

MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE

Monday, August 7, 2017

Mary, Queen of Peace Families,

Blessings! It is an honor to write this letter as your school's principal. It is a privilege to be part of your community. I am grateful for the opportunity to have met so many wonderful families so far and look forward to meeting many more in the weeks to come. Remember, the Ice-Cream Social is on Sunday, August 13 and the Meet the Principal Reception is on Monday, August 14.

A new school year marks the beginning of a new chapter in the rich history of Mary, Queen of Peace. My hope is that it is remembered as a period of growth stemmed from positive energy. We will continue to build upon the successes of previous contributors; especially like Sister Ann Sullivan and Mrs. Colleen Pijut.

I want to thank Father John Vien and Mrs. Caroline McCabe for their endless support and guidance. Creating a vision for Mary, Queen of Peace, interviewing and hiring new teachers, touring potential families and reaching out to current ones has kept us busy.

Before, I introduce our new faculty members allow me to inform you of some in-house personnel changes.

After five years in the classroom, Mrs. Erica Venneman will return to her previously held position as Learning Consultant. Do not fret because she will still live out her devotion for Language Arts through team teaching and mentoring. Mrs. Venneman has the gift to form a cohesive learning consultant team. She also understands the needs of all learners. Mrs. Annette Wexler and Mrs. Tina Williams have shown great enthusiasm about working closely together under Mrs. Venneman's guidance. We are renaming the learning consultant team to Foundations. This will mark a new direction for Mary, Queen of Peace in how we use our human resources for the benefit of all learners.

Mr. Andrew Westerman will continue with 7th grade homeroom, but will teach one 7th and both 8th grade Language Arts. Mr. Westerman is very passionate about his subject area and knows how to best prepare our 8th graders for high school. He is also very excited about collaborating with our new Language Arts teacher.

There will be a small change to the 4th and 5th grade schedule. Mrs. Erin Ream will teach 5th grade Language Arts and Mrs. Jennie Harris will teach 4th grade science. This adjustment will open the doorway to enhancing our STREAM and Language Arts curriculum. Both, teachers are well qualified in their subject area of interest and will work closing together.

With the input of our teachers, Mrs. McCabe and I hired wonderful new faculty members. Seeking individuals who are prepared "to grow and not rest" became our motto. Throughout the year, individual mentors, Mrs. McCabe, and I will ensure they are fully embracing the values and mission of Mary, Queen of Peace.

Mrs. Rebecca Lombard will have 8th grade homeroom and teach 6 – 8 grade Math. She is very excited about sharing her experience from teaching and working at Boeing. Mrs. Lombard's love for math really came to life during her interview. During that time, without promoting, she stood up and demonstrated a lesson to the panel.

Ms. Becky Torminio will have 7th grade homeroom and teach 6 – 8 grade Social Studies. She is a very confident and enthusiastic individual. Her knowledge of history and our curriculum was vivid during her interview.

Mrs. Carrie Hauck will have 6th grade homeroom and teach Language Arts to both 6 grades and one 7th grade. Mrs. Hauck has a wealth of teaching experience in a variety of upper school subjects. She is very kindhearted, spiritual, and thorough in her teaching methods.

The very talent Mrs. Angie Boger will teach Music. She is very excited about Mary Queen of Peace's traditions, especially the Halloween parade and 8th grade play.

Overtime, the library will take on a new identity. The teachers will be encouraged to use it independently with their students to enhance their instruction. During this moment of growth, Mrs. Kathy Bauer has graciously agreed to oversee the inventory of our collection of books and periodicals. She will also continue to run the Scholastic book fair. Since we do not want to over extend Mrs. Bauer, the information sent home in the Wednesday folder will be sent via classroom communication. In other words, flyers will be sent home with samples of student work. So in the end, you will receive one packet of papers instead of two separate folders.

I am pleased to announce that we now have four full time certified teachers in our growing preschool program. Sister Mary Jo Kremer and Mrs. Emily McAtee will join our staff by respectfully serving as the 3 and 4-year-old preschool teacher assistants. Both teachers will help foster the future of our school community.

Mrs. Erin Dwyer will join Mary, Queen of Peace part time as our speech therapist. She is very excited about working closely with the Foundations team to ensure that every child's needs are addressed. A graduate student from Maryville University will work alongside of Mrs. Dwyer. Under her guidance and expertise, we will have two additional resources available to all students.

Please make the following changes to your school calendar; Friday, October 27 is Trunk or Treat on the parking lot, Monday, November 13 is Grandparents Day (in conjunction with Scholastic Book Fair), and Saturday, April 7 is the Father-Daughter Dance sponsored by the Girl Scouts.

I hope you enjoy the remainder of your summer break. Please keep me in your prayers as you will be in mine. I look forward to getting to know you and your children as we grow closer to Jesus Christ.

Prayerful,

Mr. Michael Nieman
Mary, Queen of Peace – Principal

