recycling program. We are continuing our drives to collect aluminum cans, printer cartridges, and Best Choice labels not to mention the over \$ 18,000! we have earned on box tops for our student council. This year, Box Tops are going digital. See the Box Tops attachment to find out how this program is changing. Our motto is “your trash is our cash” . . . Thanks for the help!

Visitors in our Cafeteria

If you would like to eat lunch with your child on a special occasion, please let the office know by 9:00 or call the cafeteria at 486-2564. In keeping with the Wellness Plan, the School Board has set a policy that all visitor’s to our cafeteria will be expected to eat the meal prepared for the children. No outside food maybe brought in by a visitor. Please be considerate and call ahead, although many days we do have extra food there has been times Mr. VanBooven has to scramble to come up with extras.

Birthday Treats

Birthdays are special and should be celebrated. Although we are not demanding that birthday treats be healthy your child may bring one type of snack to share with their classmates. Please check with your child’s homeroom teacher prior to sending the treats because we have several students who have food allergies and the teacher will help you know what and what not to send for a treat.

If there is a food allergy in your room PLEASE do not send food with that substance. Many times food allergies are so severe that it could be a life threatening situation if the child with the allergy comes in close proximity with that substance. Treats will not be served if they contain the allergen.

Diocesan Internet and Social Media Policies

The Diocesan School Policy #6425 is the diocese’s internet policy on “cyber-bullying”. Please review the whole policy paying special attention to items 2 and 3. Also please note within the policy the diocesan expectations in regards to posting negative/demeaning remarks about school personnel or the school on social media sites. It is very important your student and you understand that there is a consequence to words and actions even when they are typed on a machine and sent out for others to read. This is cyber-bulling and very hurtful. The most tragic part of “cyber-bullying” is the person who types the message disengages himself/herself from the fact that he/she is purposely hurting another person. When we purposely hurt another person by our own words and actions even if we cannot see their face we are committing a sin; this takes us out of the grace of God.

Please understand that St. George School does not condone any type of bullying and appropriate consequences will be given when and wherever any type of bullying occurs.

Out of Uniform (OOU) Days

We celebrated our first OOU day today from a victory by Mrs. Bolte and myself at the Rollin’ on the River dinner auction. I would like to establish that OOU days do not include hats at school, and shoes need to be soft soled. Boots and other hard soled shoes need to be avoided. Clothes worn still need to be appropriate for school. Please refer to the Parent-Student handbook located on the school website for more guidance concerning Out of Uniform days.

Theme Shirt Day

As soon as the t-shirt designed for this year's theme "Anchored in Hope" arrives, your child may begin to wear it on Thursdays. The shirt must be worn with uniform shorts/pants and it must be tucked in. Remember if you child's shorts/pants has belt loops a belt must be worn also.

ParentWeb

The ParentWeb SIS is up and should be accessible to families. Please contact the office if you are still having trouble logging in for the first time. One, quick-fix we have found is that you MUST log in first with a computer to create a profile. If you try to use a mobile device first, it will not let you create the profile. So Computer first, then you can use a mobile device.

We are still figuring some things out with the ParentAlert system as well. If you have **NOT** been receiving the texts from the office please contact us. Typically the problem is something went wrong with the transfer of info from TeacherEase and can be corrected very easily.

Total Lunch Days

For your convenience, we will list the total number of lunch days in each month. Hopefully this will help the families who pay their lunch bill monthly. The monthly menu can be found on <https://logins2.renweb.com/logins/ParentsWeb-Login.aspx> .

August 12
September19
October 22

Dates to Remember:

Labor Day NO SCHOOL – Sept. 2nd
Teacher Prof. Dev. Day NO SCHOOL - Sept. 16th



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God Bless,
Mr. Zachary Stobart